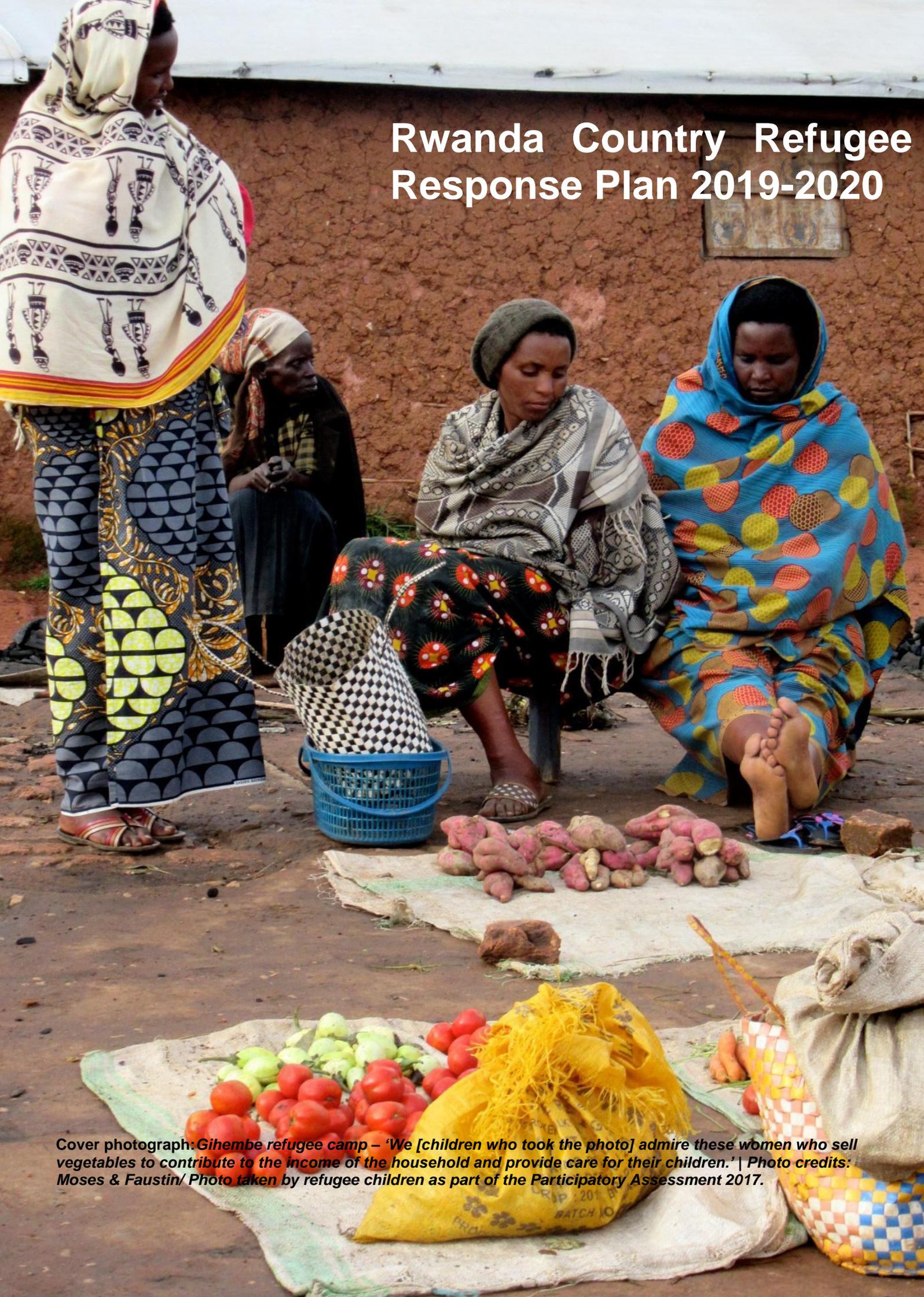


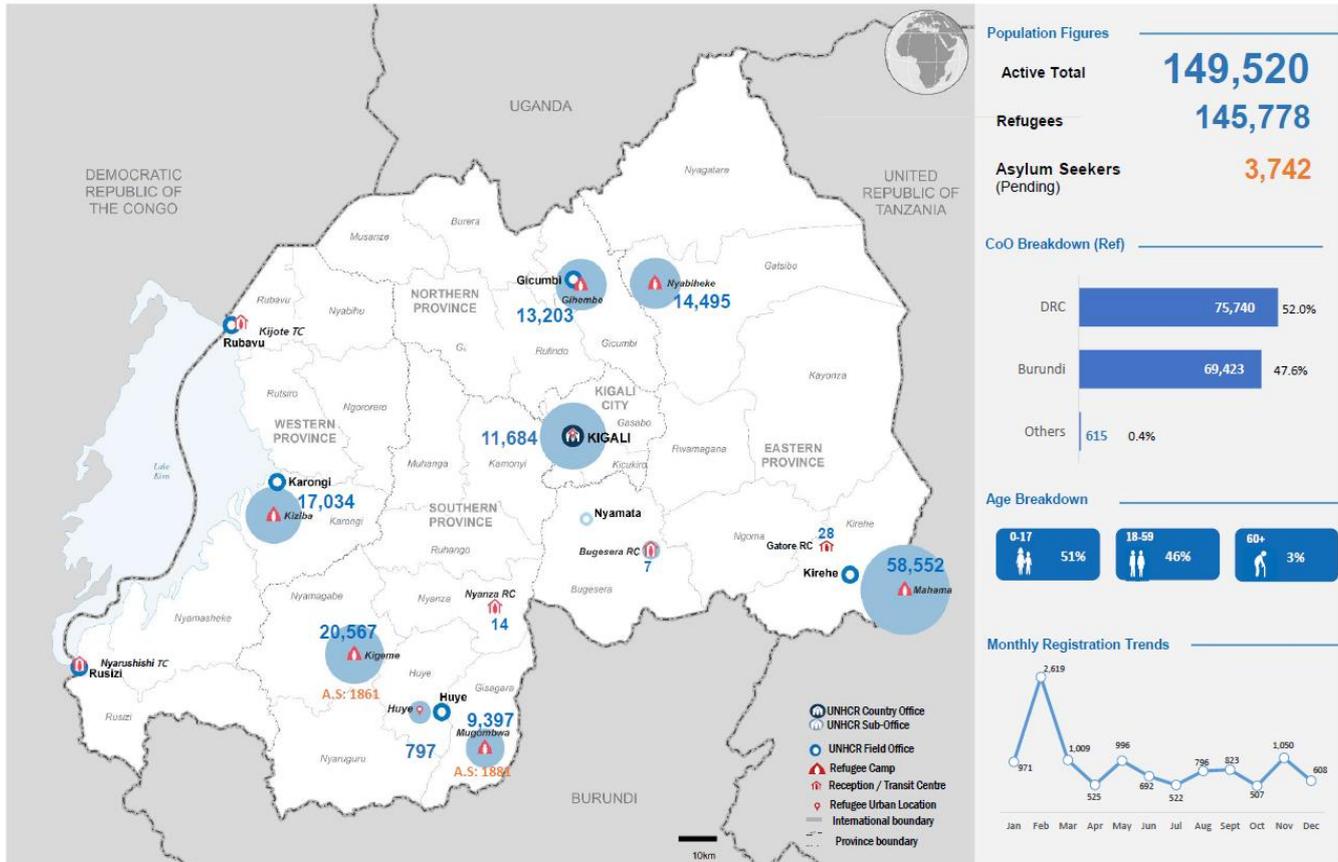
# Rwanda Country Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020



