

RWANDA

REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2023



Contents

Contents.....	2
Country Overview.....	4
Executive Summary.....	4
Part 1: Current Situation.....	6
Situation Overview.....	7
Population Planning Figures.....	9
Country Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks.....	10
Part 2: Country Protection and Solutions Strategy.....	13
Country Strategic Objectives.....	15
Sectoral Responses.....	16
Country Cross-Cutting Response Priorities.....	23
Partnership and Coordination.....	26
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements.....	27
Country Monitoring Results.....	29



At a Glance

Rwanda Planned Response

January-December 2023



137,402

Projected
population



15,000

refugee Assisted
community members



USD

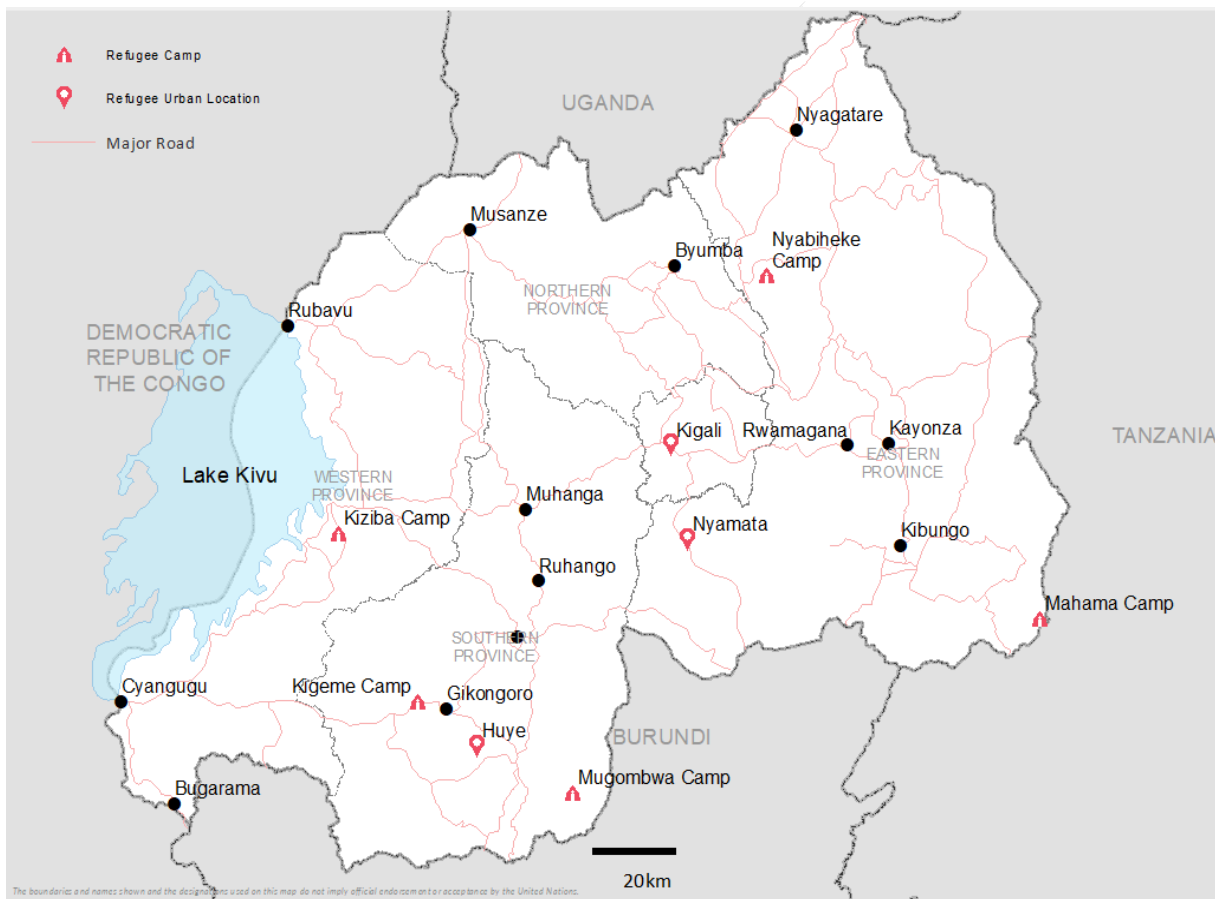
143.6 M

host-Total
requirements



16

financial Partners
involved



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Country Overview

Executive Summary

Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for almost three decades. Refugees from the DRC who arrived in the nineties have now spent most of their lives living outside of their home country. For the Burundian refugee population, although over 30,000 have returned home since August 2020, those still in Rwanda are expected to remain due to ongoing political tensions and reintegration concerns in Burundi. Since 2019, Rwanda has also hosted refugees and asylum-seekers evacuated from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). By temporarily accommodating some of the most vulnerable refugee populations who have faced trauma, detentions and violence, Rwanda has showcased its willingness to continuously provide solutions for a variety of refugee situations and crises.

The policy and legal frameworks in Rwanda continue to facilitate the inclusion of refugees within national systems in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. From health to education, refugees are granted the same level of access and services as Rwandan citizens. In recent years this has been facilitated through the issuance of refugee ID cards by the Government of Rwanda and built on by pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). At the GRF in 2019, the Government of Rwanda made 17 pledges in areas of health, education, livelihoods, documentation, energy, statelessness, and environment, of which three are fulfilled and 14 are in process. In addition, pledges towards supporting Rwanda were made by a range of states, private sector actors, UN Agencies, and NGOs. With the next GRF set to be held in 2023, the opportunity to expand on these pledges will also be present throughout the duration of this plan.

Over the last year, the refugee response in Rwanda has increasingly concentrated on providing solutions for the protracted refugee situation as well as maintaining access to protection and improving living conditions for refugee and asylum-seeker populations across the country. This focus will continue in 2023.

A key priority throughout the coming years will also be to expand support to refugees to improve their socio-economic inclusion and graduate some refugees out of poverty by sustainably increasing self-reliance. Over time this is expected to decrease dependence on humanitarian assistance. This approach is closely aligned with that of the Government's National Transformation Strategy (NST1) and the UN sustainable development agenda. Recent efforts by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) to also lead efforts in supporting the 'graduation approach' are reflected within Rwanda's 2023 Country Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities will be encouraged through self-reliance and resilience programmes, with particular focus on youth and women-led initiatives and empowerment.

Most refugees – 90 per cent - in Rwanda live across five refugee camps (Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Mahama, Kigeme and Mugombwa). The camps hosting Congolese refugees have accommodated them for over ten years. As a result, much of the infrastructure is deteriorating and refugee homes and communal facilities such as toilet blocks, community centers, offices and health centers need maintenance and upgrading to make them more accessible and inclusive.

In addition, although refugees are included within national health and education systems, on a day-to-day basis the majority of families rely upon schools and health clinics located in or nearby the camps. Ensuring the quality of services and educational programs by supporting the Government of Rwanda and its relevant ministries will be imperative in 2023.

The delivery of support through cash assistance to help refugees meet food and basic needs has been a priority of partners working on the refugee response in recent years. This will continue into 2023, giving refugees a choice and dignity in meeting their basic needs. Since 2021, WFP and UNHCR have worked collaboratively to assess and understand vulnerabilities and currently food assistance is targeted based on need. Further development of the targeting

criteria will happen in 2023 to make sure resources are being utilized efficiently to support the most vulnerable refugees. Communication with communities will remain critical to ensure accountability to those we serve and awareness-raising campaigns in order to change behaviors of dependence on assistance among refugee communities' will be a focus of activities in 2023.

A holistic approach, in support of refugees and their local hosting communities, will be taken by partners in 2023. Rwandans living areas close to refugee camps will also be supported through programs to develop infrastructure and services in the wider community and prevent creating parallel systems just for refugees. Continuing work started in previous years, Rwandan host communities will be able to access services available in refugee camps while efforts to mitigate environmental degradation in displacement settings and ensure environmental sustainability of programs and resilience to climate-related and other risks will also be strengthened.

