

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

3-9 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES* (as of 9 June)

30,870

Burundian refugees are in camps in Rwanda* (An undetermined number of urban refugees are yet to be registered)

Further breakdown of the above figure:

25,343

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

4,545

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

675

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

300

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center

7

Pending in districts.

*statistics are according to the Government of Rwanda.

PRIORITIES

- Begin implementation of shelter strategy this week in Mahama by transitioning from tents to semi-permanent structures;
- Resume relocation of up to 1,800 refugees from reception centers to Mahama;

- Although the daily trend of new arrivals rose to 250 per day last week, UNHCR and partners recorded 495 Burundian refugees on 8 June. UNHCR will monitor the situation to see if this is the beginning of a new trend.
- On 8 June, UNHCR and the Ministry for Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), along with One UN sister agencies and non-governmental organizations briefed members of the donor and diplomatic community on the interagency appeal—Burundi Refugee Response Plan for Rwanda (RRP)—to protect and assist Burundian refugees in the country. Within the plan, participating agencies are appealing for funding needed to cover the response provided so far and to continue providing basic protection and assistance activities to Burundian refugees in Rwanda from 1 April through end September 2015, when the plan and needs will be reviewed.
- Relocation from the reception centers to Mahama camp has resumed. As Mahama can currently accommodate an additional 1,800 refugees, it has been decided to relocate 1,500 from Bugesera and 300 from Nyanza this week.
- MIDIMAR and UNHCR led an education assessment in Mahama camp with UNICEF, CARE, ADRA, and Plan International. The team identified 7,000 school-aged children who will be enrolled in a 6-month orientation program from 22 June in order to prepare them for the 2016 academic year.
- The Swedish-based Clowns Without Borders and Rwanda's own Gisenyi Acrobatic Troupe surprised refugees in Mahama camp with a performance (pictured right). This has been the first entertainment provided for Burundian refugees, which was highly praised by the crowd.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- Burundi's electoral commission, CENI, has proposed possible dates for upcoming elections: 15 July for the presidential vote and 26 June for parliamentary elections.
- Burundi opposition leaders are calling for Said Djinnit, the UN Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, to be replaced as the current negotiation mediator due to accusations of partiality towards the ruling party.
- As reported by refugees, public transportation is now more accessible in Burundi and road blockades less frequent. The majority of new arrivals are coming from Bujumbura. However, refugees continue to report violence and intimidation by the Imbonerakure.



Protection

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

- Thus far UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan International have identified and registered **1,195** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (385 separated children and 816 unaccompanied children). Out of the UASC identified so far, **258** have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- In Mahama, Rwanda Red Cross and ICRC, in coordination with UNHCR, have registered **551** unaccompanied children for restoring family links, including family tracing and reunification.
- UNHCR has conducted **991** Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) and 1 Best Interest Determination (BID) for UASC and other children at risk.
- Plan International has identified and assisted **21** other child protection cases so far.
- Thus far **25** SGBV cases (the majority being domestic violence and denial of resources) have been identified and assisted with response services by different actors through referral pathways established by UNHCR.
- UNHCR led an interagency gender assessment in Mahama camp with UNWomen and UNFPA. The assessment, in line with UNHCR's AGDM strategy (age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming) consisted of consultations with the refugee community to explore specific needs of diverse subgroups. Results of the report are expected to be released by the end of this month.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a lack of scholastic materials, in particular pens and notebooks, to be used during informal teaching sessions with children. Local donors are being contacted for this need.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 1,399 refugee patients were treated at Mahama camp health center during the reporting week with an average of 50 patients per clinician a day.
- To date, 74 mothers in Mahama have given birth, with 99% of deliveries taking place in the camp's health center, run by UNHCR and ARC, where they are supported by professional medical staff, and where UNFPA assists ARC to ensure all deliveries are safe and supported with reproductive health kits. In Bugesera, 1 newborn was delivered at the Government health center.

Malnutrition:

- In Mahama camp, WFP provides Plumpy Sup to children with moderate acute malnutrition, while UNICEF distributes Plumpy nut to children under 5 years with severe acute malnutrition.
- WFP provides CSB+ and ARC prepares blanket wet feeding for children under 5 years,
- In Bugesera, 155 children under 5 were screened with MUAC for malnutrition by AHA; three were identified as severely malnourished and 14 were moderately malnourished.
- Both severe and moderate malnourishment management programs are implemented by UNHCR project partner AHA in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP in Bugesera.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Respiratory Tract Illnesses continue to represent the majority of mortalities in Mahama camp, which is responsible for 31% (492) of total consultations during the reported week, followed by watery diarrhoea (12%), and Malaria (10%).



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact (in Mahama camp)

- 1,102 latrines: 22 persons/drop hole -- standard in an emergency is 40 persons/drop hole
- 731 showers: 33 persons/shower -- standard in an emergency is 70 persons/drop hole
- 15.8L 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 for WASH actors UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision. While UNHCR continues to explore the possibility of treating surface water

from Akagera River, a surveying team has been deployed to find alternative sites to dig more effective boreholes.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact (in Mahama camp)

- As an additional 50 hectares of land has been provided by the Government of Rwanda in Mahama (for a total of 100 hectares), UNHCR and partners will begin constructing semi-permanent shelters to eventually move refugees out of the tents. The construction of 8 semi-permanent shelters is already in progress to serve as a demonstration for government officials and refugees



(UNHCR/J. Drumtra)

Since April 2015, UNHCR has worked with partners to establish Mahama camp for Burundian refugees in Rwanda and to provide a growing number of services and programs for the camp population.

Thanks to our partners:



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