Cover photograph: Gihembe refugee camp – ‘We [children who took the photo] admire these women who sell vegetables to contribute to the income of the household and provide care for their children.’ | Photo credits: Moses & Faustin/ Photo taken by refugee children as part of the Participatory Assessment 2017.

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## 2019-2020 PLANNED RESPONSE

158,550 PROJECTED REFUGEE POPULATION BY 2019

**US\$ 140,932,690** REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019

**15** PARTNERS INVOLVED

## Background and Achievements

Since 1996, Rwanda has been hosting refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As of 31 December 2018 there are nearly 75,740 active refugees from DRC in Rwanda with 74,567 living in five camps (Gihembe, Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke), with a further 1,173 (1.5%) residing in urban areas. In addition, there are 3,742 Congolese asylum-seekers residing in the camps, of which some are expected to be recognized as refugees during the ongoing verification exercise. Since 2015, Rwanda has also been host to over 69,423 Burundian refugees who fled insecurity and unrest due to the political situation. The vast majority live in Mahama refugee camp while 12,481 (18%) live in urban areas, mainly in Kigali and Huye. In addition there are a further 49 refugees from other countries of origin (10 African countries and one Caribbean country) living in Rwanda.

However, Rwanda's high population density (607 individuals per square kilometre) and high dependence on agriculture place increasing pressure on land use. The refugee hosting areas' size is 3.56 sq.km with a population density of 138,418 persons per sq.km (38,418 person per sq.km). Over 86 per cent of the population rely on firewood for cooking, leading to high rates of deforestation. Low productivity in forest and land use, coupled with unsustainable management of natural resources, have led to soil degradation, encroachment into wetlands, increased water pollution and loss of biodiversity. In addition, rapid urbanization places pressure on social infrastructure in cities. Rwanda is highly prone to

disasters such as landslides, floods and lightning in north-western areas and droughts in eastern areas.

The Government of Rwanda has been generously hosting refugees for over two decades and coordinates the refugee response with UNHCR, as well as providing land to establish refugee camps and ensuring camp management and security.

The Congolese population includes those who fled in the mid-1990s, as well as more recent arrivals who fled to Rwanda during the 2012-2013 renewed hostilities in eastern DRC.

As at the end of March 2015, Rwanda began to experience an influx of refugees from Burundi fleeing election-related violence. Under the leadership and coordination of the Government of Rwanda, the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) - formerly known as the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees (MIDIMAR) - established an interagency multi-sector response with partners. The Government adopted a policy of *prima facie* recognition for refugees fleeing from Burundi. They undergo initial registration procedures at the border and more comprehensive registration upon relocation to the camp or urban areas. As of 31 December 2018, there were 69,423 Burundian refugees registered in Rwanda. New arrivals from Burundi are received in four reception facilities. Those without the means to live independently in urban settings are transferred to Mahama Camp. Mahama is home to more than 58,552 Burundian refugees. In addition, more than 12,000 Burundian refugees live in urban areas (mainly in Kigali and Huye).

Generally, Rwanda offers a favourable protection environment for refugees. There is *de facto* right to work, open borders, and access to durable solutions (resettlement, local integration and return) is unhindered. Access to core protection services such as registration, legal assistance, community-based protection, support to SGBV survivors and prevention, child protection, and support to persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, are the key protection priorities of the inter-agency response.

All refugees remain in need of protection and services such as registration and documentation, access to territory, life-saving assistance including food and nutrition, healthcare, shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation services, education, and targeted support for the most vulnerable and those with specific needs. Vulnerability assessments and targeting assistance programme for some sectors, such as livelihoods, shelter, CRI distribution, energy among others guide the delivery of protection and assistance services. The refugee response is based on a comprehensive approach to solutions, including socio-economic integration, highlighting that refugees can contribute to the local economy, as well as complementary pathways and resettlement.

Refugees from the DRC will continue to benefit from multi-year planning and prioritization for the strategic use of resettlement under the 2012 regional Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Congolese refugees in a protracted situation. As the majority of Burundian refugees are recent arrivals, resettlement is only pursued for a few urgent protection cases especially vulnerable people with serious medical issues. Following the visit of the High Commissioner to Rwanda in April 2018, UNHCR has been working with the Governments of Rwanda, DRC and Burundi to reactivate existing tripartite agreements for the safe, dignified, and voluntary, self-organized return of those refugees who wish to go home. Currently, refugees in five camps receive cash assistance in lieu of food, while refugees in Mahama camp receive food assistance partially in-kind and partially in cash. It is expected that in early 2019, Mahama will benefit from cash-based interventions, provided that funds are available.

