Rwanda

October 2024

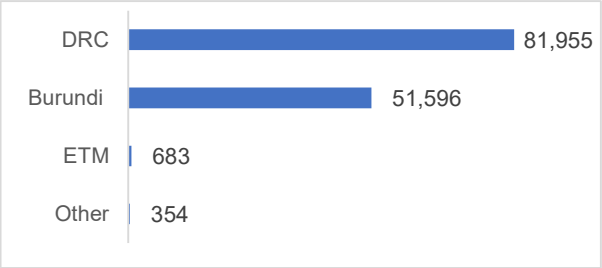
The birth registration rate among individuals born in Rwanda, regardless of age, is 96%, with a coverage rate of 99.1% for children under 5 years old.

UNHCR and partners acted to prevent the spread of the MVD outbreak to refugee settings. No positive case was identified within the refugee population.

The school attendance rate in Mahama camp was 99% for ECD level, 98% for primary level and 97% for secondary level.

134,588 REGISTERED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN RWANDA

Mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61%) and Burundi (38%).



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

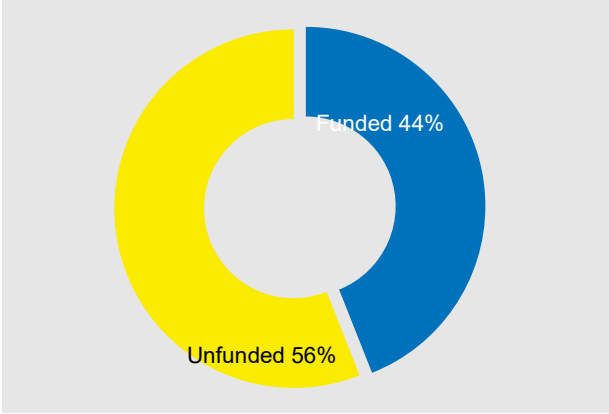
148 asylum seekers from DRC arrived in Rwanda in October

6,366 refugees were submitted for resettlement so far in 2024.

FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 31 OCTOBER)

USD 91.7 million

requested for Rwanda operation in 2024



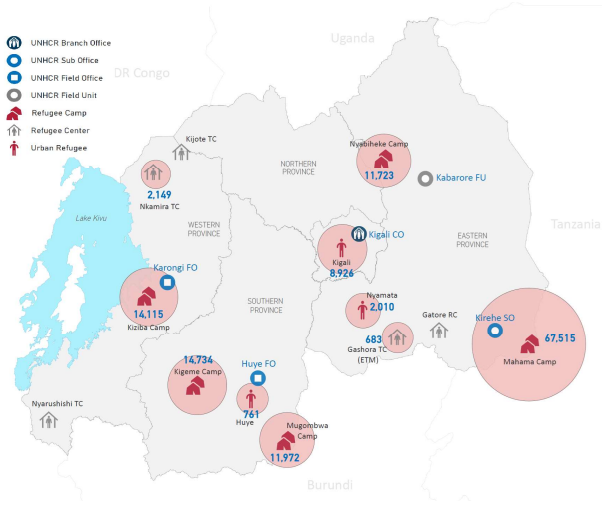
UNHCR PRESENCE

222 Staff:
166 National Staff
56 International Staff

1 Country Office in Kigali
1 Sub-Office in Kirehe
2 Field Offices in Huye, Karongi
1 Field Unit in Kabarore

5 Camps in Mahama, Kigeme, Kiziba Nyabiheke, Mugombwa
2 Transit Centers in Nkamira, Kijote
Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Gashora
Presence in: Nyamata, Gatore

Forcibly Displaced Persons in Rwanda as of 31 October 2024



Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), leads the refugee response in Rwanda in coordination with UNHCR. In addition, a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners participate in sector working groups at both country and district levels. In 2024, UNHCR works directly with nine NGO partners in implementing key activities to assist both the refugee population and Rwandan host communities. To further strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR maintains close collaboration with key government institutions, ministries, operational partners, and the private sector working with refugees in Rwanda.