Overall, the Rwanda 2023 RRP has been developed in coordination with 16 partners, including UN Agencies, international, regional, national and local NGOs, academia and development actors. The Plan has also been approved by the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) as part of their overall coordination of the refugee response in Rwanda. In addition, as part of the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), donors and embassies based in Kigali are regularly consulted and briefed about progress towards the RRP's aims and objectives.

In 2023, the Rwanda RRP requires US \$143.6 million for partners to be able to implement protection, education, food, health and nutrition, livelihoods and resilience, shelter and non-food items (NFIs), water, health and sanitation (WASH) and logistics and operational support programs targeting 152,402 people including 119,664 refugees, 739 asylum seekers, 2,500 Rwandan refugee returnees, 9,500 stateless, 15,000 people in host communities, and 4,999 others of concern. These programs are designed to complement the Government of Rwanda's own efforts and response to support refugees.

More specifically, RRP partners will engage with the Government to maintain equal and unhindered access to asylum and international protection while promoting full enjoyment of rights. Partners will ensure attention is paid to age, gender and diversity considerations, and accountability to affected people.

By the end of 2023, it is estimated that the population targeted by the RRP in Rwanda will remain relatively similar to that of 2022, with 152,402 refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless populations, Rwandan returnees, the Rwandan host community and other populations of concern in the country. Although opportunities for local integration, resettlement and repatriation will remain available to a limited number of refugees, most people are expected to remain in Rwanda for the foreseeable future. As a result, partners working on the refugee response will continue to provide services and implement programs to ensure the well-being and inclusion of refugees while they stay in Rwanda.



The main market street in Kiziba refugee camp.
©UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

As of the end of 2022, Rwanda hosted 126,967 refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced populations. Predominately refugees come from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi, comprising of 76,004 (59.86%) and 50,257 (39.58%) people respectively. Out of the total refugee population, 91 per cent live across the five refugee camps of Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa, Nyabiheke and Mahama, while the remaining 9 per cent live in urban areas. Gihembe camp was closed in 2021, and its population relocated to Mahama camp.

While over 30,000 Burundian refugees have returned home since August 2020, the remaining Burundian refugee population in Rwanda remain in limbo with no clear future for a durable solution. A tripartite agreement was signed between the Government of Rwanda, the DRC and UNHCR for the repatriation of protracted Congolese and the implementation is planned to kick start in the near future. In addition, Rwandan refugees continue to return home and, 2,500 returns are predicted for 2023. However, given the volatile situation in North and South Kivu, refugees from the DRC continue to seek refuge in Rwanda and subsequently, partners predict that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced populations will remain relatively stable over the coming year.

In addition to its regular refugee response, Rwanda also hosts the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) which was established in September 2019, by UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda (GOR), and the African Union (AU). Its aim is to temporarily host refugees and asylum-seekers who have undertaken voluntary evacuation from Libya while solutions are found. Over 1,400 people have been evacuated to the ETM to date, with 591 individuals remaining in Rwanda at the end of 2022. Throughout the coming year, partners will continue to respond to the needs of these evacuees and those arriving on future flights.

In 2022, the refugee response in Rwanda focused on the protection, assistance and finding of solutions for refugees across the country including children, women, people with disabilities, older persons, and those with other specific needs. Continued efforts were also made to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure vaccination among all refugees and asylum seekers. This work will continue into 2023.

Rwanda has a conducive protection environment. The law is progressive, and refugees have the right to access national services such as education, birth registration, health, financial services and are eligible to work. Partners working on the refugee response have good working relationships with key government ministries. In addition, as part of its “Vision 2050” and National Strategy for Transformation, Rwanda has solidified commitments to international frameworks such as the Global Compact for Refugees and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Rwanda, the Government and its relevant Ministries are responsible for civil registration and issuing identification cards to all refugees aged 16 and above as part of their inclusion in national systems efforts. Most refugees currently living in Rwanda were previously registered on a prima facie basis. All new asylum-seekers, regardless of country of origin, now go through Refugee Status Determination (RSD) by the GoR. Regarding access to asylum for new arrivals, UNHCR and partners continue to work with the Government to improve the protection space for all asylum-seekers, by providing counselling and legal assistance support to those seeking asylum in the country.

While refugees enjoy a favourable protection environment in Rwanda, challenges exist. Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, remains one of the biggest protection concerns for refugee women and children and addressing GBV prevention and response is a priority to address sexual violence and psychological and emotional abuse. Strengthening community-based facilities, the provision of protection services, and outreach to raise awareness of issues such as child labour, neglect, drug/alcohol abuse as well as other health and developmental issues will remain a priority over the coming year.

In addition, due to the protracted refugee situations, there is an increasing need to repair and maintain refugee shelter and homes across the five refugee camps. An estimated 25 per cent of shelters need repair and communal facilities in camps are also in need of upgrade. Most refugee households in Kigeme and Nyabiheke camps report little or no access to energy for lighting: 58 per cent either have no lighting at night or use only basic sources such as candles and torches leading to a variety of protection risks. Small minorities primarily rely on either solar lanterns (21%) or solar home systems (16%), and mobile phone torches and burning sticks are common to move around the camp at night. Partners working on the refugee response also systematically provide gas and pellets to refugee households for cooking and efforts are being made to incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental mainstreaming into sector-specific responses in line with national standards.

Accessibility to refugee camps also remains an issue. Many camps are experiencing environmental degradation and are located on high slope terrains with poor road access. Ageing infrastructure is not only impacting refugee wellbeing but also their health and safety. Water consumption in camps averages 19 liters per day and 23 people use one toilet on average. Unless improved, the risk of the spread of disease will continue to be high.

Despite this, health services are rated satisfactory by its users across all camps with low mortality rates. In urban areas, refugees can access national health facilities through the community-based health insurance (CBHI) scheme, advocacy for the inclusion of camp-based refugees in the latter will continue in 2023. To facilitate this change and move away from parallel health systems in camps, however, maintaining the current health infrastructure and ensuring it is well stocked with medicine and equipment is key.

Currently around 40 per cent of refugees are of school age (3-17 years). the gross refugee enrolment rates in primary and secondary school stands at 93 percent while only 3.4 per cent of refugees are enrolled higher education. Despite this, refugee education enrollment is in line with the national rate and the policy allows for 100 per cent of refugees to access the national education system. In 2023, partners will focus on improving the quality and inclusion of education for refugees at all levels.

Since 2021, WFP, UNHCR and other partners working on the refugee response have increasingly been providing assistance (including food assistance) on a targeted basis. Refugee households facing borderline food consumption is currently 32% (May 2022).¹ Three levels of vulnerability as regards to basic needs are currently identified within the refugee populations with the highest category of vulnerability receiving 100 per cent of the assistance value, moderately vulnerable 50 per cent and least vulnerable 0 per cent. Further efforts to align targeting criteria to national standards are envisioned for 2023.

As a result of the protracted situation, the refugee response in Rwanda is expanding beyond a humanitarian approach to include a developmental focus with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion. This reorientation of focus has resulted in more efforts to help refugees graduate out of poverty and become less reliant on humanitarian assistance.

Finding solutions for refugee populations outside of Rwanda through resettlement and complementary pathways such as labour mobility, educational scholarships, private and community sponsorships and family reunification remains an important way for the international community to share Rwanda's burden of hosting refugees. In 2023 and beyond, partners working on the refugee response will expand efforts to find durable solutions for all refugees in Rwanda, including in the ETM.