Supplementary feeding is provided to all children under five years-old and other vulnerable groups. Due to critical funding shortages, humanitarian agencies plan to profile the refugee population, with a view to eventually shifting from blanket assistance to a targeted approach, while those who are self-reliant would graduate from dependency on humanitarian aid. This applies to all caseloads in so far as the refugee has assimilated in a manner that makes him/her not dependant on humanitarian support; this may apply less to new arrivals.

Primary health services are provided by humanitarian actors in refugee camps through health centres that are also accessible to the local host communities. Refugees are referred to local health facilities for secondary and tertiary health care services. Support to urban refugees is limited due to lack of funding; as such, only children and the elderly are supported with health care services from refugee response actors. The Government of Rwanda and the RRP partners are working on enrolling urban refugees into the national health insurance system, however this will require substantial support.

Shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene activities were carried out within the refugee camps, most notably in Mahama camp, where an outstanding number of interventions were made in order to improve the infrastructure and shelters. From the onset of the emergency phase until now, a total of 6,907 duplex semi-permanent shelters have been constructed to provide adequate shelter to refugees in Mahama. The construction of a permanent water treatment plant that serves both the refugees and host communities was completed with the capacity to supply more than 1,800 cubic

metres of water. Sanitation structures were also improved. In the Congolese camps of Nyabiheke, Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa and Gihembe, who have gaps in shelter and a shortage of latrines, the RRP partners have focused on advocating for funds in order to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions and structures within the camps. A total of 480 refugee housing units have been installed to provide shelter.

The capacity of local schools was expanded through the construction of classrooms, provision of school equipment and materials, and hiring and training of teachers, in order to integrate refugee students into the national education system. Currently, 15,222 Burundian and 18,030 Congolese refugee students are integrated into the national primary and secondary schools alongside host community students. More funds are needed to build additional class rooms, hire more teachers and to expand the school feeding program, establish labs and libraries.

In 2019-2020, livelihoods interventions and further socio-economic inclusion of refugees in national systems will be prioritized in line with the commitments made by the Government of Rwanda at the Leaders' Summit in 2016, which focused on livelihoods, documentation, access to identity and travel documents, access to the national health system and improved access to education.

On 14 February 2018, the Government of Rwanda officially adhered to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This being the beginning of the process, there are some challenges to address. For instance, camp-based refugees are highly dependent on humanitarian funding which has been decreasing. Neither national nor sectoral development plans clearly include refugees, with the result that the refugee agenda is not addressed in local planning or in the national sector working groups (SWGs) co-chaired by Government and development partners. In terms of opportunities, the GoR Leaders' Summit Commitments create an entry point for the inclusion of refugees across a spectrum of areas (national education system, national health insurance for urban refugees, joint GoR-UNHCR livelihoods strategy, issuance of documentation to all refugees following ongoing verification exercise, etc.).

The One UN in Rwanda played a key advisory role in the formulation of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) by participating in the sector working groups and other technical meetings during the elaboration process. A key gap that was identified from the previous two processes was the inclusion of policies and strategies aimed at including refugees in the national planning mechanisms – in order to adhere to the programming principle of Leave No One Behind. This has been addressed in the new United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II 2018-2023) via the inclusion of baselines, targets and indicators that speak to refugee inclusion in all three of the UNDAP pillars, which are aligned the 3 pillars of the NST: Economic Transformation, Social Transformation and Transformational Governance. The UNDAP was officially endorsed by the Government of Rwanda and will be taken into consideration as part of implementation of the NST over the next five years.

The long-term vision in Rwanda envisages that by 2030 all refugees, including potential new influxes, are living safe, dignified, and productive lives across Rwanda, outside of camps (Alternative to Camp) and supported by government-led services and programmes. Through this shift towards alternatives to camps and a self-reliance approach, refugees will be able to contribute to the economy and development of the host communities and country.

## Beneficiary Population

	Population as of end of December 2018	Planned Population as of end of 2019	Planned Population as of end of 2020
<b>Assisted Refugee Population</b>			
Refugees from Burundi	69,423	72,360	80,000
Refugees and Asylum Seekers from DRC	79,482	81,000	83,500
Refugees from other countries <sup>1</sup>	49	51	53
Rwandan returnees	3,059	9,500	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,013</b>	<b>162,911</b>	<b>163,553</b>
<b>Assisted Host Population</b>			
	566	123,000	125,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,579</b>	<b>285,911</b>	<b>288,553</b>

<sup>1</sup> Angola, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Somalia. South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

There are 3,742 asylum-seekers among the Congolese refugees, pending Refugee Status Determination process. There are also a very small residual number of urban refugees from various countries

## Needs Analysis

Given that Rwanda is very densely populated, land scarcity remains a challenge to the promotion of livelihood activities. While refugees in Rwanda enjoy a generally favourable protection environment, the context of refugee camps and lack of livelihood opportunities mean that most refugees are still highly dependent upon assistance to meet their basic needs such as shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, food, health, education, nutrition and cooking energy. While refugee registration is the primary source of information for the needs of refugees and their profile, refugee response partners conducted a number of joint assessments to better understand their needs, vulnerabilities and coping capacities.

**Registration & documentation:** Refugees and asylum-seekers are registered jointly by the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR, and the Government issues refugee identity cards to all registered refugees over the age of 16. Since the beginning of 2018, a verification exercise of all refugees and asylum seekers has been ongoing in both urban and camp settings. By the end of 2018, all refugees and asylum seekers registered in the urban settings of Kigali and Huye, as well as Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kiziba camps, were verified. It is planned that by mid-2019 the remaining two Congolese refugee camps would have been verified. For Burundian refugees, the exercise will be undertaken and completed in Mahama by mid-2019. In October 2018, the Government started issuing Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents (MRCTDs) to refugees seeking to cross borders to boost their access to business, study, medical treatment or reunification with their relatives. Refugees registered in camp locations face a risk of arrest and detention if they move outside the camp without the required documents such as refugee IDs or proof of registration, and a letter proving that their absence from the camp was authorized, thus creating the need for legal assistance and detention monitoring, as well as advocacy for greater freedom of movement.

