



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2023



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# A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator



The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be one of Africa's most complex and long-standing humanitarian crises. By the end of November 2022, in addition to the 5.5 million people displaced within the country, over one million refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC were hosted across the African continent. In this context of evolving needs, the inter-agency DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (Regional RRP or simply RRP) continues to be an essential tool to rally financial support, advocate, coordinate humanitarian assistance, and provide a strategic direction towards medium- and long-term solutions for refugees from the DRC in Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

The 2023 DRC Regional RRP brings together 69 Partners to support host governments that, in the spirit of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) and in line with the [Refugee Coordination Model](#) (RCM), continue to generously provide protection and assistance to refugees and ensure a comprehensive refugee response. The Regional RRP aims to strengthen the protection response, provide multi-sector assistance, and integrate a sustainable solutions-based approach for refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC and their host communities.

The socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine will reverberate throughout 2023 and beyond. Displaced and host populations will also continue to be affected by the resurgence of high-impact epidemics, such as Ebola and cholera, and by the occurrence of climate-induced disasters, including floods, droughts, and cyclones, which erode food production. Given this scenario, cultivating self-reliance will be vital to mitigate dependence on humanitarian assistance. In 2023, RRP Partners will strengthen efforts to promote resilience, with emphasis on social cohesion, through education, skills training, and livelihoods support offered to both refugee and host communities. Moreover, fostering the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in national services and programmes will improve systems for the benefit of all, contributing to social development and well-being.

Opportunities for durable solutions are also needed to allow for a hopeful and dignified future for refugees. RRP Partners will keep urging States to provide favourable conditions for local integration, benefiting refugee and host communities; strengthened partnerships with development actors, financial institutions, the private sector, and academia will play a key role in these efforts. At the same time, as some refugees are considering repatriation to the DRC, Partners will stand ready to facilitate voluntary returns, ensuring they are founded on informed decisions and can be conducted in a safe and dignified manner. Resettlement must also remain an option for the most vulnerable, and Partners will continue to seek the international community's support to provide much-needed support for these special cases.

In 2023, funding of \$605 million is required to meet the growing and urgent needs of about 1.5 million refugees and host community members in the seven RRP countries. Pledges made during the [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) are particularly important for achieving the objectives of the DRC Regional RRP, as they bring together traditional and non-traditional partners to work towards more consistent and sustainable assistance for refugees and host communities.

On behalf of the RRP Partners, we ask the international community for its continued support for this vital response. Let us renew our commitment to working together in the pursuit of comprehensive solutions for refugees from the DRC and for the countries and communities that host them.

Valentin Tapsoba

Regional Refugee Coordinator for the DRC Situation and Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