¹ UNHCR and WFP Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Report

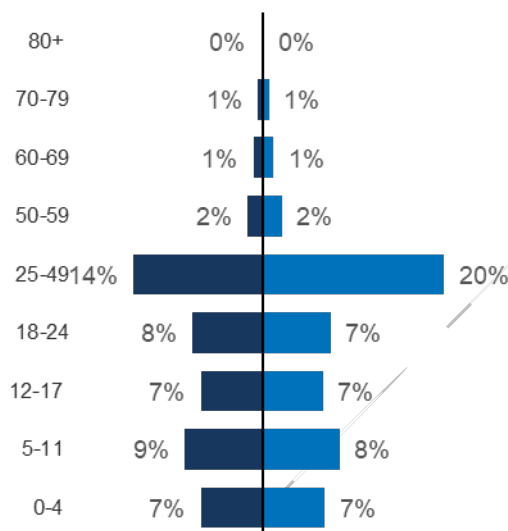
Population Planning Figures

Country	Population as of end of 2022	Planned Population as of end of 2023
Refugees	120,758	119,664
Asylum-Seekers	481	739
Returned Refugees	2,456	2,500
Stateless	9,500	9,500
Others of Concern ²	5,728	4,999
Total	138,923	137,402

Targeted Rwanda Host Population			
	8,165	8,165	15,000
Total	146,368	145,571	152,402

Age and gender breakdown

■ Female ■ Male



15% of total 152k

People with disabilities³



53%

Women and girls



47%

Men and boys

² These are largely children born to one refugee and one Rwandan parent who live in refugee camps and partners continue to assist through their programmes.

³ Based on 15% global estimate - [IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, 2019](https://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/) | [IASC \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](https://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/)

Rwanda Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

In 2023, it is expected that most refugees in Rwanda will continue to live in refugee camps and remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. The majority of the population are female 64,235 (75%) and children 61,519 (49%) with not many opportunities for income generating activities. In addition, 22,574 (18%) of registered individuals are classified as having specific needs such as children at risk, people with disabilities, older people at risk, those with serious medical condition, single headed households, women at-risk and Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), meaning they will continue to require specialised assistance and protection services.

While refugees in Rwanda generally enjoy a favorable protection environment, they rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs such as shelter, WASH, food, health, education, nutrition, and energy. Livelihood opportunities are scarce due to limited employment opportunities, land for cultivation and livestock rearing in hosting areas around the camps. In 2021, UNHCR, WFP, the Government and partners introduced targeting criteria for the delivery of assistance resulting in the removal of unconditional assistance to refugees who were deemed self-reliant. Despite this, several assessments have indicated that harmful coping mechanisms⁴ used by refugees have increased in camps since the cessation of blanket assistance, including refugee families selling their productive assets, begging, engaging in survival sex, child neglect or getting into high levels of debt.

In Rwanda, around 10 per cent of refugees live in urban areas. Unlike those in camps, urban refugees receive minimal assistance and are generally more self-reliant. They have access to Community-Based Health Insurance and have the right to work and education. Despite this, harmful coping mechanisms are also found among urban refugees. In 2022, UNHCR provided exceptional cash for food assistance to an average of 40 refugees living in urban areas every month. In addition, many refugees who struggle to be self-reliant in urban settings often request to relocate to a camp environment, such as amid COVID-19 lockdowns.

In Rwanda, refugees enjoy freedom of movement. For camp refugees, a permit from the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) is required if they intend to live temporarily outside the camp for longer than three months while maintaining their shelter in the camp. Across the five refugee camps, refugee leadership and representation committees provide a structure for the community to voice their concerns and address challenges. Elections for the refugee executive committee occur periodically including efforts to ensure female representation.

Although improvements in child protection and addressing GBV have been noted over the past few years, including the engagement of multiple stakeholders on such issues, incidents of GBV and child abuse are underreported among the refugee population. In particular, intimate partner violence, psychological and physical violence, and sexual harassment are the most common forms of GBV experienced by refugees in Rwanda.

In addition, despite the Government ensuring all refugees have access to documentation, not all refugees hold ID cards.⁵ On an annual basis, partners will work to ensure that refugees turning 16 receive their ID card⁶ and existing ID cards are renewed.

Partners continue to seek ways to recruit more lawyers/legal aid personnel to support legal services in camps/urban areas to respond to the volume of cases, including detention monitoring and conduct legal awareness raising on rights and obligations. Exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) also poses a significant risk among refugee communities in Rwanda and more investment is needed to boost capacity for prevention, including expertise to work with child survivors and child-friendly feedback and response mechanisms.

4 Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Preliminary Report May 2022 Indicated that 50% of refugees living in the camps are adopting emergency and crisis coping mechanisms.

5 As of June 2023, 57,152 refugees had valid IDs out of 68,740 refugees (83 percent) eligible for IDs as registered in UNHCR Rwanda's database. MINEMA's data, however, shows that ID coverage is 96.2 percent. Work is ongoing to resolve inconsistencies.

6 Between June – December 2023, 923 refugees are expected to turn 16 years old.

RRP partners continue to advocate for access to territory and access to asylum for all asylum-seekers in Rwanda. Despite strong coordination and mutual understanding on all other protection related issues, maintaining a fair and efficient asylum system requires more investment, support and capacity building. The Government of Rwanda is responsible for assessing asylum cases. There is a need for ongoing collaboration and sharing of information between all partners. UNHCR continues to advocate to be invited to attend the Rwandan RSD committee sessions and asylum procedures as mandated by the 1951 Refugee Convention.

A national legal aid system exists in Rwanda UNHCR will focus to advocate for inclusion of refugees into national legal aid system while reprioritizing the legal assistance intervention to criminal cases and asylum-related cases including appeal at high court. Doing so is in line with Global Refugee Compact, and support will be given to improve the quality of legal aid service provided by the State for both refugees and host communities.

Asylum-seekers and refugees evacuated from Libya and accommodated at the ETM also have a significant amount of protection needs due to detention, trauma and abuse suffered during their previous journeys to find safety. Of the 1,400 individuals who have passed through the ETM, over 80 per cent are categorized as having specific protection needs. As a result, the provision of psychosocial support, mental health services and best interests procedures for children are essential.

In Rwanda local integration is possible for refugees as per the nationality law, although there is little uptake among the refugee community. Partners working on the refugee response continue to work with the Government of Rwanda who is committed to supporting full integration. There is also a need to increase awareness about refugees' local integration and rights. In 2022, 6201 places were available for resettlement for refugees in Rwanda to ten countries. Most of the available slots are for Congolese refugees while resettlement is currently not prioritized for Burundian refugees except serious medical or protection needs cases. Burundians will continue to be assisted with repatriation, in a voluntary and dignified manner.



Suavis is pictured with her newborn son, Alfie, who is one-month old and showcases the SMS they received confirming his birth registration ©UNHCR/Eric Didier Karinganire

Part 2: Rwanda Protection and Solutions Strategy

Protecting refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced populations and finding solutions to their plight will remain the core focus of partners working on the refugee response in 2023. In Rwanda, refugees have access to civil registration, and documentation, including proof of registration, birth and marriage registration, and refugee IDs for those above 16 years old. While influxes from the DRC and Burundi were previously recognized as prima-facie refugees, all new arrivals regardless of nationality, now undergo individual status determination by the National Refugee Status Determination Committee (NRSDC). Under its mandate, UNHCR, in collaboration with legal aid partners, will continue to offer technical assistance to support the Government in ensuring fair and efficient asylum procedures, including gender and child-friendly asylum procedures, are accessible to asylum seekers in Rwanda and advocate for its observer role in the asylum processing mechanism. Emphasis will be put on enhancing information flow and legal counselling to asylum-seekers in languages that they understand as well as encouraging the Government to allow legal representation by qualified lawyers in the whole process. UNHCR continues to conduct case processing for evacuees in ETM aiming at facilitating accelerated resettlement processing.