**Community-based protection and persons with specific needs:** To support effective camp management and community participation in protection and services, refugees are supported with training and equipment to organize leadership committees, women's committees, security committees, and other community-based structures. Capacity building and awareness raising is also conducted to ensure that age, gender and diversity are reflected in the composition of committees, however gender inequality remains a challenge. Some 12 per cent of the registered refugee population in Rwanda have specific needs (such as child-headed households, female-headed households, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons with mental health needs) and are in need of specialized interventions to ensure their equal access to protection and basic services.

**Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV):** SGBV is identified as one of the biggest protection concerns, mainly affecting refugee women and girls, but also men and boys. Under-reporting due to a culture of silence, beliefs about intimate partner violence (that are seen as "normal" family matters) and fear of being exposed to the community contribute to impunity and further protection issues. Late reporting, especially for girls who are survivors of SGBV, results in unwanted pregnancies, school dropout, punishment, rejection and stigmatization by families and communities that put them at further risk of being exposed to negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex. In addition, programmatic gaps and challenges in other sectors like overcrowding of shelters, lack of safe energy and livelihood interventions contribute to a heightened risk of SGBV. A community-based approach is applied to SGBV prevention and response to ensure community ownership and sustainability for behavioural change.

**Child protection:** Refugee children represent some 50 per cent of the total population of concern and are exposed to various types of risks. Unaccompanied and separated children represent five per cent of refugee children and they are most at-risk of abuse and exploitation. Neglect is among the most commonly identified risks, affecting an estimated 20 per cent of all children, as well as out-of-school children, child labour, child marriage and domestic violence. Challenges remain regarding children-at-risk, care arrangements for unaccompanied children, family reunification, and limited friendly spaces for children and youth.

**Education:** Refugee children will continue to be enrolled in national schools at the primary and secondary levels, with the objective of integrating 100 per cent of the refugee children into the national education system. However, most schools do not have adequate infrastructure, teachers and supplies. Many teachers recruited and trained by refugee response partners are not yet integrated into the national training and payroll schemes. Additionally, since 2015, the refugee population in urban settings has increased following the influx of Burundian refugees. Hence, the education needs also increased to ensure all urban refugee children are enrolled in different national schools in and out of Kigali.

**Food:** All refugees in Rwanda residing in the camps are highly dependent on external assistance, and almost entirely on humanitarian partners, to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. They have limited livelihood opportunities, primarily due to lack of available land for cultivation and livestock rearing - activities that many refugees pursued in their

home country. Lack of land is primarily due to high population density in Rwanda, which is also a cause for congestion in camps. Due to lack of funding, food rations were cut numerous times in the past and if funding levels do not increase in 2019 and 2020, additional reductions will occur and may result in increased severe malnutrition.

**Health:** Although the process of providing refugees with health insurance is still ongoing, they still rely on basic health care provided by refugee response partners. An urban health policy is in place to ensure compliance with procedures. The targeting of service provision has been challenging as there are refugees who are not included in the target groups but who are in need of health services. With the growing urban population, the demand on the already limited resources increases. Following continuous advocacy, the Government of Rwanda has committed to extend the national health insurance scheme to urban refugees and the refugee students living in urban areas. However, a detailed implementation plan, targeting some 2,000 refugee-students registered in camps but for the purpose of pursuing their education live in urban areas, is to be established in the second quarter of 2019.

**Energy:** Refugees in the camp depend almost entirely on firewood for their cooking energy needs, and MINEMA in partnership with UNHCR provides quantities that cover between half and three-quarters of monthly household needs. Those who can afford to do so cover their remaining needs each month by purchasing charcoal. Others cover their needs by fetching firewood illegally in the camp surroundings. Alternative sources of energy have been identified, and would in the long-run translate into substantial savings in terms of health impact and environmental conservation. In this sense, there is an urgent need to scale up substantially of the use of alternative sources of energy such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), pellets and briquettes as the main source of cooking fuel; and to connect the camps to the national electricity grid or another sustainable system such as solar mini-grids, where appropriate.

**Shelter:** With a government restriction on the use of plastic sheeting, the operation is unable to repair more than 3,000 family shelters. There is a need to transform the roofing structure to corrugated iron sheets, especially in Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke camp, as well as in Kigeme camp, where more than 1,000 shelters have very old roofing structures. As most of the shelters in Congolese camps are old and camps are congested with no proper access roads or fire break points, RRP partners need to establish better site planning. Some of the shelters are situated in high-risk areas, due to soil erosion and formation of gullies, Refugee families located in these high risk areas need to be relocated to safer zones. With significant shelter needs in all camps, the operation will need to advocate with the government on the extension of the camps; there are also no proper drainage systems in the camps. Due to limited area of land and the refugee population increase, the government has instructed that family shelters be constructed vertically (multi-storey).

**Livelihoods:** Refugees in Rwanda have limited access to livelihoods opportunities due to lack of self-employment, farming and wage employment opportunities. Major challenges include: scarcity of land (inadequate space) for farming (both access and availability) as the Congolese refugees are from a rural background, limited trade exchanges between the camp population and the host communities, lack of appropriate documentation, limited access to financial services and start-up capital, poor infrastructure (including access to electricity), weak market linkages, low coverage of existing livelihoods interventions both for lack of resources and capacity of the implementing partners to deliver at scale, lack of skills and above all chronic dependency on humanitarian assistance. Since the start of 2017 a number of refugee families living in urban areas have requested to be transferred to the camp because they can no longer manage on their own. A comprehensive livelihoods package is required to help graduate refugees out of extreme poverty and vulnerability alongside their greater access to work and socio-economic services to enhance economic inclusion and self-reliance opportunities from the very beginning.

**Environment:** Due to the camps' topography and congested rainwater catchment roofs, they are susceptible to heavy rain water run-off that regularly erodes top soils, creating gullies which have eventually developed into ravines and continue to pose danger to human life. Soil erosion is a serious challenge, occurring mostly in areas without drainage channels. There is also a high rate of deforestation around the camps. While most shelters are covered by roofing structures which would allow for rainwater harvesting, no guttering has been installed, leading to increased quantity of storm water discharged from the camp. The above constitutes a threat to the physical environment of the area as well as to the safety of both refugee populations and the host community due to the formation of gullies. It also presents a threat to the ecosystem downstream on the Akagera River and its wetlands, which are the natural habitats for a variety of species.