# DRC situation planned response



**916,300**

Targeted refugee population



**584,600**

Targeted host community members



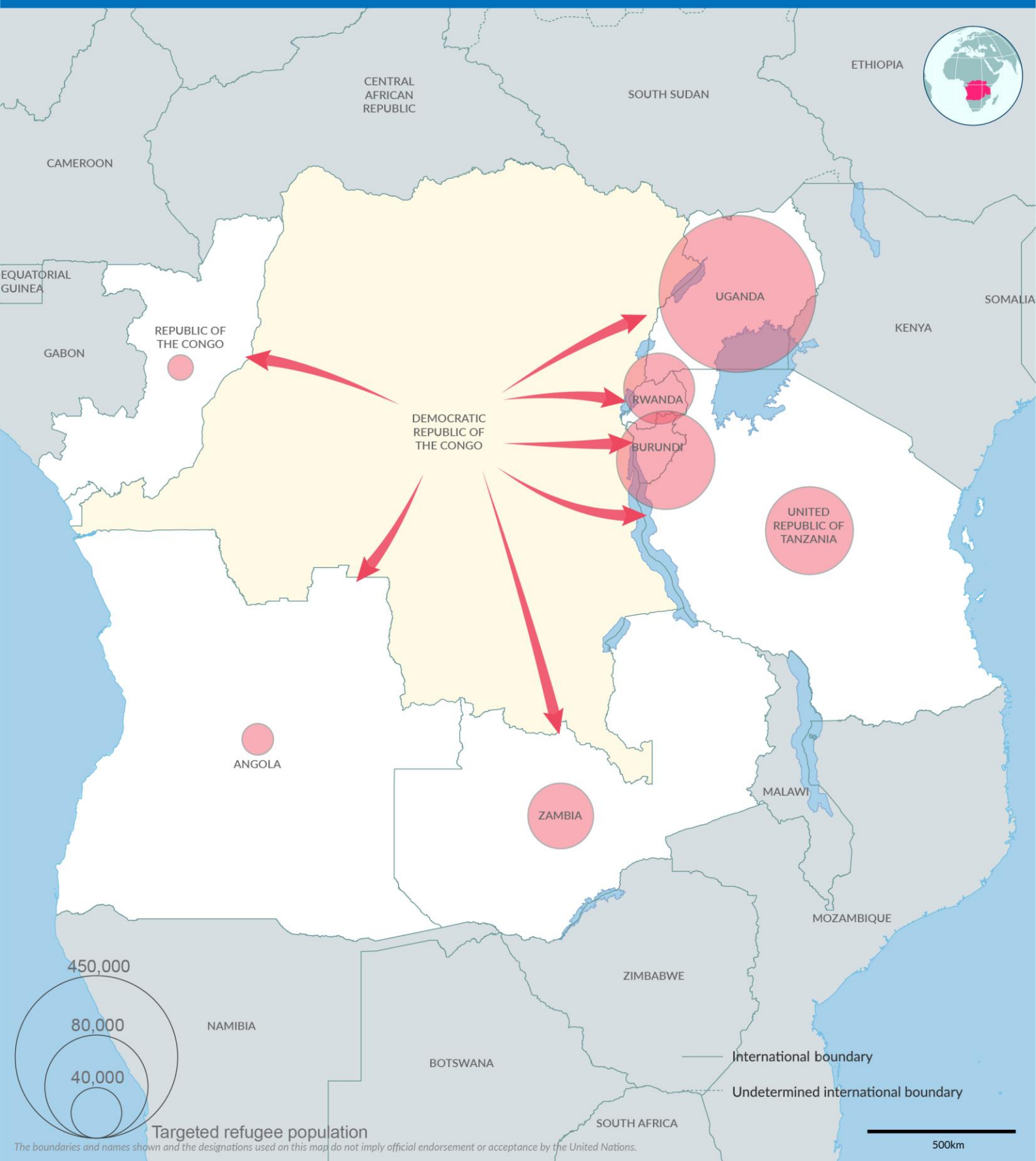
**605M**

Total financial requirements



**69**

Partners involved





## Regional overview

### Executive summary

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The humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a nation wracked by decades of conflict, is one of the most complex and protracted situations in the world. As of November 2022, some 5.5 million people were displaced within the country<sup>1</sup>, and over a million had crossed borders to seek asylum<sup>2</sup>. Most refugees from the DRC have remained within the African continent, with the majority being hosted by Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. In 2023, newly-displaced refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC will require urgent protection and assistance, while those in long-term situations – many having been hosted in asylum countries for decades – will remain in need of durable solutions and development support.

In many host countries, refugee settlements and camps have reached or exceeded capacity, and the available basic services are either stretched to their limits or too costly, affecting refugees and members of local communities alike. Food insecurity is a growing concern as people struggle to afford necessities due to rising prices caused by high fuel and fertilizer costs, climate shocks, lingering economic issues from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine on production and supply. The situation is aggravated by food ration reductions and other essential services cuts in camps and settlements due to funding shortages, which lead many refugees to resort to negative coping strategies and increases their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

Some countries continue to promote an encampment policy, which reduces refugees' prospects of accessing employment and other livelihood opportunities. Other host countries have made reservations to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, placing restrictions on certain refugee rights and excluding refugees from essential services, such as public education. Incidents of discrimination and restricted asylum space in refugee-hosting countries, including instances of deportation, are continuously reported. This highlights the need to intensify efforts to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, improve accountability, address prejudice, engage refugees and host communities in decision-making, and reinforce the protection environment.