Refugees and asylum-seekers will continue to have access to free legal assistance through RRP partners. Partners will amplify their advocacy to include refugees and asylum seekers into national legal aid system. If this is achieved, strengthening the national capacity and enhancing technical collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and promoting pro-bono culture among advocates will be essential. In general, this work will contribute to strengthening refugee and asylum-seeker access to comprehensive protection services

Strengthening community-based structures will be a priority in 2023 to support community outreach, prevention and awareness raising programs. Such structures will not operate in isolation but cater for the needs of both refugees and the local Rwandan host communities even in camp-based settings. This will be achieved through expanding programs to train refugees and asylum-seekers as community volunteers and mobilizers.

Addressing the key concerns highlighted by refugees during Participatory Assessments and partners' reports (related to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic) will comprise inter alia of tackling the increase of family conflicts, GBV incidents, sale or exchange of sex, problem with protection environment for children due to parental conflicts and scarcity of food. Regular campaigns in schools, support systems in the community, legal counselling, and psychosocial support, among other, are key to deal with rape and child pregnancies.

In addition, the delivery of cash assistance to help meet refugee food and basic needs will be continued to be carried out on a targeted basis in a protection sensitive manner. Mechanisms will be put in place to assess the impact of the targeting of assistance.

It is expected that by working closely with refugee community leaders and volunteers as part of a strengthened community-based structure, refugee communities will feel more empowered to support themselves and take a step down the path of self-reliance. Community centres across Rwanda will serve as a safe space for refugee communities to meet and access inclusive protection services. Refugees will also be supported to participate in skills training, youth engagement activities, recreational activities such as sports and participate in national and international conferences to voice their ideas.

Partners working on the refugee response will also strive to integrate refugees in child protection and available GBV programming and services at national level, and improve access to national child protection systems, in 2023. Participation in the national forums led by the Ministry of Gender and Family as well as GBV Isange One Stop Centres (IOSC) and the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) will support this aim. To have continuity and increased support from government institutions, partners will ensure that advocacy is made on access to free and inclusive services including free medico-legal reports for legal actions against perpetrators and free meals for refugee GBV

survivors in IOSC safe spaces. The inclusion of refugee community mobilizers in the national child protection social workforce 'Inshuti z'umuryango (translated as 'friends of families') and refugee foster families in the national programme known as 'Tubarerere Mu Muryango' will also be an objective.

Recognizing the requirements of all refugees, including people with disabilities, older persons, and those with other specific needs, will also be streamlined throughout all programs, with material and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups being provided as necessary. To support this, partners will advocate to increase the accessibility of many communal facilities, services and information across refugee camps.

In general, improving the living conditions for refugees and asylum seekers across Rwanda will be essential in ensuring their protection and well-being. In line with existing strategies, the delivery of assistance through cash will be mainstreamed where possible giving beneficiaries' flexibility, dignity, and choice in how they meet their most pressing needs. Cash assistance will also directly benefit the local economy and can contribute to peaceful coexistence with host communities.

In sectors such as education, health and WASH, interventions will aim to align with national standards and benefit both refugees and the local Rwandan host communities. Maintaining and improving such facilities will also ensure their sustainability in the long term and in turn, mean they are more likely to be taken on by relevant government entities and included in national systems. Engagement with local authorities on such projects is also reflected in pledges made by the Rwanda Government at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and will be built upon ahead of the next GRF in 2023.

Finding solutions for refugees in Rwanda will be a core responsibility of partners involved in the refugee response. Although resettlement and complementary pathways to third countries will continue, opportunities remain limited due to low quotas. Maintaining resettlement places for refugees accommodated in the ETM, however, will be a priority to ensure that their stay in Rwanda is temporary and that the objectives of the ETM to find onward solutions are being upheld. In addition, the possibility for refugees to return home is expected to apply to only a small number of Burundian refugees. In this regard, incentives to return such as the introduction of a cash package for Burundian refugees in Rwanda will be explored.

In summary, however, most refugees in Rwanda are expected to remain in 2023. As such, facilitating their inclusion and integration within local and national systems will be important to enhance social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Engaging with the private sector and development actors such as the World Bank will support such efforts and ensure that refugees are considered when implementing projects in support of Rwanda's national development objectives and transformation strategy, therefore ensuring their protection in the long-term.

Rwanda Strategic Objectives

SO1: Strengthen and maintain refugees and asylum-seeker access to comprehensive and inclusive protection services

In 2023, partners working on the refugee response will continue to ensure the reception, protection, and assistance for all refugees, asylum seekers and displaced populations including new arrivals. By adopting a community-based approach, interventions will be strengthened at a local level and alignment with national structures achieved. Particular attention will be directed towards the participation and inclusion of women, girls, people with disabilities, older persons and other at-risk groups. Individual case management services will support people affected by violence and abuse, including GBV, with psychosocial support and counselling provided accordingly. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, will also be strengthened through improving reporting response mechanisms, including child friendly approaches. Partners will support increasing capacity in areas such as issuing refugee documentation and asylum processing, and advocacy expanded around the inclusion of refugees in more national systems relating to legal aid, child protection, disability benefits and GBV.

SO2: Improve the living conditions for refugees throughout Rwanda

Given the largely protracted nature of the refugee situation in Rwanda, in 2023 efforts will concentrate on improving the living conditions for refugees across the country but with a large focus on refugee camps. Old and depreciating infrastructure including shelter, WASH facilities, classrooms and community centres will be upgraded, maintained, and made accessible to all while enhancing the overall environment of refugee camps in a disability inclusion and climate-smart manner that strengthens resilience and preparedness measures. Focus on increasing the quality of education and service delivery will also contribute to refugee wellbeing. Cash assistance will be targeted to the most vulnerable refugee populations to help families meet their food and other basic needs. Access to adequate energy will be supported through the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and cash to help by pellets, and briquettes to support clean cooking. These actions will reduce protection risks such as GBV and mitigate environmental degradation.

SO3: Support the inclusion of refugees within national systems to foster refugee self-reliance and their progressive graduation out of humanitarian assistance

Building on commitments made by the Government of Rwanda as part of the CRRF and GRF, the refugee response in Rwanda will continue to support the inclusion of refugees in national systems in 2023. In addition, focus will be directed towards strengthening refugees and their host communities' livelihoods and self-reliance by scaling up the most sustainable and cost-effective interventions. Programs will also target the large refugee youth population in providing technical and vocational skills training and access to higher education. This will ensure that no one, particularly refugees, are left behind in accessing education, health, employment, justice, and documentation.

SO4: Seek the implementation of durable solutions to refugee situations

Helping refugee populations find solutions to their plight often after decades living in exile will be a priority in 2023. Resettlement opportunities will be offered to the most vulnerable Congolese refugees who meet existing criteria set by UNHCR and resettlement countries to relocate to a third country. For the Burundian refugee population, the option to voluntarily repatriate to the country of origin will be promoted where possible through the provision of cash assistance and information sharing about the situation they will face when returning home. Finally, where possibilities for local integration present themselves, partners will support refugee populations on the path to gaining Rwandan citizenship. In addition, in 2023, the ETM will continue to accommodate vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees evacuated from Libya. Through case processing and resettlement, solutions will be sought to their cases and skills trainings provided while they remain in Rwanda with the aim of making their situation sustainable.

Sectoral Responses



PROTECTION

In 2023, key protection priorities will include ensuring continued access to territory and asylum, registration, and documentation, promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. These priorities will be pursued through advocacy, protection monitoring, capacity-building for authorities and partners, and the continued strengthening of community-based protection networks in all refugee locations.

The provision of legal assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers both in urban areas and in camps, while advocating for inclusion into the national legal aid system, will be ensured by partners working on the refugee response. In addition, mechanisms to support refugees voice their concerns such as through protection desks in each camp, complaint boxes and protection hotlines will be maintained.

In 2023, a focus on strengthening community-based structures and expanding the capacity of community volunteers, mobilizers and youth groups, will help empower refugees at personal and community level and identify vulnerable individuals who need further support at grassroot level. Awareness-raising activities on child protection, inclusion of people with disability and specific needs and gender equality will also be conducted. Efforts will be made to tackle the high rate of teenage pregnancy. The delivery of material support and assistance to people with special needs and vulnerable individuals in urban area will also continue.