**Host Population:** Learning from previous experience with refugee camps, refugees and host communities share resources. Refugee children have gone as far as 20km from the camp to pursue education at local upper secondary schools of their choice. Refugees are allowed to go anywhere in the district to seek livelihoods sharing opportunities with members of the host communities. District hospitals are open to refugees and access to quality health services has the same meaning for both refugee and local populations. In line with the CRRF, response partners have been advocating for refugee inclusion in District's plans for increasing opportunities and promoting peaceful co-existence and social cohesion.

# Response Strategy and Priorities

## OVERALL STRATEGY

Following three years of interventions related to the Burundian emergency influx, the situation has stabilized and most emergency facilities have been upgraded to more durable structures and systems. After more than 22 years living as refugees in Rwanda - and with no foreseeable possibility of safe, dignified return - the response strategy for the protracted Congolese refugee situation is focused on inclusion of refugees in national systems and scaling up livelihoods so refugees can graduate from dependency, become self-reliant, and contribute to the local economy. Under the One UN umbrella, concerted efforts have been made to ensure developmental outcomes in the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP 2018 – 2023) that speak to the inclusion of refugees in the national planning processes in lieu of having parallel systems specifically meant for refugees. With clearly set-out baselines and yearly (where applicable) target data, and a corresponding Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the UNDAP, all progress registered will be tracked in an efficient manner, and reviewed on a mid-year and end-year basis. The Multi-Year Multi-Partner Strategy (MYMPS) will also be used as a vehicle to attain the desired results of the refugee response plans, by inculcating more innovative, long-term programmes with various internal and external partners, which are complementary to ongoing development efforts and enable UNHCR to be a more active and predictable partner. Lastly, as part of the UNDAP Joint Programmes, the One UN family of agencies will seek to leverage existing comparative advantages and pool resources in order to achieve common development and humanitarian oriented results, while reducing redundancy and overlap of agency activities. This will in turn significantly reduce operational costs and increase efficiency in the delivery of programmatic and operational activities.

Key strategic objectives for the 2019-2020 refugee response are:

1. To ensure persons of concern have access to basic services, with targeted assistance for vulnerable persons with specific needs and in a community-based approach,
2. To ensure reception, protection and assistance for all persons of concern, including new arrivals;
3. To ensure reduction of SGBV and improve the quality of the response
4. Advocacy and strategic development of partnerships for the inclusion of all refugees in national systems in particular health and education, in line with the Government's policy;
5. Increase refugee livelihood opportunities through targeted assistance based on needs, vulnerabilities and capacities.

In order to avoid protracted encampment and overreliance on humanitarian aid, a key focus will be to support the Government of Rwanda in its development efforts that lead to economic growth, catalyse livelihoods opportunities especially in urban areas, and strengthen partnerships with the private sector. Assistance will be targeted based on needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of refugees, rather than the provision of blanket assistance. A key avenue to provide refugees with greater choice in meeting their self-identified needs will be shifting to cash-based interventions for food assistance. Cash transfers will be expanded whenever suitable and appropriate to address the basic needs of refugees, through sectoral or multipurpose assistance. This will be done based on feasibility studies and response analysis, with the objective of making gains in efficiency, effectiveness, and contributing to refugees' self-reliance and financial inclusion, while assessing the impact on local markets and communities and mitigating protection risks.

In line with the Government's policy of integrating refugees into national systems, a key priority will be to ensure integration of services for refugees within the host community, especially at the district level. Interventions will be designed to avoid parallel systems, and to respond to the needs of both the host community and refugees. Building on the spontaneous settlement of some 17% of the Burundian population in urban areas, livelihoods will be prioritized to empower self-reliant refugees to sustain themselves outside of camp settings. Currently, MINEMA is leading a strategic planning process to integrate refugees into national systems in line with the four commitments made by the Government of Rwanda during the Leaders' Summit in 2016.

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Following the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and Leaders' Summit commitment on livelihoods, the key priority will be strengthening the livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees and their host communities by scaling up the most sustainable and cost-effective interventions. To make this happen, the joint Government-UNHCR Economic Inclusion Strategy, currently under review, will be the key instrument to focus more on the implementation of market-based livelihoods interventions, both in the areas of farming and business and help graduate refugees out of humanitarian assistance by offering an integrated package including facilitating their enhanced access to jobs and businesses, productive assets and socio-economic services

RRP partners in Rwanda aim to ensure that refugees are not left behind in programming for access to justice, livelihoods, environment and sustainable development. Existing programmes will be expanded. These include:

**Youth entrepreneurship:** UNDP's YouthConnekt programme will be expanded to include youth and women refugees within its target groups. UNHCR also has a programme for entrepreneurship development through the private sector. UNDP and UNHCR will explore opportunities to link these two programmes. There is a suggestion to link skills-building of refugees to needs in the environmental sector, such as ecosystem restoration.

**Environmental and land management:** UNDP, as co-chair of the Environment sector working group, will advocate for the inclusion of refugee camp environmental issues and land management in and around refugee camps. This initiative can be linked to UNHCR's partnership with the private sector for the supply of clean energy to refugees and host communities.

**Access to Justice:** UNDP will seek to scale up, and UNHCR to scale down, provision of legal aid in Gicumbi district/Gihembe camp. This strategy is intended to move away from parallel service provision for refugees, while fostering coordination of joint UNDP-UNHCR efforts to strengthen capacity of national and local authorities in the access to justice sector. Both agencies will also join their efforts to support conflict resolution.

**Leaving No One Behind in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Supporting the Government's domestication of the SDGs messaging, support will be provided for awareness raising activities to ensure that people in Rwanda and Government institutions are aware of the importance of addressing issues relating to refugees in the national development agenda.