The drivers of displacement in the DRC are expected to persist in 2023. The fragile socioeconomic context, severe food insecurity, instability due to threats from armed groups and intercommunal violence, human rights violations, development challenges, and tensions around the elections in the DRC scheduled for December 2023 will cause continued flows of refugees into neighbouring countries. Protection actors in the DRC record an average of 6,000 protection incidents per month, with a high prevalence of breaches of the rights to property and free movement, violation of physical integrity, and gender-based violence, which push more and more people to flee. Disease outbreaks and climate-induced disasters also put additional pressure on affected populations.

Throughout 2023, most refugees from the DRC are expected to remain in their countries of asylum, thus, local integration will be crucial in the response. Prospects for voluntary repatriation, however, have improved, with a small number of refugees returning home as of November 2022 (10,400 people were repatriated to Kinshasa and the southern provinces of Haut-Katanga and Kasai, near Zambia and Angola). In 2023, the voluntary repatriation of an estimated 4,300 refugees, mainly from Angola, Republic of the Congo, and Zambia, is forecast if conditions allow for a safe and dignified return. Resettlement will be promoted within the scale-up approach of the Government of the United States of America and other resettlement countries.

Many host countries have demonstrated commitment during the 2019 [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) to keeping borders open for asylum-seekers, and refugees from the DRC are expected to continue benefiting from international protection in 2023. It is hoped that several new commitments will be launched at the 2023 GRF. Some governments –

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<sup>1</sup> See: [Country - Democratic Republic of the Congo \(unhcr.org\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> See: [Situation DRC Situation \(unhcr.org\)](#).

Uganda's being a key example – have adopted policies safeguarding refugees' freedom of movement and other socioeconomic rights, such as the rights to work, establish a business, own property, and access national services, fostering opportunities for them to engage in the local economy. Other countries have made pledges to strengthen asylum spaces and improve refugee protection and solutions, promoting resilience and self-reliance among affected communities. In particular, GRF pledges by the Southern Africa Development Community Member States have been translated into a regional action plan aimed at improving asylum, reducing statelessness, and cultivating the economic inclusion of refugees.

In contrast, some host countries continue to impose restrictions on refugees' freedom of movement and on their rights to work, own land and property, and access education and justice. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners will continue to advocate for the removal of these restrictions and for the adoption of policies that mirror good practices in the region, in line with the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR).

The DRC Regional RRP is a planning, coordination, and fundraising tool developed through collaboration among 69 humanitarian partners and the Governments of Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. In the spirit of the GCR and in accordance with the [Refugee Coordination Model](#), host governments steer the provision of protection, assistance, and durable solutions to refugees, while RRP Partners, led by UNHCR, support and complement national and regional strategies, working closely with development actors and the private sector.

In 2023, RRP Partners will engage with governments to safeguard unhindered access to asylum and international protection and promote refugees' full enjoyment of rights. Partners will ensure all programming gives emphasis to considerations around age, gender, and diversity, accountability to affected populations, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Humanitarian assistance and access to basic services will be provided based on needs, in particular for new arrivals, but also for long-term refugee populations. Partners will also seek to promote refugees' and vulnerable host communities' economic self-reliance and resilience, in line with national development plans and with a particular focus on youth- and women-led initiatives and empowerment, to reduce dependence on assistance, foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and promote socioeconomic inclusion. Lastly, policies and conditions that facilitate voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and local integration will be promoted. The [revised position on returns to the DRC](#) will serve as guidance to facilitate the granting of refugee status to new asylum-seekers from the eastern DRC provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu.

While a regional approach is being pursued, the exact scale and scope of activities may vary according to the context of each country's response plan. The 2023 DRC Regional RRP targets more than 1.5 million people – 916,300 refugees from the DRC and 584,600 host community members. The inter-agency financial requirements for the response are of \$605 million for activities in seven countries.