To fulfil its commitment in supporting the asylum system, protection partners will continue offering technical assistance to the Rwanda Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) and MINEMA, legal aid partners and establishing pro bono lawyer networks while increasing its internal capacity with RSD experts, legally trained staff and training facilitators. UNHCR will continue to collaborate with the National Statelessness Taskforce on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Statelessness 2020-2024, that operationalizes the pledges made by the Government during the High-Level Segment on Statelessness. In general, coordination mechanisms to support the protection of refugees and their Rwanda hosts will be strengthened along with the Government of Rwanda.

UNHCR will also continue to work with partners in the ETM supporting the evacuation of asylum seekers transferred from detention from Libya, to transit in Rwanda while waiting for resettlement solutions. This will take place through registration, refugee case processing, psychosocial support, healthcare and the provision of skills and training opportunities while these individuals remain in Rwanda.

In line with the spirit 'no one left behind', the protection response in Rwanda will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion into national systems while strengthening the national capacity. For a few areas, services will still be provided in parallel system, such as legal aid and social classification (ubudehe).



Asylum seekers arrive in Kigali airport after being evacuated from Libya ©UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

Partners will ensure that children regardless of gender, age, disability, nationality, ethnicity or religion are protected from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation, and have access to child-friendly and inclusive protection procedures and services. Identification of children at risk who face violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation will be carried out by front-line workers and child protection partners who will also initiate best interests procedure including for alternative care arrangement for unaccompanied and separated children, services including psychosocial support, responses to child survivors of GBV, and identification of appropriate durable solution such as facilitated return and family reunification.

Child protection community-based structures including child protection committees, children clubs, youth clubs, community volunteers and mobilizers will support with identification of children at risk, monitoring of low at-risk children, supporting student mothers with community day care, facilitating awareness-raising sessions to promote children to stay in school, avoid early sex and unwanted pregnancy and early marriages. Increased collaboration with national structures on integration of refugee children in national structures and their access to services will be ensured.

Child and Youth Friendly Space (C/YFS) will be upgraded/rehabilitated and made more accessible, including for children with disabilities, and continue to operate to ensure wider population of children access Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programs through play, drama and dance as a mechanism to restore psychological and developmental well-being of the children.

Appropriate staffing and continuous capacity building is essential to effective child protection programme implementation. Partners will continue to conduct resource mobilization and will conduct capacity building of available workforce to ensure implementation of quality best interests procedures with the engagement of MINEMA and DGIE in best interest determination panels. Advocacy to include refugee children in the national Rwanda child protection case management system, as it is rolled out, will also take place, while strengthening the capacity of the national system to respond to the specific needs and experience of refugee children.

Sub-sector: GBV

GBV partners will enhance implementation of the GBV Minimum Standards and its key actions. Community-based Protection Mechanisms, including groups led by women and girls, will further be enhanced. In addition, there will be a focus on engaging men and boys in addressing GBV in a manner that is accountable to women and girls. Innovative approaches will be adopted to encourage people to speak up and address stigma and impunity with their community.

The provision of technical support on GBV mainstreaming across all sectors has been one of the key components for the response and will continue. Emphasis will be given to education, health, child protection, WASH, livelihood sectors. Risks of GBV are predicted to increase due to reductions in food assistance leaving adolescent girls particularly at risk.

Support for GBV survivors will be strengthened in 2023. SOPs on case management will be updated and strong referral pathways for quality and inclusive services including specialized medical, legal, psychosocial, in-kind & material and livelihoods will continue to be implemented. Regular coordination among partners will continue to advocate for refugees' integration in national structures and enhancing entry points for safe disclosure of GBV and receiving support and services. To enable this, partners will continue to maintain monitoring and feedback systems through GBV helplines, compliant boxes, protection desks, and other communications that are accessible to all community members.



EDUCATION

To enhance sustainable inclusion of refugees in national education system, education partners will continue to support the Government of Rwanda and the Ministry of Education to strengthen systems for all children in Rwanda. To increase access to inclusive, equitable quality basic education by refugee and host community children, partners will advocate for more inclusive approaches and continue resource mobilization to improve learning conditions and outcomes.

Investment in improving the quality of education through expansion of school infrastructure, teachers' capacity development, and ensuring access to teaching and learning materials will be a priority. In 2023, education intervention also addresses challenges of out of school children, girls' education, and children with inclusive and special education needs. This work will be aligned with the government pledge made at the Global Refugee Forum to improve the quality of education by upgrading school infrastructure in refugee-hosting districts and expanding training to benefit refugees and host communities.



FOOD SECURITY

Ensuring food security for camp-based refugees in 2023 will continue to be supported through the distribution of WFP cash transfers to meet food needs. In-kind nutrition support for children in supplementary feeding programmes will continue. Following on from the implementation of delivering food assistance on a targeted basis in 2021, the further development of targeting criteria will happen in 2023 and the targeting governance board will be strengthened. This will be achieved through close coordination between MINEMA, UNHCR, WFP to ensure that the most vulnerable refugees are receiving food assistance and funds are used as efficiently as possible. Despite this, refugees with specific needs such as children, people with disabilities and older persons will continue to receive in-kind support, including school feeding and nutrition interventions. Through its school feeding programme, WFP will continue to provide parent contributions through cash to schools in camps, in line with the Government's National School Feeding programme.

For refugees living in urban settings, food assistance is not provided due to their assumed self-reliance and accessibility to the labour market. Partners will, however, provide cash assistance for food and accommodation for the most vulnerable families on a temporary and exceptional basis if required. New arrivals and Rwandan returnees in reception/transit centers will receive in-kind food support upon arrival while Rwanda returnees will receive cash assistance to support their food needs until relocation to their locations of origin. Asylum seekers and refugees accommodated in the ETM will also receive three meals a day.

In 2023, further emphasis will be put on supporting sustainable livelihoods to supplement the monthly humanitarian food assistance and increase food security among refugees. Supporting joint-agricultural projects between the two communities will be a key part of this. This will in turn facilitate efforts to ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production all geared towards zero hunger for all.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

In 2023, health and nutrition programmes for refugees will focus on the maintenance and improvement of existing services to make them more efficient, accessible and responsive. A key component of this will include increasing the capacity and preparedness for future health emergencies in collaboration with MINEMA, district authorities, and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre. This includes, but is not limited to, disease surveillance, COVID-19 vaccination and management measures, and health promotion mainly against diarrheal diseases.

On a day-to-day basis, partners will continue to deliver primary health care service for refugees in camps and facilitate referrals to hospitals where necessary. Health information systems will be enhanced, and the quality of data will be improved where possible. Maternal health, sexual reproductive health interventions, mental health and psychosocial support activities will be strengthened including in the ETM.

The nutrition response for refugees will prioritize the prevention, screening/detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, to keep malnutrition rates in refugee camps low. Existing referral mechanisms to care for patients with severe conditions within government facilities will be maintained and pregnant and lactating mothers will receive nutritional support. Nutrition education and awareness-raising for behavioral change at the community level will be a continuous process.

In addition, partners will continue advocating for the inclusion of camp-based refugees in Community-Based Health Insurance schemes (CBHI). To this end, health infrastructure and equipment across refugee camps will be rehabilitated/maintained to meet the standards of the Ministry of Health and align with national policies and guidelines. The process of local procurement of medicines and medical supplies, which in previous years has moved from international to national, will be streamlined to reduce or avoid low stock of key medicines.

The inclusion of refugees in national health services aims to avoid creating a parallel health system for refugees. All partners involved in delivering health and nutrition services for refugees and Rwandan host communities will combine their efforts to strengthen the health systems at the level of refugee hosting districts and at national level.

Through health facility rehabilitation, maintenance and renewal of equipment, provision of quality and inclusive health and nutrition services to refugees and the host communities, partners working on the refugee response in Rwanda will contribute to realization of SDG 3.