## Partnership and Coordination

The refugee response in Rwanda is led and coordinated by the Government (Ministry in charge of Emergency Management - MINEMA) and UNHCR at the capital and field levels, and includes a multitude of UN and NGO partners, local civil society organizations, and private sector partners including social enterprises. In Parallel, the Representation works in close collaboration with foreign missions through joint briefings, bilateral meetings, camp visits, and other events that aim towards resource mobilization but also important support in UNHCR's key advocacy positions. The broad partnership strategy reflects the ambition to work by facilitating innovative partnerships beyond traditional implementation arrangements. Refugee Coordination Meetings (RCM), including sector specific working groups, are regularly held at the capital and field levels. Rwanda is part of two Regional Refugee Response Plans for the DRC and Burundian refugee crises. To ensure a well-coordinated response and long-term strategic priorities, the Country Refugee Response Plan is launched covering two years: 2019 and 2020. This aims to increase multi-year funding, build Resilience and self-reliance, and to promote closer work with the development actors.

Refugee Coordination Meetings, UNCT meetings, joint field missions with donors, bilateral meetings with partners and donors and the GoR contribute to engage/mobilize/coordinate response with relevant stakeholders. This is to organize and participate in joint interagency briefings/meetings, fund raising activities, and to mobilize additional partners, resources and investment/development funding.

The Government of Rwanda's formal acceptance of the CRRF approach led to the expansion of traditional partnerships to include other key government institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Local Government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, district authorities, and others, to strengthen protection and solutions for refugees in line with the GoR Leaders' Summit Commitments.

A task force composed of authorities, i.e. MINEMA, jointly with UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF, was established in 2017 and is working to build the targeting assistance mechanisms in 2019.

Most of the UN RRRP partners are active participants in the One UN and UNCT and have been advocating in 2017 and 2018 for the inclusion of refugees in the UNDAF II (2018-2022) and the national development agenda. Private sector partnership remains key to achieving sustainability and building resilience, with excellent examples of employing refugees using market-based compensation and social enterprises for clean cooking fuel and livelihoods. The same approach will be strengthened in 2019 and 2020. The private sector is a core of Rwanda's national development strategy and thus a pillar of the operation's self-reliance strategy.

In September 2018, the Government of Rwanda applied to access the World Bank's IDA-18 sub-window for refugees

and host communities. The Government submitted a proposal worth USD 60 million to fund projects that would support refugee integration and also give back to refugee hosting communities. UNHCR is working closely with the World Bank to facilitate the eligibility process and in developing a strategic framework for refugee inclusion that would guide project implementation.

In working to bridge the humanitarian-development gap and bring refugees front and centre into the development agenda, UNHCR and UNDP have made efforts to consolidate interventions through joint programming. In Rwanda, UNDP and UNHCR seek to build on existing programmes such as in youth entrepreneurship, environmental and land management, capacity development by joining the efforts of national and local authorities, and access to justice.

## Planned Refugee Response for 2019 and 2020

Protection	<p>Key protection priorities include: ensuring access to territory and asylum, registration and national documentation, promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and preserving the civilian character of asylum. These priorities will be pursued through advocacy, protection monitoring, capacity-building for authorities and partners, and the continued strengthening of community-based protection networks in all refugee locations.</p> <p><b>Child protection</b> response will remain a priority and will be strengthened through the inclusion of refugee children and youth within national child protection systems and community-based protection structures. Refugees' capacity will be built to prevent protection risks faced by refugee children, and to support case management through identification and referral. Given the high proportion of unaccompanied and separated children, partners will continue to work to identify families who can foster or support UASC, in parallel to family tracing and reunification efforts.</p> <p><b>SGBV:</b> Existing SGBV prevention and response activities will be enhanced through improved collaboration with partners including Government institutions and bringing innovations to community-based protection approaches. Multi-sectoral response to SGBV survivors will be improved. Capacity building of staff involved in the response will be done on SGBV prevention, mitigation and response. Focus will be given to the mainstreaming of SGBV prevention and response across all sectors - to be ensured through the delivery of mini workshops and meetings with sectors. Gender Action Plan was developed and endorsed by Interagency technical working group in early 2018 following the IAGA report of 2016. Some of the interventions proposed in the plan were already part of the COP for 2018-19.</p> <p>In 2019, partners will monitor the intentions of refugees, and ensure that spontaneous returns are conducted on a voluntary basis, and in a safe and dignified manner. Returnees will be provided with information, counselling, and logistical support up to border crossing points, and will be advised on how to access reintegration support in Burundi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 100 per cent of the refugee population is registered on an individual basis</li> <li>● 100 per cent of the refugee population is provided with the Government issued refugee ID by end of 2019</li> <li>● All identified SGBV survivors receive appropriate support</li> <li>● 5,000 refugees are involved in the community-based committees on SGBV prevention and response</li> <li>● 80 per cent of refugee children with specific needs receive individual case management</li> <li>● 100 per cent of registered UASC are in appropriate interim or long-term care</li> <li>● 2,600 persons with specific needs receive specialized protection support</li> </ul>
Education	<p>In line with the commitment of the Government to integrate refugees in the national education system, refugees are provided with orientation and back-to-school initiatives to prepare them for the Rwandan curriculum, and then enrolled in national schools where possible. The priority will be to build the capacity of the national school system to absorb refugees and ensure quality primary and secondary education that supports learning. Further protective education and life skills activities will be provided for children and youth</p>