Region	Financial requirements (in \$)	Partners involved
Angola	23,682,962	8
Burundi	55,643,762	9
Republic of the Congo	18,698,995	6
Rwanda	65,526,242	17
Uganda	321,231,563	52
United Republic of Tanzania	83,932,626	12
Zambia	36,332,377	11



## Current situation

### Situation overview

The protracted and severe humanitarian crisis in the DRC is the result of a long history of conflict and violence characterized by forced displacement and serious human rights violations. Throughout the past few decades, the complexity of the situation in the DRC has only increased, compounded by a multitude of factors, such as struggles for power between different national and foreign actors (including over 100 armed groups), frequent flooding in some regions, high-impact epidemics like Ebola, cholera, and COVID-19, acute food insecurity<sup>3</sup>, and inadequate or absent basic infrastructure. Within this fragile and persistent context, displacement and humanitarian needs are expected to increase, impacting not only the DRC but also countries in the region. In addition, instability linked to the forthcoming elections, the resurgence of Mouvement Du 23 Mars (M23), and the scaling-down of MONUSCO could lead to a further escalation of internal displacement and refugee flows to neighbouring countries in 2023.

Over one million refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC are hosted across the Southern and Great Lakes regions. The 2023 DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (Regional RRP or RRP) details the inter-agency response in seven of these countries: Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. Together, they host about 814,800 refugees from the DRC – Uganda alone received more than 93,800 new arrivals as of November 2022. People fleeing from North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri provinces in the DRC tend to cross the border towards Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania; those leaving Bas Ubangi (western region) mostly seek safety in the Republic of the Congo; and those escaping violence in the southern provinces of Kasai, Haut-Katanga, and Tanganyika tend to flee into Zambia and Angola. It is worth noting that some areas in the provinces of Haut-Katanga and Kasai have recently begun seeing a progressive stabilization of their security situation, allowing for 10,400 refugees from the DRC to return from Zambia and Angola.

The area encompassing these two regions remains one of Africa's most politically complex and unpredictable. High population growth rates, food insecurity, and deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, all exacerbated by rising prices of fuel and fertilizers, the COVID-19 pandemic, and by supply chain constraints resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, have put significant pressure on governments to deliver gains, address gaps on human development, and create opportunities for their citizens and refugee populations. Countries in these regions also remain subject to frequent disruptions linked to climate change (such as droughts and floods), which themselves result in food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. The possible shrinking of the asylum space in some countries, fragile economies, and extreme weather events are likely to impact displacement patterns; the regions may witness an increasingly significant presence of mixed flows of populations moving within the continent and *en route* to the Middle East and Europe.

All seven DRC RRP countries are parties to the 1951 Convention, have acceded to the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Problems of Refugee Populations in Africa, and affirmed the GCR. In alignment with these frameworks, certain host countries have pledged to strengthen their asylum spaces and enhance refugee protection and solutions, with some, such as Rwanda and Uganda, having adopted progressive refugee laws, giving displaced communities the right to work and access national services, including education, health, and banking. In contrast, other States have maintained reservations to specific points in these legal frameworks and adopted restrictive legislations of their own, hindering refugees' self-reliance and enjoyment of their human rights: Zambia has four reservations to the 1951 Convention pertaining to freedom of movement and access to education, employment, and business opportunities, while Angola has reservations to seven provisions in the 1951 Convention related to access to employment and property and to the rights to association and reciprocity; additionally, Tanzania's 2003

<sup>3</sup> Approximately 26.4 million people in the DRC are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, with over 26 per cent of the population affected. The causes are widespread, including poverty, conflict and displacement as well as low agricultural production, high food prices and a lack of basic infrastructure. See: [Democratic Republic of the Congo: Acute Food Insecurity Situation July - December 2022 and Projection for January - June 2023 | IPC Global Platform \(ipcinform.org\)](#).

Refugee Policy imposes restrictive measures on refugee livelihoods and establishes a strict encampment policy (although an agreement to ease restrictions was reached during a High-Level Bilateral Meeting between the Government and UNHCR in March 2022).

