

RWANDA

UNHCR UPDATE ON BURUNDI SITUATION

31 October 2016

KEY FIGURES

81,336

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in Rwanda

622

Burundian new arrivals were received in Rwanda in the month of October (excluding urban refugees)

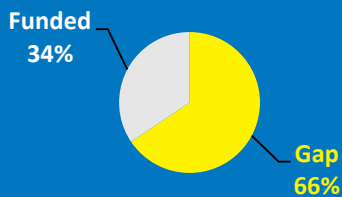
2,112

Burundian unaccompanied and separated children registered

FUNDING

USD 95.2 M

Requested for the comprehensive needs for the 2016 interagency Burundi refugee response in Rwanda



PRIORITIES

- Continue the construction of hangars to accommodate new arrivals and to relocate refugees within Mahama in order to free up space for the construction of more permanent shelters.
- Continue to prioritize the construction of semi-permanent shelters in Mahama camp to complete 5,000 before 2017
- Finalize the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for 2017 with the new projected figures of Burundian population and budget.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner (AHC) for Protection, Mr. Volker Türk, visited Rwanda to co-chair with the Minister of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) the first high level ministerial consultation on refugee protection issues. During the consultation, important



protection and operation challenges were reviewed, including: asylum regime, respect of civilian and humanitarian character of the camps, effective coming into force of the cessation clause for Rwandan refugees, among others. The event was composed of two phases; the first half in which the AHC provided a strategic vision on international protection and the second half which was composed of a roundtable discussion where technical staff contributed to good practices in Rwanda but recommended improvements where needed.

Accompanying the AHC, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan also visited both Congolese and Burundian refugees, as well as urban refugees in Kigali, in her capacity as a member of UNHCR's Gender Advisory Board.

- UNHCR has relocated all remaining 1,040 Burundian refugees who were living in reception centres to Mahama camp (572 individuals from Bugesera, 441 individuals from Nyanza and 27 individuals from Nyagatare reception centres). In order to accommodate the additional refugees, UNHCR and its local partner, Global Humanitarian Development Fund (GHDF), have constructed 12 temporary hangars, 9 communal kitchens, and 11 shower and latrine blocks. Currently, 250 school age children from the convoy have been enrolled in orientation classes, scheduled to start in the first week of November, to prepare them to enter the Rwandan school curriculum next year. Construction of more than 3,000 semi-permanent shelters is underway in order to ensure that all refugees in Mahama are housed properly.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- The rate of new arrivals of refugees at the end of October has been the highest since mid-July 2016, with an average of 23 new arrivals per day over the span of two weeks. New arrivals continue to come from the areas of Kirundo (53%), Bujumbura (12%) and Muyinga (6%).

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and protection partners organized a mobile protection clinic in Mahama camp with the aim of providing key messages to refugees on child protection and SGBV issues. Refugees were informed on how to properly report incidents in a timely manner and how to report in confidentiality. At the end of the mass sensitization session, refugees were given time to ask questions for any clarifications.
- Since it was observed that 82% of SGBV cases identified since mid-2016 were related to domestic violence incidents perpetrated by intimate partners, UNHCR's protection partner, Plan International, organized a He4She campaign to involve men and boys in SGBV prevention and to encourage males to take on the responsibility of being positive role models throughout Mahama camp. UNHCR has observed that the number of reported SGBV cases has decreased from an average of 2.25 per week to 1 per week. Sensitization will continue in order to increase participation of men and boy in SGBV prevention and response activities as well as to encourage community members to report SGBV incidents.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR and Save the Children have continued assessing the 219 potential foster parents identified for unaccompanied children (UAC) in Mahama camp. While conducting these assessments, it was revealed that a high number of these parents are actually interested in fostering UAC to get some benefits and not just to contribute to protecting and assisting concerned children. Consequently, the number of potential foster parents is actually lower than expected. Out of 219 identified potential foster parents, 96 are fulfilling the criteria to become foster parents. Out of these 96 persons, 51 were invited to attend a 2-day foster care training. A second training will be organized for the remaining 45 foster parents.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has funded an additional 51 classrooms, currently under construction, for a total of 163 classrooms in the host community of Mahama camp to integrate refugees into the national system.
- Maison Shalom has enrolled a total of 294 Burundian refugees in different universities in Rwanda while 10 students have been accepted to study abroad in France.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has budgeted to construct 5,504 duplex semi-permanent shelters in Mahama this year, with 926 semi-permanent shelters completed to date. The implementation of shelter construction is a challenge as the camp is occupied with 3,000 family tents, 42 communal tents and 21 hangars. UNHCR has therefore planned to construct an additional 25 hangars on the outskirts of the camp and relocate refugees to these transitional shelters in order to create more space for construction within the camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The lack of land allocated for Mahama camp becomes a challenge as there is not enough space to build all shelters planned for 2016. UNHCR and MIDIMAR are following up on the issue with the government for the possibility for acquiring additional land.



Access to Energy

- Due to soil erosion which has caused gullies in Mahama camp, UNHCR has budgeted for drainage construction, which is currently ongoing to build drainage channels, bridges and to restore the gullies within the camps.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR, sister UN agencies and partners are grateful for the generous contributions of donors in support of the Burundian refugees in 2015-2016. Partners involved in the 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Burundi Situation in Rwanda include: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), African Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Council (ARC), CARE, CONCERN, FAO, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio (FSDS), Global Humanitarian and Development Fund (GHDF), Handicap International, IOM, Legal Aid Forum (LAF), OXFAM, , PLAN International, Save the Children International, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.
- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR co-leads and coordinates with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) the interagency response to the Burundi refugee emergency in Rwanda. The RCM is intended to provide an inclusive platform for planning and coordinating refugee response in order to ensure that refugees and other persons of concern receive the protection and assistance they require through the collective efforts and capacities of all partners involved.

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Daily Statistics: <http://data.unhcr.org/burundi> **UNHCR Rwanda:** www.unhcr.org/rw **Twitter:** @RefugeesRwanda