Save the Children operate Mahama II health centre in Mahama refugee camp providing 24/7 primary health care and nutritional support to the refugee community. In 2023, it is planned that the health centre will also become a medicalized health centre and will be able to carry out minor surgeries and caesarean sections without having to transport refugees to the nearby hospital over an hour away.

©UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle



Regis Ndikubatoni in his bakery in Mahama refugee camp © GIZ

TVET Graduates turned entrepreneurs

Regis Ndikubatoni is a Burundian refugee who opened his own bakery businesses in Mahama Refugee Camp, following a hands-on technical training in the IPRC Ngoma Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) school and taking a “Start your Business” training course.

As part of the project “Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities” (ECOREF), co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by GIZ, young refugees and Rwandans are being supported courses and trainings which provide professional upgrading, saving groups, career guidance and entrepreneurship promotion. In line with the graduation out of poverty approach, ECOREF aims to improve the self-reliance of refugees and their host communities.

As a result of his training in culinary art, Regis is now able to make a living from his bakery which he started: *“GIZ trained me in IPRC Ngoma where I studied culinary arts, they also trained me in business skills in Nyakarambi town in Kirehe district. I am now professional due to these trainings; I have started my business and it is running smoothly”*. Through vendors who sell his bread on bicycles, Regis is able to reach even more clients



LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE

Livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 2023 will focus on scaling up the “Graduation Approach”, which supports refugees, asylum seekers and the local host community to become self-reliant. Key components of this graduation approach include 1) enhancing socio-economic data about the refugee population in Rwanda in order to identify the most vulnerable households and those which have the potential to become self-sufficient; 2) boosting technical and entrepreneurial skills through livelihood training, development of business plans, provision of start-up kits, and links to markets and financial institutions; 3) providing regular and time-bound consumption support to enable them to meet their basic needs; 4) providing lumpsum cash grants for employment start-ups; 5) developing refugees’ ability to save money as a tool to access finance and build resilience; 6) ensuring the close mentorship and coaching of all

beneficiary populations on life skills in a way that develop their self-confidence. It worth noting that the sector adopts an AGDM approach and supports women empowerment.

To inform these interventions, increased evidence-based advocacy for the inclusion of refugees within partnerships with the private sector, development actor programming and national strategies will be essential, the Government of Rwanda and World Bank project, Jya Mbere ('moving forward'), will provide a good model in this regard, as well as the ongoing work by the NGO consortium "[the Poverty Alleviation Coalition](#)" which pledged to support Rwanda by implementing graduation approach programmes at the GRF in 2019. Supporting the reduction of non-legal barriers to employment will also be a focus. Efforts will also be made to align priority areas for livelihood activities with the sectors Rwanda has identified for growth as part of its Vision 2050 strategy such as technology and agriculture. Scaling up of previous livelihood interventions such as climate-smart agriculture in the Misizi marshlands will also provide direction for the way forward in 2023.



SHELTER AND NFIS

For 2023, the refugee response across refugee camps will aim at increasing the adequacy and accessibility of refugee shelter and improving communal infrastructures. This will entail providing technical support to refugee households in terms of shelter construction and maintenance, construction of new shelters, upgrading of temporary shelters to semi-permanent shelters, rehabilitation/maintenance of old shelters and the construction/rehabilitation/maintenance of communal infrastructures. The improvement of shelters and refugee homes will ensure that minimum standards are met, improve refugee living conditions, protect refugees against harsh weather conditions and climate change impacts and lead to improved health and wellbeing among refugee populations. Improved communal infrastructures, such as community centres and water and sanitation facilities, will have a similar impact and bring refugee communities closer together and reducing protection risks.

In parallel to shelter improvements, partners working on the refugee response will continue providing LPG for clean cooking to refugee families in Mugombwa and Mahama camps, as well as reception/transit centers, as a transitional approach pending the development of renewable energy solutions. In Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme refugee camps, refugee families and businesses will be supported through smart subsidies and cash for energy to promote the use of pellets/briquettes and stoves. Refugee response partners will continue to promote solar home systems for lighting and small businesses by injecting new funding and safeguarding continuous de-risking of the private sector investment to scale up renewable energy access to all refugee camps. The electrification of facilities will continue to reduce emissions and costs. Promoting on-grid and off-grid for Productive Use of Energy (PUE) initiatives will improve incomes, boost long-term job creation, and empower women, youth, people with disabilities, older people, and those with other specific needs. Financial provisions for securing of access to menstrual products for all women and girls at reproductive age will be ensured as part of CBI packages based on the preference expressed by the refugee community.

In addition, efforts will be made to invest in an impactful reforestation program to restore/revive degraded land and afforestation to increase green cover in and around the refugee camps. Furthermore, UNHCR will make explicit efforts to improve drainage systems and networks, including rehabilitating ravines and degraded land.

Throughout the year, cash distributions to the refugee population will be organized on a periodic basis to help them meet their basic needs. On a quarterly basis, UNHCR will distribute cash assistance to cover transportation needs, hygiene items such as soap and menstrual products and non-food items. On an ad-hoc basis cash will be distributed to extremely vulnerable families living in urban areas. Partners will also increasingly link cash transfers to supporting refugee livelihoods and self-reliance.



Solar streetlights and community ownership:

Solar streetlights improve mobility for residents after dark, reduce the risk of crime and violence, and provide business opportunities by extending the duration of lighting after dark. Since 2017, partners working on the refugee response in Rwanda have prioritized the installation of solar streetlights and, together with the refugee community, identified areas of where to install them. Installation ownership and maintenance of the streetlights was then handed over to the camp community and refugees trained to keep them operational.

91 percent of refugee camp residents now say they feel safer after dark, compared to 12 percent before their installation.

62 per cent of refugees also are able to continue being productive after dark such as through running businesses.⁷



WASH

Improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in 2023 will take a three-pronged approach of increasing access to facilities, ensuring facilities are operated and used effectively and efficiently, and raising awareness about safe hygiene practices among the refugee population. The construction of new facilities, maintenance of existing facilities and behavioural change will form a key part of this approach while taking into account environmental conservation and sustainable resource management. Throughout all, consideration of gender segregation and accessibility for people with disabilities and specific needs will be considered as per international standards.⁸

⁷ UNHCR 2022 Access to Energy Report <https://www.unhcr.org/rw/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/09/Full-Report-on-Energy-Access-Final-Rwanda-Sep2022.pdf>

⁸ For example, [Section C: Accessibility in Emergencies | UNICEF Accessibility Toolkit](#)

Coordination with partners as well as government agencies will ensure that water systems will be maintained securing an uninterrupted water supply and reduced water losses. To verify the provision of safe water, systematic and comprehensive water quality tests will be conducted on a periodic basis. In Mugombwa, Kiziba and Nyabiheke camps, water supply will be extended to the local host community to support Rwandans who face similar water challenges as the refugee population. Where space allows, more communal latrines, bathing shelters and garbage collection facilities will be constructed and existing one maintained in the refugee camps. Access to sanitation and hygiene services in the host communities, including schools and health centres, will also be scaled up.

Within the refugee communities, committees and individuals will be equipped with skills in Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of WASH facilities. This will support the national community-based hygiene approach referred to as Community-Based Environmental Health Promotion Program (CBEHPP) that fosters an environment where communities identify problems and devise solutions whilst promoting local ownership. Furthermore, more hand washing stations will be established to enhance on going handwashing campaigns to stave off epidemics.

In addition, over the course of three years, refugee response partners plan to handover 50 per cent of water services (based on population served) to the respective districts to be locally managed and provide services to both nationals and refugees. The overall aim is to mainstream refugee water supply into government services. All these approaches are geared towards contributing to refugee, asylum-seeker and Rwandan health and wellbeing. The overall goal is to improve the quality of life for all via improved access to water and sanitation (SD6).