	<p>both in and out of school, including library-based literacy and numeracy programmes. Partners will also continue to close the gap in the number of children who have access to early childhood development interventions, and provide early childhood education in the camp that will positively contribute to refugee children's future education and inclusion in national systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 97 per cent of children enrolled in primary education by end of 2019 and 98 per cent by end of 2020</li> <li>• 30 per cent of children enrolled in secondary education by end of 2019 and 40 per cent by end of 2020</li> <li>• 89 per cent of refugee children accessing national education system by 2020</li> </ul>
<p>Livelihoods and Resilience</p>	<p>The Joint Government-UNHCR Strategy on Livelihoods and the Economic Inclusion of Refugees (2016-2020), currently under review, will form the basis for all livelihoods interventions. The joint strategy guides all partners. The strategy aims to ensure that refugees and host communities can fulfil their productive potential, as self-reliant members of Rwandan society, contributing to the economic development of host districts. The existing response revolves around perceiving refugees as potential consumers, suppliers, and employees. In view of this, partnerships with a number of specialized organizations are envisaged in the fields of: entrepreneurship, value chains development, financial inclusion and access to finance, crowdfunding, technical vocational education and training. In 2019 and 2020, efforts to support refugees who have the potential to be self-reliant, will be prioritized along with the right to, and access to, work, in order for them to gradually move away from dependency on humanitarian aid. Following a sequential, time-bound, integrated approach, priority areas for 2019-20 will include: access to productive assets and income, enhancing skills, particularly targeting youth, coaching and mentoring for business entrepreneurship, facilitating better market linkages and access to financial services. Targeted support will be provided to the refugees and their host communities to increase income and food production from agricultural enterprises. Coverage will be expanded by including the vulnerable households who have ability to be involved in income-generating activities. In parallel, the other key priorities will be to strengthen evidence-based policy advocacy for enhanced economic inclusion of the refugees. Efforts will be made to increase their access to jobs and employment (including owning a business and facilitating their enhanced mobility), and for greater access to public services such as health, education, safety nets, and financial services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 refugees will be provided with business training by end 2020</li> <li>• 5 per cent of refugees will be employed by end 2019 and 10 per cent by end 2020</li> </ul>
<p>Energy and Environment</p>	<p>In line with the strategy, the introduction of cash-based interventions replacing in-kind support will contribute towards a more enabling environment for refugee self-reliance. Interventions will be designed to alleviate environmental degradation and undertake specific activities that promote and protect natural resources shared by refugee and host communities in the village. Awareness and education on protecting the environment will be conducted, agro-forestry promoted, and trees planted to mitigate against soil erosion. RRP partners identifying alternative energy-saving solutions in order to avoid the usage of firewood. In line with current government guidelines, LPG is being looked at as an alternative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 per cent of camp-based refugee-households will have access to sustainable energy in 2019 and 100 per cent in 2020</li> <li>• 19,000 tree seedlings will be planted in 2019 and 19,000 seedlings in 2020</li> </ul>
<p>Food</p>	<p>Food security partners aim to ensure access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food on a daily basis for all refugees. Blanket distribution of food assistance will transition to a targeted food assistance approach in once the profiling exercise has been completed. Refugees identified as not being in need of humanitarian assistance will receive a reduced ration or no ration, based on their socio-economic profile, vulnerabilities and capacities. Persons with specific needs or the most vulnerable will continue to receive full food rations and other support, including school feeding, according to needs. In parallel, in-kind food assistance will transition to cash-based interventions to promote nutritional diversity through the wider variety of food available in the market.</p> <p>New arrivals in reception/transit centres will continue to receive in-kind food support (high-energy biscuits for two-to-four days, or, if longer, hot meals) upon arrival and until relocation</p>

	<p>to Mahama camp. To prevent deterioration in the nutrition status of the population, nutrition education counselling will be conducted proactively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 per cent of refugees in need of food assistance in camps will receive full food rations</li> </ul>
Health and Nutrition	<p>In 2019-2020 the response will prioritize integrated access to quality primary health care services for refugees and host community as well as improve camp-based primary health centres and government secondary and tertiary facilities near the camp. These interventions will help to decrease morbidity from communicable diseases and epidemics and enhance prevention of under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia, for both refugee and host communities. Partners will ensure that health care staff are adequately trained, and maintain sufficient quantities of medicine, vaccines and medical items for the camp and surrounding populations. Reproductive health and HIV care and treatment services will also be integrated. Activities tailored to prevent, control and manage communicable disease, particularly malaria, typhoid fever and diarrheal illnesses will be expanded. The nutrition response in Mahama camp will focus on prevention, screening/detection, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, especially anaemia through a Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM approach) along with support, promotion and protection of Infants and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will receive nutritional support through blanket SFP, and children aged 6-23 months will be provided with preventive blanket SFP. Nutrition education and awareness raising for behavioural change at the community level will be a continuous process. Nutrition programmes will work in close collaboration with the health, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, protection, livelihood and agriculture sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 percent of urban refugees will be enrolled in the national health insurance by end 2020</li> <li>• 100 per cent of live births will be attended by skilled personnel</li> <li>• Global Acute Malnutrition Prevalence of maximum 3% across the camps</li> </ul>
Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)	<p>In 2019-2020, the shelter response will prioritize finalizing the transformation of shelters with plastic sheeting roofing to corrugated iron sheets especially in Nyabiheke, Kiziba and Gihembe camps and also focus on communal structures (in all camps) transforming them from plastic sheeting to more durable facilities to accommodate families. Focus will also be put on ensuring the construction of new shelters or installation of Refugee Housing Units in order to relocate families living in high risk areas and also decongest the shelters in order to provide adequate family shelters to persons of concern. The transition will be complemented by improvements in public infrastructure within the camps, i.e. drainage works, access roads, and other key facilities to ensure adequate conditions for sanitation, as well as the preservation and protection of the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,300 shelters constructed</li> <li>• 7,000 shelters repaired</li> <li>• 50km of access road maintained/improved</li> <li>• 300 structures maintained</li> <li>• 80 per cent refugees have access to the adequate NFIs</li> </ul>
water, sanitation and hygiene	<p>In 2019-2020, the water, sanitation and hygiene response will include safe access to sufficient clean water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene in refugee camps; the improvement of sanitation infrastructure; to ensure the gender-segregation of sanitation facilities; and to promote good hygiene practices through education and awareness promotion campaigns. The adaptation of services to ensure access for persons with specific needs, children, and elderly persons will be prioritized. Currently Mahama camp is being served by a permanent water treatment plant which supplies water, meeting humanitarian standards for both the refugees and the host community. A water supply connection has already been completed for the nearby Gatore reception centre. Moving from emergency pit latrines to more durable dischargeable latrines (688 latrine blocks) has improved the sanitation and hygiene conditions within the camp, however a substantial gap still remains. Water pipelines require upgrading to improve water pressure within the camp villages. UNHCR's Partners will ensure community participation and involvement in hygiene promotion as education and awareness-raising activities are put in place.</p>

- Refugees have access to an average of 20 litres of potable water available per person per day
- In camps there less than 20 refugees per drop-hole in latrines

## Planned Returnee Response for 2019

Between 1994 and December 2017, over 3.45 million Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda, with the majority coming from the DRC. The Government of Rwanda manages reception and ensures returnees' sustainable reintegration with support from RRP partners. Returnees arriving by land are received in transit centres where they receive basic services, before they are assisted to return to their district of origin.