PROTECTION

- UNHCR worked closely with the Government of Rwanda, specifically Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, to issue refugee ID cards to refugees over 16 years old. Currently the Refugee ID coverage stands at 90 percent.
- In October, 148 new asylum seekers fled from DRC to Rwanda and were initially accommodated at Nkamira Transit centre. As of the end of the month, Nkamira hosted 2,149 individuals after the relocation of 3,457 in September to Mahama Camp. Following approval from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR commenced the official registration of asylum seekers at Nkamira transit centre in May.
- Since the start of 2024, more than 9,857 individuals (including 3,264 new births) have been registered in Rwanda, 77% of whom are new arrivals from DR Congo, 15% from Burundi, and 4 % from Sudan.
- UNHCR has continued to observe an increase in the number of Sudanese asylum seekers fleeing to Rwanda. As of 31 October, 743 Sudanese have been recorded as arriving in Rwanda in 2024. This includes 330 individuals (161 families) in Kigali and 413 individuals (222 families) in Mahama refugee camp. The Sudanese community in Mahama and Kigali continue to face several challenges, including language barriers, difficulties in accessing education for their children, lack of livelihoods opportunities, and issues with healthcare access.
- UNHCR worked in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) to provide legal counselling including on asylum procedures. In October, 52 asylum seekers and their dependents from Sudan, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, and South Sudan were provided counselling about asylum procedures and supported to submit their asylum application to the Rwandan Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE). UNHCR, in collaboration with PFR, also continues to facilitate the travel of refugees located in camps to Kigali to participate in refugee status determination interviews conducted by DGIE.
- Thirty-four percent of the refugee population were born in Rwanda. The birth registration rate among individuals born in Rwanda, regardless of age, is 96%, with a coverage rate of 99.1% for children under 5 years old. UNHCR continues to collaborate with the Government of Rwanda and relevant ministries to enhance birth registration rates, integrating refugees into the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system. In October, UNHCR assisted in the processing of 248 birth certificates for refugees in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda.
- Legal assistance was provided to 709 refugees and asylum seekers in terms of general assistance (advice and orientation), civil status documentation and awareness raising on national laws.
- UNHCR in collaboration with Prison Fellowship Rwanda secured the release of 10 refugees and asylum seekers from different detention facilities across the country.
- To continue to fulfil its mandate, UNHCR has established various channels to facilitate communication with refugees such as help lines, SMS, WhatsApp, email, face-to-face counselling, and community

meetings. In October, 174 displaced persons made inquiries in Kigali and Nyamata with 59 percent of requests concerning health care and community-based health insurance (CBHI) enrolment.

- UNHCR in Rwanda provides urgent financial assistance to refugees living in urban areas in exceptional cases to help them meet their basic needs such as paying rent and buying food. In 2024, this assistance is directly provided by Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) as part of UNHCR's partnership agreement with them. In October, 5 Burundian refugee families, 3 Sudanese refugee families were provided with such financial assistance to help them cover costs for food, accommodation or transportation.
- UNHCR partners with Save the Children and Plan International in Rwanda to run activities for refugee children in camps. In October, 4,377 refugee children attended different activities at child friendly spaces and 2,352 adolescents participated in targeted programs in refugee camps.
- In October, 81 best interest procedures for child protection cases were conducted by UNHCR and partners. This included assessments to determine the best course of action in supporting unaccompanied and separated children. In addition, 805 UASC received a visit at least once in a month across all refugee settings.
- 3,940 women and girls participated in targeted empowerment activities as part of GBV prevention programs. UNHCR continued to follow-up and support new and previously reported cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in October. Where needed medical services, psychosocial support and referrals to legal assistance are provided to victims/survivors by UNHCR and partners.
- In October, 14,335 refugees and asylum seekers were reached with GBV awareness-raising activities.
- UNHCR and GoR partners attended a regional Statelessness meeting in Dar es Salaam on 23-25th September 2024. The meeting brought together participants from Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan, to assess and advance the progress made towards eradicating statelessness ahead of the imminent end of the #Ibelong Campaign in November 2024. The meeting also served as a preparatory session for the UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting and the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in Geneva on 14 October.
- Spirit of Peace and Solidarity (SPS), a refugee-led organization started the implementation of their project "Ejo Hanyje" in Kiziba Camp. The project kicked off with a meeting with camp-management and UNHCR and was followed by a focus group discussion to identify project beneficiaries. Over the next 3 months, refugee women and persons with disabilities will be trained in the making of liquid soap and body cream and on entrepreneurship skills to enhance their self-reliance.