Country Cross-Cutting Response Priorities



AAP

In 2023, the refugee response will continue to employ participatory methodologies within multiple programs and sectors, to ensure that refugee, asylum-seeker and host community voices are heard and opinions are incorporated into the response, reflect the diversity of all women, men, girls, boys, people with specific needs including those with disabilities including and others that exist within the refugee population in Rwanda following UNHCR's Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity and Operational Guidance on Accountability to Affected Populations.

Communicating with all these communities will occur through leveraging a variety of communication channels to ensure inclusion and accessibility for all groups within the communities. In consultation with partners and government entities of DGIE and MINEMA, partners will develop information materials for asylum-seekers detailing the asylum process, the procedure and benefit to obtain ID cards upon recognition, and other FAQs in languages that refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and other displaced populations understand. The consistent sharing of information about programs and services available for all populations will also be prioritized. The information will be made available at places of interest such as community centres, partner offices, SMS, social media, and government channels such as Immigration Offices, and border controls.

Through the feedback and response desks within the camps and urban areas the refugee response will strengthen feedback and response systems as well as having face-to-face interaction with refugees and asylum seekers. All information received from refugees and asylum seekers will be documented and analyzed with recommendations made available to all the stakeholders for a programmatic intervention.



Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is a cross cutting priority for all partners working on the refugee response in Rwanda. In 2023, focus will be placed on implementation of Capacity Building Plans put together in 2022 with all partners, ensuring prevention, response, reporting and risk mitigation measures are in place throughout all five camps, urban areas and the ETM. The following key priorities will be pursued across the refugee response in 2023:

- Enhance coordination of PSEA at country level with UN focal points, and at camp level among all humanitarian actors.
- Strengthen connectivity with GBV and Child Protection prevention and response actors, ensuring a victim centered approach is applied.
- Capacity building of all partners' PSEA focal points
- Ensure awareness raising materials are available for refugee communities in the language of their choice.



DATA

The main data about refugees in Rwanda is collected through UNHCR's registration database and the annual Joint Post Distribution Monitoring (JPDM) report carried out by UNHCR and WFP, which collects information about refugee households through a representative sample painting a picture of the impact of assistance as well as the socio-economic status and well-being of the refugee populations. Additional multisectoral data is collected through the UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) which are undertaken every two years; as well as the regular Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) which measures the prevalence of stunting and acute malnutrition in children, assess enrolment in supplementary feeding and makes recommendation on actions to be taken to address the situation in the refugee camps. Despite this, there are few statistics or surveys that report on refugee employment, education attainment, income/consumption, economic activity, and agricultural and non-agricultural activities. To inform evidence-based programming, partners working on the refugee response propose to rectify these remaining gaps in data in 2023. In particular, data is needed to contribute to an estimation of poverty among the refugee population.

To improve data and analytical studies on refugees in Rwanda, a concerted effort is needed among all partners to leverage existing avenues and invest in standalone data production activities. The use of ProGres Version 4⁹ with all the related models will further be enhanced in 2023, including facilitation of access to key partners, this will involve training front-line staff, development of SOPs, and strengthening monitoring and data analysis and follow up of trends, to inform planning and effective use of resources.

⁹ "ProGres in Partnership" or proGres version 4, is the UNHCR's corporate, centralized, web-based case management software application. ProGres v4 supports operational functions ranging from the registration of individuals to a wide range of UNHCR case management functions including assistance, protection case management, protection interventions and the provision of documentation and cash-based assistance. ProGres v4 enables UNHCR to grant access to partners, including host Governments, ensuring a common platform for collaboration.



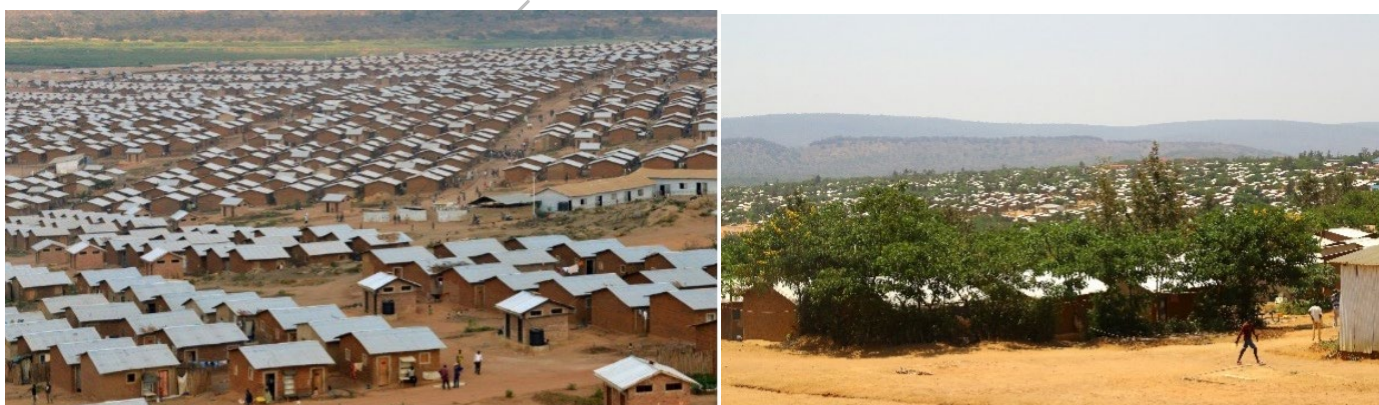
CLIMATE ACTION

In 2023, all partners working on the refugee response will enhance efforts to make their programming climate-smart and environmentally sound. To facilitate this, a robust analysis of climate and environmental risk and its implications for protection and solutions and scaling up concrete actions that protect both people and the environment will take place.

In addition, focus will be given to:

1. increased access to clean energy for cooking, lighting, and powering;
2. rehabilitation of the natural environment such as reforestation, rehabilitation of ravines, construction of radical terracing, including regenerative agriculture and awareness creation;
3. strengthened resilience and preparedness for climate and environmental risks, including climate risk-informed site planning;
4. improved waste management and drainage networks
5. Conversion of water supply systems into solar-run systems (with Mahama as a priority).
6. These measures will enhance the resilience, self-reliance and economic inclusion of displaced persons, including refugees as well as protecting the environment. In addition, sustainable site planning will mitigate against land degradation and exposure to landslides, floods, and other climate shocks

The provision of clean cooking alternatives such as LPG-powered stoves and pellets will also positively impact the health and livelihoods of refugees and the hosting community in Rwanda. Environmental awareness and accountability will also be heightened by embracing community-based natural resource management approaches to enable the local community to take increased responsibility for their landscapes. All interventions are aligned with global and national goals and targets—the SDGs, NST1, Vision 2050, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)¹⁰, GCR, and CRRF.



Before and After. An extensive reforestation programme is changing the environment in Mahama refugee camp. Rehabilitating the natural environment will remain a key focus for partners in 2023. ©UNHCR

¹⁰ Rwanda has also developed a National Adaption Program of Action to Climate Change

Partnership and Coordination

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, the refugee response in Rwanda is co-coordinated by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR. It involves 16 different partners including UN Agencies, NGOs, academia and development partners. UNHCR also leads majority of sector and sub-sector working groups (protection, child protection, GBV, health & nutrition, education, livelihoods, shelter, energy & environment and WASH) while WFP leads the food sector. In Rwanda, a quarterly Refugee Coordination Meeting is organized for all partners to share information and develop mechanisms to respond to challenges and define the way forward.

Partners working on the refugee response in Rwanda also have close working relationships with various relevant ministries in the Rwandan Government, including, but not limited to: MINEMA, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior. Strengthening national systems and the capacity to integrate refugees is an ongoing priority. On statelessness, UNHCR collaborates with the National Statelessness Taskforce, which includes 13 government ministries and agencies under the leadership of the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration.

In addition, the Rwanda Country Refugee Response Plan is tightly aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the National Strategic Transformation (NST1) which provides thematic pillars for accelerated transformation in the areas of economy, social protection and governance, while emphasizing sustainability of results and inclusiveness of development for all.