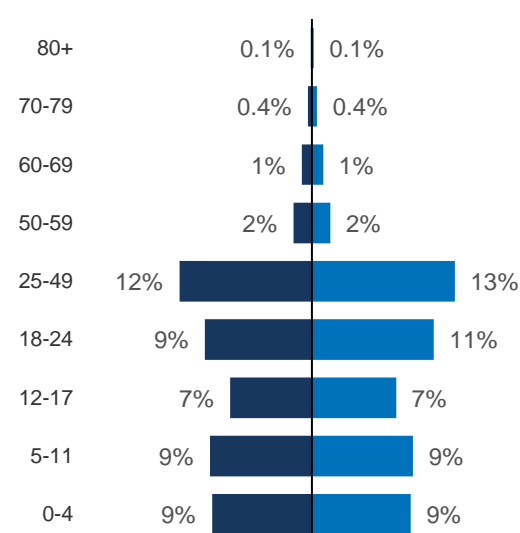
The GCR will continue to guide the work of RRP Partners and governments toward refugee inclusion, self-reliance, and resilience. Notable progress has already been made in this regard, particularly in Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, where Governments have committed to working within the scope of the [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#) (CRRF). Governments in the region have also made pledges at the 2019 GRF that provide for improved conditions of asylum, enhanced protection environment, livelihoods and economic opportunities, access to services, and inclusion into national planning, among others.

## Targeted population figures

Country	Targeted refugee population	Targeted host community population	Total targeted population
Angola	28,154	3,000	31,154
Burundi	115,000	22,000	137,000
Republic of the Congo	29,423	4,671	34,094
Rwanda	78,408	8,165	86,573
Uganda	522,223	511,760	1,033,983
United Republic of Tanzania	83,106	20,000	103,106
Zambia	60,012	15,000	75,012
<b>Total</b>	<b>916,326</b>	<b>584,596</b>	<b>1,500,922</b>

## Age and gender breakdown

■ Male ■ Female



**16%**

People with disabilities



**51%**

Women and girls



**49%**

Men and boys



## Regional protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks

While some countries continue to exhibit great generosity towards displaced populations, others tighten their asylum regimes with measures that impact, among others, access to territory and services, freedom of movement, registration, and efficient asylum procedures, in particular for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) community. In some cases, access to asylum and quality refugee status determination is further obstructed by low human resources capacity among government officials. Moreover, some host countries continue to promote encampment policies, which hinder refugees' access to employment and livelihood opportunities. In Burundi, for instance, to leave camp areas, refugees are required to possess exit permits that are increasingly difficult to obtain or else be subject to detention. In Zambia, the fees for residence and work permits are far beyond what refugees can afford. As a consequence of these measures and policies, in many countries, incidents of discrimination, unequal treatment, expulsions, and even deportations have been recorded.

Gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV) are serious concerns for refugees from the DRC. Cases of GBV among the population are widespread, with risks heightened in urban areas by high poverty rates and in settlements by the lack of public lighting, adequate shelters, and privacy in communal facilities. GBV incidents often go unreported due to fear of reprisal, limited access to justice, stigma, discrimination, a culture of impunity, and lack of confidence in reporting channels. The challenging protection environment significantly impacts the protection of refugee children, particularly where access to asylum and protection is restricted, since children encounter barriers to accessing child-friendly procedures, national child protection systems, and services. Refugee children are exposed to enormous protection risks; Partners report family separation, psychosocial distress, and cases of violations against refugee children, including sexual violence, psychological abuse, trafficking, and exploitation. In addition, high rates of mental health issues among refugees and host communities are also recorded.

In many host countries, refugee settlements and camps have reached or exceeded capacity, and the available basic services in those areas are stretched to their limits. At the same time, a lack of livelihood opportunities in urban areas is leading to relocations to camp settings, increasing the pressure on shrinking amounts of humanitarian assistance. As governments prioritize nationals for social safety nets and early recovery interventions, and as support for the response diminishes, refugees are faced with reduced access to essential public services and livelihood opportunities. Thus, more advocacy and investment will be required for encamped, urban, and out-of-camp populations.

