

RWANDA

UNHCR UPDATE ON BURUNDI SITUATION

30 November 2016

KEY FIGURES

82,036

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in Rwanda

654

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

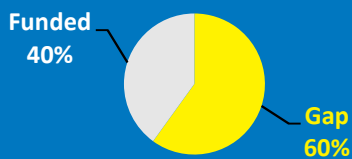
2,113

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.
- Continue to prioritize awareness-raising activities to prevent domestic violence among families.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Permanent Water Treatment Plant in Mahama Refugee Camp is now fully functional and was inaugurated on 30th November by the UNHCR Representative, Minister of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), UNICEF Representative, Oxfam Country Director and Deputy Head of DFID. Implemented by Oxfam with funding from DFID and UNHCR, the plant will provide clean and fresh water to both refugees and the host community surrounding the camp. During the initial outbreak of the emergency, UNHCR relied on costly trucking of water in order to reach the daily minimum standard, before constructing a temporary water treatment system which purified surface water from the Akagera River.

The temporary plant has an optimum capacity of 900 m3 per day supplying clean water to all refugees in the camp at 20 liters per person per day, as per UNHCR standards. With the temporary plant reaching its full operational capacity, there was an obvious need to develop a higher capacity water treatment plant. This newly constructed water treatment system is especially important in Rwanda as it is a solution not only for Mahama's refugees, but for the neighboring communities as well. This access to clean water will also have a very important impact on many vital sectors in the camp and around it, including nutrition, health, education and sanitation.

Read More: <http://www.unhcr.org/rw/836-mahama-burundian-refugees-get-a-new-permanent-water-treatment-plant.html>



Permanent Water Treatment Plant in Mahama refugee camp

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- The rate of new arrivals of refugees has considerably decreased over the last two weeks of November to 286 as compared to 368 in the first two weeks of the month (21% decrease). 75% of the new arrivals in the last two weeks have been women and children.

Achievements and Impact

- Several children's committees in Mahama camp visited unaccompanied children (UAC) who are now living with foster families to understand their situation. During the visit, child representatives from children's committees and UAC discussed the importance of being raised in a family as the UAC expressed their gratitude for the chance to be considered like other children and are no longer seen as being street children within the community. They also mentioned that, since living in foster families, their self-esteem has improved as they can play with other children without any suspicion, go to school and eat without any problem because they find food at home.
- Save the Children organized a meeting with 50 foster parents and fostered children in all villages of Mahama II to raise awareness on the importance of the family environment, the rights of children and their responsibilities in general.
- During the past week, Plan International conducted field visits to monitor the progress of interventions done by Abazimyamuriro ("fire stoppers"), a group of refugee spouses committed to disseminating information on preventing domestic abuse among families. The idea to form such a group came after several spouses received psychosocial support and education on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) prevention. Abazimyamuriro are meeting twice a week to share their experience and see how they can support other families. As couples who used to face SGBV problems, they now act as role models in the community as well as share success stories, identify other families in conflict and orient them if necessary.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some community members in Mahama camp still think that reporting SGBV issues, such as domestic violence, brings shame to their families, so they prefer to keep silent and have these issues solved between the survivor's family and the perpetrator's family.
- The lack of income-generating activities in Mahama camp cause family conflict as well as child protection and SGBV issues. Men are especially facing issues in transitioning from their life in Burundi to their life in Rwanda, which leads them to become more aggressive towards their families and increases domestic violence.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In November, UNHCR's partners ARC and Global Humanitarian Development Fund (GHDF) have completed 625 semi-permanent shelters, while 532 shelters are currently under construction. UNHCR has already relocated families to occupy 400 of the shelters. UNHCR's private contractors have been allocated space to construct 280 duplex shelters.
- In addition to the semi-permanent shelters, GHDF has completed 24 communal hangars, 26 emergency toilets and shower blocks, and 20 communal kitchen in the new Village 26 to accommodate refugees from the reception sites/transit sites and also to be used as transitional shelters during shelter construction.

Health

- The preliminary result for Reproductive Health Assessment exercise has been shared with UNHCR, MIDIMAR, UNFPA, Partners and concerned colleagues at UNHCR. The findings from the baseline exercise helps understand the current status of service provision and recommendations will be implemented for the improvement of quality of services.

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://data2.unhcr.org/burundi> **UNHCR Rwanda:** www.unhcr.org/rw **Twitter:** @RefugeesRwanda