UNHCR was requested by the Government of Rwanda to continue facilitating the voluntary return and reintegration of Rwandan refugees through the provision of financial assistance in 2018. This process is expected to continue in 2019.

Over the last five years, 40,729 individuals have returned to Rwanda. All refugees returning to Rwanda are registered and verified against the national database of Rwandan citizens. The vast majority arrive at three transit centres, where they can access basic services such as water, sanitation and hygiene and health, and where they receive food rations before they are transported to their district of origin for reintegration. The cash assistance upon return is sufficient to cover needs of returnee families for at least one year. However, there is a lack of sustainable reintegration programmes to ensure that returnees can rebuild their lives upon return. As nationals returning home, they will benefit from the government led national development plan at district levels.

The unavailability of accurate figures regarding the numbers of Rwandan refugees in countries of asylum makes it difficult to predict how many would return in 2019. Reliable data is expected to be available once verification and profiling exercises are finalized in all countries of asylum. However, the introduction of biometric registration of Rwandan refugees in countries of asylum, and the sharing of such data with the Rwanda operation, is a necessity.

In order to ensure that refugees can make informed decisions regarding the available durable solutions, increased sensitization is to be conducted in countries of asylum, with clear information about the content of the reintegration package provided by UNHCR presented to potential returnees. In addition, there is a clear need to increase the operation's field monitoring capacity, especially in terms of human resources. Sensitization can be a cost efficient tool able to contribute significantly to the socio-economic reintegration of Rwandan returnees.

For 2018, 3,059 returnees were registered in Rwanda. The expected returns for 2019 are estimated at 9,500 individuals.

# 2019 Sector Financial Requirements Summary

## By Organization & Sector for refugee populations

2019 Sector Financial Requirements Summary by Organization & Sector for refugee and returnee populations (USD)									
AGENCY	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE	ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT	SHELTER & NFIs	WASH	TOTAL
American Refugee Committee	97,827	-	-	880,000	-	-	-	-	977,827
CARE International	348,442	-	-	-	813,032	-	-	-	1,161,474
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	-	-	-	-	550,000	744,000	-	-	1,294,000
Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,000	51,000
Humanity and Inclusion	1,400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400,000
United Nations International Organization of Migration	-	-	-	170,000	360,000	-	-	-	530,000
Save the Children International	492,700	-	-	698,735	-	-	-	-	1,191,435
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	24,052,835	12,824,072	-	12,009,981	9,755,553	7,107,677	17,213,894	9,787,233	92,751,244
United Nations Development Fund	1,000,000	-	-	-	450,000	850,000	-	-	2,300,000
United Nations Population Fund	265,000	-	-	1,088,000	-	-	-	-	1,353,000
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	820,000	2,080,000	-	480,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	4,380,000
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	400,000	-	-	-	700,000	-	-	-	1,100,000
World Food Programme	-	2,193,082	23,520,154	3,920,483	1,666,310	-	-	-	31,300,029
Plan International	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
World Vision	-	341,596	-	-	-	-	-	301,085	642,681
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>29,376,804</b>	<b>17,438,750</b>	<b>23,520,154</b>	<b>19,247,199</b>	<b>14,294,895</b>	<b>8,701,677</b>	<b>17,213,894</b>	<b>11,139,318</b>	<b>140,932,690</b>

# 2019-2020 Financial Requirements Summary

## By Refugee & Returnee Population and Organization

Financial Requirements for 2019 - 2020 per Situation and Agency in Rwanda				Planned Population of Concern		
				Population	2019	2020
<b>Burundi RRRP</b>				<b>Burundian Refugees</b>	<b>72,360</b>	<b>80,000</b>
	American Refugee Committee	477,827	500,000	977,827		
	CARE International	505,247	505,247	1,010,494		
	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	803,723	1,214,729	2,018,452		
	Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation	51,000	51,000	102,000		
	Humanity and Inclusion	400,000	686,000	1,086,000		
	United Nations International Organization of Migration	430,000		430,000		
	Save the Children International	1,191,435	1,126,700	2,318,135		
	United Nations Development Programme	1,334,138	1,273,506	2,607,644		
	United Nations Population Fund	731,500	731,500	1,463,000		
	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	51,116,602	46,004,941	97,121,543		
	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	2,030,000	1,470,000	3,500,000		
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	350,000	400,000	750,000		
	World Food Programme	14,124,379	13,300,265	27,424,644		
<b>Total Burundi RRRP</b>		<b>73,545,851</b>	<b>67,263,888</b>	<b>140,809,739</b>		
<b>DRC RRRP</b>				<b>Congolese Refugees</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>83,500</b>
	American Refugee Committee	500,000	500,000	1,000,000		
	CARE International	656,227	656,227	1,312,454		
	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	490,277	735,271	1,225,548		
	Humanity and Inclusion	1,000,000	1,715,000	2,715,000		
	United Nations International Organization of Migration	100,000		100,000		
	Plan International	500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000		
	United Nations Development Programme	965,862	1,309,828			
	United Nations Population Fund	621,500	621,500	1,243,000		
	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	38,984,643	35,017,300	74,001,943		
	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	2,350,000	1,500,000	3,850,000		
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	750,000	1,500,000	2,250,000		
	World Food Programme	17,175,650	16,173,503	33,349,153		
	World Vision	642,681	656,107	1,298,788		
<b>Total DRC RRRP</b>		<b>64,736,840</b>	<b>62,384,736</b>	<b>127,121,576</b>		
<b>Returnees to Rwanda</b>				<b>Rwanda Returnees</b>	<b>9,500</b>	
	UNHCR	2,650,000	0	2,650,000		
<b>Total Returnees</b>		<b>2,650,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,650,000</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>140,932,690</b>	<b>129,648,624</b>	<b>270,581,314</b>		

- In addition, it is estimated that host communities will benefit directly or indirectly from the support provided to the refugees. The estimate for 2019 is approximately 123,000 and for 2020, approximately 123,500 host community members.
- There are also a small number of refugees from other countries living in urban areas and Rwandan spouses married to registered refugees (49 and 566 respectively as of 31 December 2018)