EDUCATION

- In October, the school attendance rate in Mahama camp was 99% for ECD level, 98% for primary level and 97% for secondary level.
- The orientation program for Sudanese children in Mahama camp continued with focus on Kinyarwanda and English language coaching. The programme started in July and will continue through December 2024.
- A needs assessment meeting was held to discuss the educational requirements of children with disabilities at ECD level in Kigeme camp.
- 20 DAFI students graduated from University of Rwanda and 2 students graduated from INES Ruhengeri in October.
- A record number of over 800 refugees applied for enrolment in the DAFI programme through the newly launched online DAFI Platform. 55 candidates were screened and invited to attend selection interviews. There are 25 DAFI scholarships available and successful candidates will be announced in November.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the Government of Rwanda registered a new health pledge: "to enrol all refugees into the National Health Insurance Scheme".
- UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children (SCI) and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM. The health centres and posts offer a broad range of primary health care services, including laboratory tests and vaccinations. In addition, some services including the provision of TB and HIV medications are provided in cooperation with district government health centres. In October, 22,278 primary health care consultations took place at the camp-based facilities making the ratio 47 consultations per day, per clinician. The local Rwandan host community also have access to these health facilities free of charge.

Health workers in refugee camps were provided with Hand Hygiene and Personal Protective Equipment to contain the spread of Marburg Virus Disease.

- Due to funding challenges, UNHCR is currently only able to support the referrals of refugees to secondary and tertiary healthcare in emergency or lifesaving cases. Other refugees in need of elective healthcare including routine or minor surgeries are having to be put on a waiting list. In September, 799 cases were referred to hospitals for further treatment.
- In October, UNHCR and partners worked hand in hand to ensure that the Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) refugee response was streamlined from national to camp levels. At country level, MINEMA and UNHCR led the response in collaboration with the key implementing partners in Health and WASH: Save the Children International, Africa Humanitarian Action and World Vision International. At camp level, the response was coordinated by UNHCR and MINEMA.
- Key MVD health protocols were implemented, including temperature checks at camp entrances, screenings at health centers, and community awareness campaigns using announcements, megaphones, and visual messages. Active surveillance was conducted at community and facility levels, and no confirmed cases were identified. However, precautionary measures were put in place, with 16 holding areas set up for potential suspected cases pending evacuation to designated centres. These areas were equipped with mobile toilets, beds, and handwashing stations.
- To prevent the spread of MVD and Mpox in refugee settings, UNHCR and SCI carried out awareness-raising campaign. In October, 2,457 health education sessions were provided by the community health workers (CHW) reaching 57,867 individuals at health centers and in the communities. Awareness messages were shared to inform the community about MVD and Mpox, including signs, symptoms, and prevention measures.
- To support the nutrition of refugees and prevent malnutrition, UNHCR and partners conduct regular nutrition screenings and provide support for vulnerable refugees especially infants, children under the

age of five~~six~~, pregnant and lactating mothers and refugees with chronic diseases. By the end of the month, 29 SAM and 129 MAM children were still admitted in the therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs respectively in all the camps.

- At the ETM, supplementary feeding was provided to 35 children and 84 adults with special nutrition needs.

FOOD SECURITY

- In support of the World Food Programme (WFP) cash assistance for food programme in refugee camps across Rwanda, UNHCR provides lists of refugees in the highly vulnerable and moderately vulnerable categories who are eligible to receive assistance. In total, 78 percent of refugees are classified as highly vulnerable, while 5 percent of refugees are moderately vulnerable. As part of the cash transfers for food assistance distributed by WFP refugees in the highly vulnerable category receive 8,500 RWF a month while moderately vulnerable receive 4,250 RWF. In addition, asylum seekers in Nkamira Transit Centre receive two meals a day from WFP.
- To support school feeding programmes, UNHCR provides briquettes to Early Childhood Development (nursery) centres in refugee camps which are used as fuel for cooking lunch.
- In October, UNHCR continued to provide three hot meals a day to 683 refugees and asylum seekers accommodated at the ETM in Rwanda. People with special needs were provided gas (LPG) to enable them to cook at home and dry food to supplement their nutritional needs.

WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, provides water to refugees living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda. In September, water supply averaged 22.4 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Despite this, water supply remains a challenge in Nyabiheke and Kigeme.
- In October, UNHCR in partnership with World Vision, strengthened the WASH measures for the prevention of the spread of MVD and Mpox. 263 handwashing stations have been installed across the camps and 37,000 litres of liquid soap were procured for all sites to prevent MVD and Mpox outbreak spread in all sites. Throughout the month, UNHCR also worked to remove sludge from septic tanks across the camps and dispose of garbage.

A schoolboy fetches clean water in Kigeme refugee camp. In October, water supply averaged 22.4 litres per person per day across refugee camps in Rwanda.

- In October, work at the Mahama camp extension was ongoing: 17 new latrines completed and 38 sites in progress. The extension of the water supply system to new areas was ongoing: 20% of completion at stage of trench and pipe laying, construction of water points. These constructions will enhance the camps' hygiene and sanitation infrastructure, improving the overall living conditions for refugees.
- In Nkamira transit centre, UNHCR ensured the provision of basic WASH services to 2,088 asylum seekers with access to average of 20.5 litres of clean water person per day, 15 persons per latrine drop hole and 15 persons per shower stance.

SHELTER AND NFIS

- In response to the MVD outbreak, 15 refugee housing units (RHUs) were installed by UNHCR in various camps as holding areas: 5 in Mahama camp, 3 in Nkamira transit centre, 3 in Nyarushishi transit centre, 2 in Mugombwa camp, 1 in Kiziba camp and 1 in Kigeme camp.
- In October, 1,709 new arrivals (487 households) relocated from Nkamira Transit Center were allocated shelters in Mahama camp.
- The construction of 285 shelters in Mahama camp extension sites was in progress, the works at various stages ranging from excavation for foundations to roofing works, with the first 48 shelters already roofed and ready for installation of doors and windows.
- The construction of two access bridges in Kiziba camp and the extension was completed.
- In October, UNHCR rehabilitated a total of 204 shelters, including: 59 in Nyabiheke camp, 49 in Mugombwa camp, 40 in Mahama camp, 33 in Kigeme camp and 23 in Kiziba camp. This brings the total number of shelters rehabilitated across the camps for the year 2024 to 1,192 shelters.
- In addition, during the month, UNHCR constructed 87 new semi-permanent shelters: 45 in Kigeme camp, 23 in Kiziba camp and 19 in Nyabiheke camp. This brings the total number of new semi-permanent shelters constructed for the year to 275 shelters.
- 11 terraces were constructed by UNHCR to protect shelters on high-risk areas, this included: 7 in Mugombwa camp and 4 in Kiziba camp, which brings the total number of terraces constructed for the year 2024 to 256 terraces.
- In October, the roofing elements of 155 shelters were transformed from either old iron sheets or plastic sheeting to a new corrugated iron sheet by UNHCR. This included: 71 in Kigeme camp, 68 in Kiziba camp and 16 in Nyabiheke camp, bringing the total number of shelters transformed in 2024 to 397 shelters.
- In October, UNHCR distributed the monthly cash assistance of $45 per person to refugees and asylum seekers at the ETM in Rwanda. UNHCR, in partnership with Equity Bank, also supported refugees and asylum seekers who were evacuated from Lybia in September to open bank accounts so that they can receive cash assistance in future months.
- In Mahama refugee camp, UNHCR distributed 23 kitchen sets, 51 sleeping mats, 51 bars of soap, 31 mosquito nets to newly arrived asylum seekers. In addition, 24,448 individuals received clothing items.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- In Mahama and Mugombwa refugee camps, UNHCR supplies refugees with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for clean cooking and other energy needs. LPG cookers are a cleaner alternative than traditional cooking methods, emitting 50 times fewer pollutants than biomass-fuelled stoves such as mud stoves. In October, a total of 17,868 LPG cylinders were distributed across both camps. This included 7,096 Kg distributed to the kitchen at the reception centre to prepare hot meals for the new arrivals relocated from Nkamira at the end of September.
- UNHCR provides cash assistance for energy needs to refugees in the Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme refugee camps. This support enables refugees to purchase gas for cooking and other energy requirements. After a pause of the programme caused by a lack of funds, the cash assistance resumed in October and will continue to be provided on a quarterly basis.
- In October, UNHCR in partnership with World Vision, continued maintaining tree nurseries for planting in November, with the goal to prevent soil erosion.

LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

- Agriculture plays a pivotal role in fostering refugee self-reliance in Rwanda. Currently, UNHCR is overseeing three projects aimed at enhancing livelihoods and self-reliance for both refugees and Rwandan host communities through the Nyabicwamba project (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), Misizi project (covering Mugombwa camp), and Mushishito project (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. In October, in Misizi marshlands, maize mill management took stock of results and was advised on best business practices. Season A 2025 for maize was launched, planting completed, and weeding started. In Mushishito marshland, decisions were made to begin cultivating maize as of November.

A delegation from the Denmark Representation visited the Graduation Project in Mahama and witness the impact of the project in improving lives of refugees and host communities.

- In Mahama and Kiziba refugee camps, in partnership with Caritas Rwanda and through funding from Denmark, UNHCR has supported refugee entrepreneurs and businesses through the *Pathways to Economic Inclusion and Self-Reliance* programme. In October, 315 income generating activities and 48 village groups who are part of the project in Mahama refugee camp received mentoring on business development from Caritas.
- In October, 198 refugees and asylum seekers and 56 members of the host community benefitted in various vocational and skills training activities at the ETM such as hairdressing, driving lessons, language classes, tailoring and ICT/computer literacy.
- The socio-economic data collection survey for Nyabiheke was launched in October. Prior to the launch, a multi-functional team conducted a two-day training session for 39 enumerators in Kigali. The training encompassed key topics, including the UNHCR mandate, international protection, prevention of fraud and corruption, and safeguarding against sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- The Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), in collaboration with the National Bank of Rwanda (NBR), undertook an evaluation mission to gauge the impact of financial inclusion initiatives in Mahama camp and to highlight Rwanda's progress in advancing financial inclusion for refugees. The mission interviewed beneficiaries and key stakeholders, such as financial institutions, mobile money service providers, government institutions, and UN agencies, on various topics related to the financial inclusion of refugees.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In 2024, UNHCR Rwanda received submission resettlement quota of 7,087 individuals. By the end of October 2024, 6,366 individuals are submitted to resettlement countries. 4,952 refugees have departed for resettlement and 126 refugees departed through complementary pathways.
- In October, Norway conducted their interviews mission in Kigali and indicated that decisions will be communicated in the coming months.
- Because of the MVD outbreak, several selection missions were cancelled by Canada, RSC Africa, USCIS.

- Information sessions on employment opportunities were conducted for beneficiaries and graduates of livelihoods and education programmes to support them in accessing and applying for jobs.
- So far in 2024, UNHCR has supported 95 Burundian refugees to repatriate home from Rwanda. This brings the total to 30,877 Burundian refugees who have returned home from Rwanda since 2020. An additional 205 Burundian refugees have expressed their intention to repatriate over the coming months.
- UNHCR supported the return of 126 Rwandan refugees and provided cash assistance to assist their reintegration. In total, UNHCR has supported 843 Rwandan refugees to return home in 2024.

MISSIONS, AND EVENTS

- On 10 October, UNHCR attended the roundtable co-organized by Alight and the Amahoro Coalition, focusing on refugees' right to work. A key takeaway was the importance of ongoing private sector engagement to bridge the gap between legal entitlements (de jure) and the actual employment opportunities (de facto) available to refugees in Rwanda.
- On 15 October, UNHCR welcomed the African Union Assessment mission delegation to Rwanda. The UNHCR representative welcomed H.E. Ambassador Nyamudeza of Zimbabwe, Permanent Representative to the AU and ECA and praised Rwanda's collaboration with UNHCR and the African Union (AU), emphasizing efforts in refugee integration into national systems and the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). Ambassador Nyamudeza discussed Zimbabwe's role in AU humanitarian discussions, the AU's support for refugee solutions, and efforts to resolve conflicts and displacement, including climate change-induced migration. Challenges in Libya and refugee resettlement were also addressed, with a call for African-led solutions.

UNHCR supported 20 refugees from Mahama camp to participate in Kirehe cycling competition.

- On 20 October, 20 refugees from Mahama participated in Kirehe Race 3rd Edition alongside members of the host community. in the power of sports as means of integration refugees into the district events for visibility.
- On 22 – 23 October, a delegation from the Denmark Representation in Kigali visited Kirehe District and Mahama camp to evaluate the Livelihood Graduation project implemented by Caritas Rwanda as part of their funded projects.
- On 24 - 25 October, a Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEA/SH) training for 24 UNHCR colleagues was held. The objective of the training was to share the new PSEA/SH curriculum and equip colleagues with the knowledge and skills to identify, detect, prevent, and respond to various forms of sexual misconduct. This training finalizes full compliance under the new PSEA curriculum for the UNHCR Rwanda operation.