Conflicts in the DRC are likely to continue, with the eastern provinces being the most severely affected. While prospects for voluntary repatriation have improved for refugees from the Kasai region living in Angola and for those from Haut-Katanga and Tanganyika provinces living in Zambia, overall return opportunities will remain limited in 2023. As such, local integration in host countries and resettlement to third countries will be important to achieve solutions and contribute to development. Commitments by the United States of America to increase the resettlement ceiling will create opportunities for multi-year regional approaches through group resettlement for protracted caseloads from the DRC.

Finally, while COVID-19 propagation rates have remained relatively contained in the past few months, the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic will still be felt in 2023 and beyond. These effects will be compounded by the Ukraine war, aid cuts, and climate-induced disasters, including floods, droughts, hurricanes, and locust infestations, which will continue to erode the food security of displaced and host populations. There is a pressing need to address food insecurity and to support populations to meet their basic needs.

## Regional protection and solutions strategy

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In 2023, RRP Partners will aim to complement and strengthen host government responses to address the immediate needs of newly-arrived refugees from the DRC and provide protection and solutions for those in protracted situations. In close coordination with national authorities, Partners will also seek to assist affected members of host communities. Efforts will be made to ensure that vulnerable individuals, including young children, women, older people, LGBTIQ+ people, individuals with disabilities, and other groups with specific needs, will be supported in improving their access to protection, assistance, and appropriate solutions.

Protection programming in 2023 will include reinforcing asylum systems and legal protection frameworks; improving registration, data management, and analysis, as well as the monitoring of borders and detention centres; refining the prevention, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence; strengthening the inclusion of refugee children into national systems and bolstering child-friendly procedures and child protection prevention and response services, including best interests procedure for children at risk; improving protection monitoring and case management; and strengthening community-based protection. Partners will also collaborate to prevent secondary movements of refugees and asylum-seekers by providing services to maintain the population *sur place* and anticipating protection risks associated with mixed movements. In addition to protection interventions, Partners will continue to complement and deliver basic assistance programmes by supporting health and nutrition services, maintaining and expanding water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems, improving household shelter infrastructure, bolstering access to education, and distributing food assistance (in-kind or through cash and voucher modalities).

In areas where conditions are conducive to a sustainable return, voluntary repatriation operations to the DRC will be facilitated, depending on significant funding investments by both humanitarian and development partners. Local integration will be supported for those who wish to remain in countries of asylum, and case-processing for vulnerable refugees from the DRC in need of resettlement will move forward, contributing to equitable responsibility-sharing. Moreover, other complementary pathways and innovative responses, such as labour mobility, will be explored.

While humanitarian assistance remains an essential component of the DRC Regional RRP, emphasis will be given to cultivating sustainable livelihood opportunities and fostering financial inclusion for refugee and host communities, as well as advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, in line with the GCR. This will promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion and increase resilience and self-reliance. Partners will support efforts by the Governments of Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, countries that have piloted the CRRF, to incorporate refugees into their national education, health, livelihoods, and social protection systems. In countries where the application of the CRRF has not yet been initiated, Partners will advocate for a strong protection and solutions framework to be implemented, as per the GCR objectives. Advocacy will also continue for the inclusion of refugees into national development plans, social protection programmes, and labour markets; development partners' programming; and UN Common Country analyses and Sustainable Development Cooperation frameworks. Response activities will reflect the whole-of-society approach and the "no one left behind" principle, in line with the GCR, the CRRF, and the [Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](#).

Partners will also strengthen emergency preparedness and response and implement pioneering projects to reduce the impact of climate change and the environmental footprint of interventions, with investments in reforestation, clean cooking, solar energy, and projects to make shelters more climate-resilient. Finally, innovative partnerships will be expanded and strengthened, particularly those with host governments, development actors, financial institutions, academia, and the private sector, to support localization efforts and enhance the complementarity of initiatives that aim to benefit refugees and host communities.