In Rwanda, there is a gradual expansion from a humanitarian to a developmental focus with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion, reflecting the Humanitarian Peace and Development nexus approach. Rwanda's involvement in the Global Compact for Refugees and pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum has capitalized on this national direction, with RRP partners continuing to explore partnerships with new and strategic stakeholders to support refugees in Rwanda. The next Global Refugee Forum due to be held at the end of 2023 will provide a way for partners to leverage support towards the RRP.

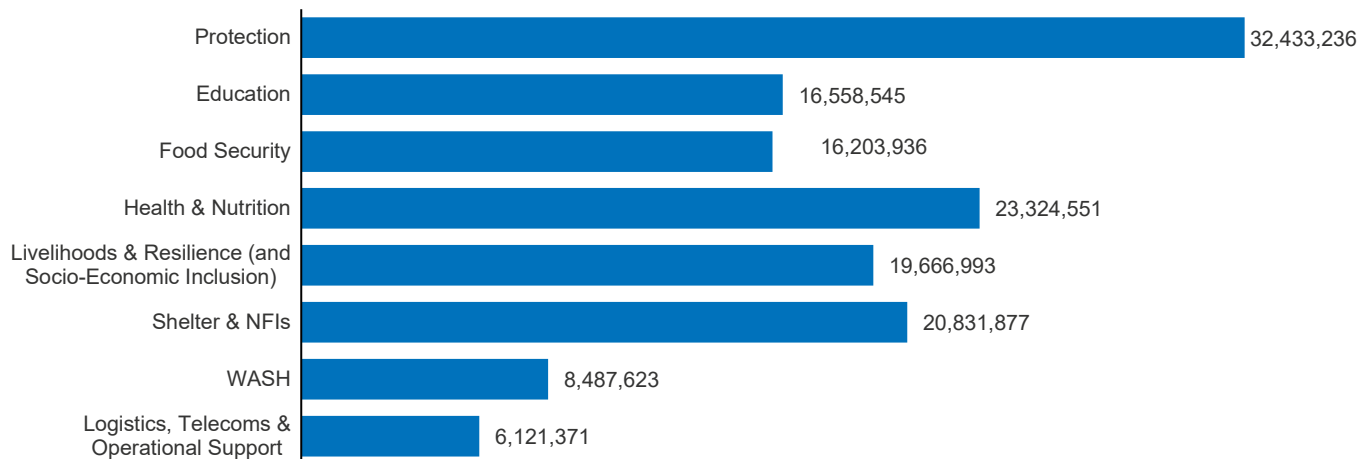
Partners work closely with refugee leaders and community groups throughout Rwanda collating their views through participatory assessments. Focus group discussions and household visits ensure that humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered according to accessible, accountable, and participatory standards. In addition, the next addition of the UNHCR/WFP JPDM (Joint Post Distribution Monitoring) will also be conducted in 2023 to provide a concrete assessment on food security, economic vulnerability and negative coping strategies among refugee populations. As previously done in the past the JPDM could be supplemented by the JAM and the SENS pending funding allocations. Efforts to localize the refugee response will continue into 2023.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total Financial Requirements In USD **\$ 143.6 million**

Budget summary by sector

Million in USD



Total Protection requirements

\$ 32,433,236

Other protection activities	GBV	Child Protection
\$ 25,570,188	\$ 2,534,919	\$ 4,328,129
79% of total	8% of total	13% of total

Budget summary by partner type¹¹

Partners Involved	UN Agencies (5)	International NGOs (6)	National NGOs (2)	Academia (1)	Regional organizations (1)	Development actors (1)
16	\$138,247,849	\$12,746,507	\$1,264,763	\$500,000	\$1,003,000	\$2,563,041

¹¹ Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget Summary by Partner


Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Requirements in US\$
UN Agencies		
International Organization for Migration	IOM	750,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	2,355,155
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	90,488,882
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	512,860
World Food Program	WFP	27,126,117
INGOs		
Alight		3,699,661
CARE		59,847
Humanity and Inclusion	HI	1,384,758
Plan International	PI	1,209,099
Save the Children International	SCI	5,856,926
World Vision International	WVI	3,877,664
National NGOs		
Impact Hope		1,188,874
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	PFR	302,249
Academia		
Kepler		750,000
Regional organizations		
Inkomoko		1,003,000
Development actors		
German Agency for International Cooperation	GIZ	2,563,041
		Total: \$143,628,132.70





Country Monitoring Results


Partners working under the refugee response plan in Rwanda will be responsible for monitoring activities conducted as part of the response on a quarterly basis in 2023. A final report published by March 2024, will also ensure accountability to the stated aims and objectives. In addition, monitoring across the different sectors will be coordinated by the different sector working groups to make sure that everything is on track and allowing for course correction throughout the year. Various methodologies will be utilized in this regard from field visits to surveys and focus group discussions including specific discussions with women, girls, people with disabilities, older persons and other groups with specific needs.

Protection partners will, in addition, conduct regular monitoring through desk reviews of activities, reports of case management, data collected on UNHCR's progress database, participatory assessments and other such engagements with the people we serve and other stakeholders.

In the WASH sector, joint bi-weekly activity and monitoring plans will be conducted by all. This involves activity planning and review of implementation done in the last two weeks. There are also monthly WASH Monitoring Systems (WMS) that take stock of all activities completed in a respective month represented as WASH report card on the online WMS.

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	Proportion of people identified in need of assistance receiving psychosocial support	85%
		Proportion of people with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs	15,504
		Number of refugees and asylum-seekers receiving legal assistance	2500
		Number of individuals (Government Officials, Lawyers) trained on refugee related law and procedures	40
		Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who can access asylum procedures	100%
		Number of refugees who voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to their country of origin	3,200
		Number of refugees submitted for resettlement	3,500
	Child Protection	Number of individuals trained on child rights and child protection prevention and response, including mainstreaming	2000
		Number of children at high risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), with Best Interest Processes (BIP) undertaken	785
		Number of community-based committees/groups dedicated to child protection issues	28
		Number of adolescents participating in child protection related programmes	18000
	GBV	Proportion of reported incidents where survivors receive case management services by service providers trained in GBV survivor centered approaches	100%

		Number of trained participants (partner workforce and government authorities) who increased their GBV knowledge and skills on prevention and response	150	
		Proportion of prevention activities led by women and girls from the community	50%	
		Number of women and girls who participate in targeted empowerment activities as part of GBV prevention programs	8000	
	Education	Proportion of refugee children (3-17 years) who are enrolled in school (gross enrollment)	100%	
		Number of children and youth who are supported through Sports Programme	5000	
	Food Security	Proportion of refugees with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	65%	
		Proportion of refugee households with economic capacity to meet essential needs	30%	
		Proportion of households not adopting livelihood coping strategies	55%	
		Number of persons receiving food assistance (in-kind or cash assistance)	106,438	
		Health & Nutrition	Number of refugees provided with primary healthcare services	310,000
			Number of pregnant and lactating women admitted in Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP)	2300
	Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socio-Economic Inclusion)	Number of refugees and host communities who received cash grants to start up or improve their income generating activities	1350	
		Number of refugees and host communities provided with entrepreneurship/business training	1350	
		Number of refugees and host communities provided with vocational skills/apprenticeship/on-the-job-training	200	
	Shelter & NFIs	Number of refugee shelters repaired	2,073	
		Number of refugee shelters constructed	100	
		Number of refugee families received LPG for cooking	18,000	
		Number of families purchase solar-home systems	2,000	
		Number of tree seedlings planted	75,000	

	WASH	Number of refugees, asylum seekers and host communities, served by adequate WASH services	61,664
		Number of average litres of potable water available per person per day	20
		Number of refugees per latrine stance in camps	20
		Proportion of schools, learning centres and health care facilities having adequate WASH facilities	100%