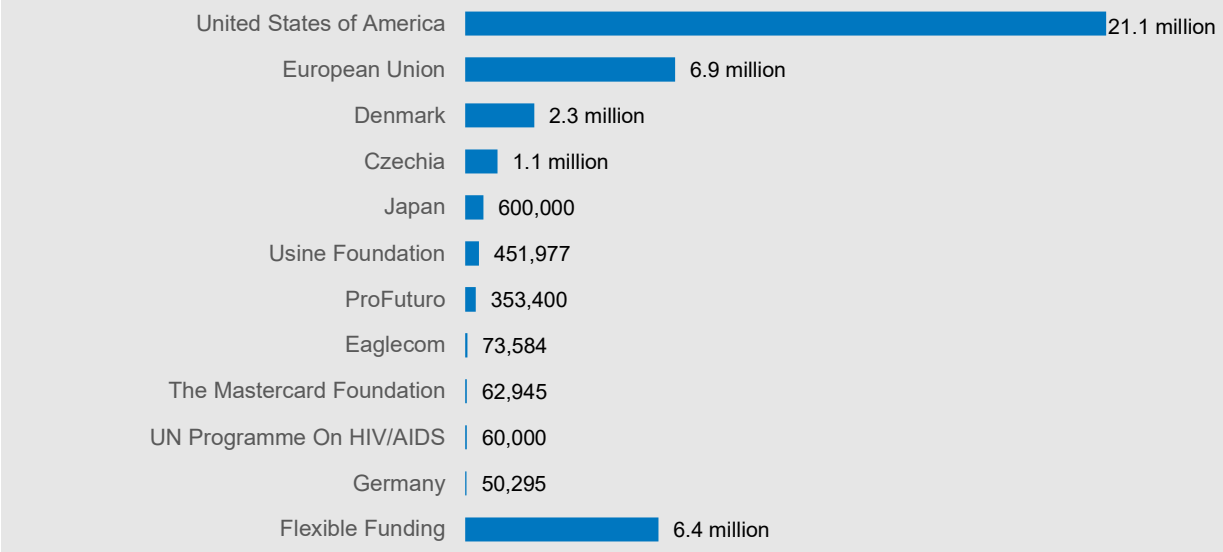
UNHCR together with ICRC and law schools in Rwanda co-organized the National Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law & Refugee Protection, preparing future legal professionals to defend refugee rights.

- On 17-18 October, the 2024 National Moot Competition on International Humanitarian Law, where law students from UNILAK emerged as the winners. The National Moot Court was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross Rwanda and UNHCR. The Protection team comprising of the Assistant Representative Protection, Protection Officer and the Associate Protection Officer participated in the meeting by facilitating a session on legal framework and international Protection and being part of the Jury. This marked the eighth edition of the competition, and it brought together teams from several Rwandan universities. The winners of the competition advanced to championships in Nairobi, Kenya.
- On 30-31 On 30th and 31st October, UNHCR hosted tripartite discussions for DRC and Rwanda in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Representatives from the Government of Rwanda included the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (delegation head) Deputy Director of the Directorate General for Immigration and Emigration, and additional delegates from each office. The meeting focused on the roadmap established during technical discussions held in 2023, and a new roadmap for 2025 was developed to address the return of Rwandan refugees from DRC to Rwanda and the return of Congolese refugees from Rwanda to DRC, when safety and voluntariness are in place.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Rwanda operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes regionally and globally with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Rwanda in 2024 | USD



UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of other softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Australia for UNHCR 9 million | Finland 6.6 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 6.4 million | Italy 4.9 million | Norway 2.8 million | Private donors in Italy 2.4 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 112.2 million | Norway 58.9 million | España con ACNUR 55.8 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 41.4 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 36.3 million | Japan for UNHCR 34.4 million | France 33.6 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 25.6 million | Germany 25.1 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Republic of Korea 18 million | Private donors in Italy 16.5 million | Belgium 14.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Private donors in the Netherlands 11.8 million | Sweden for UNHCR 11.5 million | Australia 10.7 million

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