## Regional strategic objectives

### Enhance the protection situation

RRP Partners will engage with relevant government stakeholders to maintain refugees' and asylum-seekers' unhindered access to asylum and international protection and foster an environment conducive to the full enjoyment of their rights. Across the response, Partners will ensure attention is paid to considerations around age, gender, and diversity and accountability to affected populations (AAP). Child protection and gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response will continue to be strengthened, with a focus on case management and best interests procedure. Support to people with specific needs and people with disabilities will be enhanced.

### Provide multi-sector assistance

RRP Partners will work to achieve and maintain minimum standards of provision of multi-sector assistance for refugees and host communities. Humanitarian assistance and access to basic services will be offered based on needs, in particular for new arrivals, but also for long-term refugee populations. Where possible, responses will

be anchored in national systems, development plans, multi-year strategies, and regional frameworks. Partners will also seek to mitigate the environmental impacts of interventions and address clean-energy needs in refugee-hosting locations.

### Promote self-reliance and social cohesion

RRP partners will seek to promote refugees' livelihoods and economic inclusion to gradually reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance, build self-reliance, and improve access to rights, in line with national development plans. Social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities will be encouraged through resilience programmes and by promoting a conducive and enabling environment.

### Invest in durable solutions

RRP Partners will promote policies and conditions that facilitate durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation for the increasing number of refugees wishing to return home, resettlement for those who qualify, and local integration for those who wish to remain in host countries or are unable to return.

## Sectoral responses

### Protection

Protection Partners will work to improve access to territory and asylum procedures by supporting host governments' asylum systems and providing authorities with capacity-building and technical assistance, in concurrence with strengthening community-based protection networks. Priority will be given to addressing the backlogs of asylum claims where applicable. RRP Partners will advocate with receiving States to adopt the latest [UNHCR Position on Returns to Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu](#) and consider *prima facie* recognition to people fleeing these areas. Partners will also ensure that new refugee legislations are aligned with international instruments and that pledges to improve asylum, reinforce registration and documentation, and promote solutions made at the 2019 GRF are implemented.

Partners will reinforce preventative activities and effective case management for refugees exposed to protection risks, including detention and *refoulement*. Where applicable, Partners will advocate for freedom of movement for refugees and engage with immigration offices to support border monitoring and screening. Access to national services, such as education, healthcare, accommodation, and employment opportunities, will be promoted, and legal assistance will be provided to those in need.

Finally, Partners will promote peaceful coexistence through projects targeting refugees and host community members and will support access to long-term solutions.

## **Child Protection Sub-Sector**

Child Protection Partners will enhance the monitoring of risks of violence, neglect, abuse, and exploitation and bolster identification of and support to children at risk through best interests procedure and improved alternative care arrangements and family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children. Partners will put in place measures to ensure that children with disabilities and others with diverse backgrounds can access child protection services. Furthermore, partners will ensure that children have access to birth registration and documentation to certify their identity and prevent statelessness.

Partners will strengthen accountability by ensuring that children and their families participate in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of child protection prevention and response. This will enhance the capacity of children and communities to play an active role in the response and promote ownership. Where needed, child- and youth-friendly spaces will be upgraded and rehabilitated for more accessibility.

Lastly, Partners will advocate for refugee children's protection and inclusion into national social systems, in line with the "no one left behind" principle and community-based approaches. Trainings on child rights, child protection, and prevention and response to violations, including gender-based violence, will be provided to stakeholders.

## **Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector**

Gender-Based Violence Partners will focus on providing quality life-saving response services and a wide array of prevention activities, ranging from awareness-raising campaigns, safe disclosure and referral, as well as social change programmes that strengthen community-based protection mechanisms and ensure communities, including men and boys, take part in preventing GBV. Additionally, GBV mainstreaming in all sectors will continue to be a key component of the response.

Partners will ensure survivors have safe and meaningful access to adequate, timely, and quality specialized GBV services, mainly medical care, psychosocial assistance, legal aid, security, and livelihoods support. Where funds are available, Partners will strive to expand socioeconomic empowerment programmes and encourage small business ventures among women and girls to prevent engagement in negative coping mechanisms and promote empowerment.

