

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

25 May – 2 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES* (as of 2 June)

29,117

Burundian refugees have crossed into Rwanda.

Further breakdown of the above figure:

23,791

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

4,450

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

622

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

254

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center

**statistics are according to the Government of Rwanda.*

PRIORITIES

- Identify sustainable solution for provision of water in Mahama camp.
- Transition refugee families in Mahama from tents to semi-permanent shelters.
- Complete biometric registration of refugees in Bugesera Reception Center.

- UNHCR and partners have succeeded in reaching the minimum standard of 15L of water per person per day in Mahama Camp, home to nearly 24,000 Burundian refugees. UNHCR, as a short term measure, increased the number of water tankers from 7 to 12 (including a water tanker made available by UNDP) in order to ensure refugees have adequate access to clean water. However, water trucking is a very costly, unsustainable measure, so UNHCR and partners are looking into alternative solutions to provide enough water to the growing refugee population as well as the local host community. The Dutch Government has graciously announced their support by providing a hydrogeologist to assist in finding a durable solution, free of charge, for one month.
- The Ministry of Local Government is currently in the process of registering Burundian urban refugees, at the local level. Lists will be transferred to UNHCR for full biometric registration of all urban refugees.
- UNHCR has dispatched a second registration team from Mahama Camp to Bugesera Reception Center in order to complete biometric registration of all remaining refugees. In addition, all children will be vaccinated for measles and polio, with the help of UNICEF and WHO.

High level visits

- The UNHCR Representative accompanied the Ambassador and Conseillère de Cooperation of the French Embassy (pictured below) to Mahama Camp. Key highlights included a meeting with a female-headed household regarding her family's reasons for fleeing Burundi, and a very warm exchange with unaccompanied children in their tent. UNHCR and UNICEF are working with Plan International to identify such children, but also to ensure they are visited regularly while suitable care arrangements are being found.



- On 2 June, members of the East African Legislative Assembly visited Mahama refugee camp along with the Permanent Secretary of MIDIMAR. During the three-day country tour, they will assess the Burundi refugee situation in Rwanda, with the hopes of devising a suitable intervention.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The Vice President of Burundi's election commission has reportedly fled to Rwanda—the second election official to flee the country since the outbreak of tension and violence.

- Due to media restrictions and violence against demonstrators, the European Union has suspended its election monitoring mission to Burundi. The Catholic Church has also halted its funding for the elections.
- Leaders of the East African Community have called for Burundi to postpone the country's elections for at least a month and a half. According to information received, the Government has accepted the recommendation and have postponed the general elections for at least 45 days.
- New arrivals continue to report that people are still being prevented from leaving Burundi through Imbonerakure-manned roadblocks. Some refugees are reported to have sold their houses and property in Burundi—an indication that they don't see themselves returning anytime soon.

Protection

Child protection (CP) & Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Achievements and Impact

- Thus far UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan International have identified and registered **1,133** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (366 separated children and 767 unaccompanied children).
- In Mahama, Plan International has conducted visits to 720 UASC in order to identify their needs: 72 pieces of clothing, 60 pairs of shoes, 51 basins, 250 bars of soap, were distributed to these children. In addition, 200 pairs of underwear (for females), 48 jerry-cans for UAMs, 15 blanket for UASC and 51 food packages were provided to minors.
- RRC/ICRC, in coordination with UNHCR, has registered **712** unaccompanied children for restoring family links services, including family tracing and reunification.
- UNHCR has conducted **964** Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) and 1 Best Interests Determinations (BIDs) have been so far conducted for UASC and other children at risk.
- Plan International has identified and assisted 19 child protection cases so far.
- UNHCR has established referral pathways for SGBV which are currently implemented in both reception centers and in Mahama camp. Thus far **23** SGBV cases have been identified and assisted by different actors.
- Plan International has conducted several community awareness sessions in Mahama camp on SGBV prevention and how to report incidents, gender equality, and different services provided by partners. 218 adults were sensitized on SGBV topics and 90 adults were sensitized on child friendly spaces.
- The Salvation Army Rwanda has generously offered 1,078 new pairs of shoes to children in Mahama camp. ADRA has transported the shoes from Kigali to Mahama, and the Salvation Army Rwanda will be distributing them on the ground in collaboration with Plan International who has helped identifying children most in need of such items.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With many new recruitments for CP and SGBV staff members since the emergency there is a need for training, capacity building and additional support. A training plan has been developed to address these training needs. The number of CP and SGBV staff is insufficient and additional human resources are needed in order to ensure proper follow-up of individual cases.
- Most UAMs in Bugesera are afraid to join recreational activities because of the fear of having their belongings being stolen. A plan of action will be developed to address this challenge this week.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Total 1,515 refugee patients were treated at Mahama camp health center during the reporting week with average 54 patients per clinician a day.
- To date, 67 mothers in Mahama have given birth, with 99% of deliveries taking place in the camp's health center, run by UNHCR and ARC, where professional medical staff can assist. In Bugesera, 3 new babies were delivered at the Government health center.
- 142 pregnant women received antenatal care in Mahama from ARC.
- 528 children (under 5), were screened for malnutrition and the rate of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has significantly reduced since the onset of the emergency from 30% to 14%. Both moderate and severe acute malnutrition management programs are up and running with support from UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, ARC and AHA, including therapeutic and supplementary feeding.
- 350 community health workers have been identified and are ready to receive training from the Ministry of Health.

- UNFPA has contributed almost 6,500 condoms for refugees in Mahama as well as dignity kits which are assisting women giving birth, as well as post-rape treatment for any reported cases of SGBV.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Respiratory tract illnesses represent 27% of total morbidity of Mahama
- 123 confirmed cases of malaria have been diagnosed and are being treated in Mahama

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact (in Mahama camp)

- 1,030 latrines: 23.1 persons/drop hole -- standard in an emergency is 40 persons/drop hole
- 619 showers: 38 persons/shower -- standard in an emergency is 70 persons/drop hole
- 15L of water per person per day -- standard in an emergency is 15L/person/day.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Finding a durable water source for refugees has been the biggest challenge in Mahama camp. To address this issue, UNHCR and partners are looking into alternative solutions, including treatment of surface water from the nearby Akagera River.



Thanks to our partners:



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