## **Education**

Education Partners will increase access to inclusive, equitable, and quality formal and informal learning for refugee and host community children and young people. Partners will support governments' efforts to improve the quality of education through the expansion and construction of school infrastructure, distribution of classroom equipment, development of teachers' capacity and supply of qualified teachers, and provision of teaching and learning materials. Efforts will be made to identify school-aged children for better planning for enrolment and inclusion in national systems. Education interventions will also address the specific challenges faced by out-of-school children, girls, and children with special needs. In addition, depending on available funding and country contexts, Partners will increase investment towards the inclusion of young refugees in vocational trainings to develop their skills and promote their employability; provide scholarships for refugees to attend tertiary education; and support the certification of studies and diplomas for refugees wishing to return to their country of origin.

## **Food Security**

Many refugees, in particular those living in camps and facing movement restrictions, rely on humanitarian food assistance to meet their basic needs. In 2023, Food Security Partners will continue providing food aid through in-kind rations, cash transfers, and commodity vouchers, to enable refugees to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements and prevent negative coping mechanisms. Scaling up livelihood opportunities, especially those related to crop production and livestock, will be promoted, where relevant, to steadily curb food assistance dependence and to reduce malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups. Access to employment and other economic activities, such

as fishery and agriculture, will be bolstered through the distribution of seeds and tools, the establishment of kitchen gardens, risk insurance to increase agriculture livelihoods, and women's empowerment. In addition, priority will be given to advocacy for access to farmland and support for agricultural projects that include refugee and host communities, mitigating tensions over resources. This strategy will aim to protect assets, promote sustainable food production systems, advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national food system transformation strategies, and foment self-reliance.

Lastly, joint assessments of needs and causes of food and nutritional insecurity will be undertaken, mainly in Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia, to inform resource mobilization.

## **Health & Nutrition**

Health and Nutrition Partners will ensure access to equitable, safe, quality, and sustainable healthcare for refugee and host communities. This will be achieved through rehabilitation and maintenance of health infrastructure; provision of essential medicines and medical supplies; provision of specialized services related to HIV and Tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health care (including antenatal care, delivery, and post-natal care), and mental health and psychosocial support; and promotion of access to integrated prevention and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Partners will also continue to advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national health systems and to strengthen national preventive and curative healthcare to help tackle HIV/AIDS.

Furthermore, Partners will support host governments in increasing capacity and preparedness for the response to health emergencies, such as COVID-19, cholera, and Ebola Virus Disease, through improvements in disease surveillance and health information systems. Partners will also prioritize prevention, detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies by reinforcing a nutritional surveillance system and providing additional nutritional support to the most vulnerable, including pregnant and lactating women, children under five, people with HIV, older people, and chronically ill individuals.

## **Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)**

Sustainable incomes are vital for refugees' self-reliance and positive integration into local economies. Where applicable, the response will be anchored in the "graduation approach", supporting refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities through five broad activities: identifying target individuals; boosting technical and entrepreneurial skills; providing cash grants for start-ups; developing financial literacy; and cultivating life-skills and confidence. Partners will work to equip refugees with the best socioeconomic profile for their inclusion in national development plans. Additionally, Partners will collaborate with development actors and the private sector, including commercial banks, to achieve these goals. In 2023, entrepreneurship will be encouraged through grants for new and expanding small-scale businesses and support for refugee integration in production, distribution, and consumption chains.

Financial inclusion will be further supported by facilitating access to financial services, including credit and savings platforms, providing financial literacy trainings, and encouraging savings. Refugee access to bank accounts will be explored in cash assistance interventions to increase ownership.

## **Logistics, Telecoms & Operation Support**

In 2023, Partners will work to bolster country-level coordination of logistics activities, as well as the availability of all required logistical support for the response. Where relevant, Partners will support the management of centralized warehouses, single spaces for the deposit of non-food items (NFI), food, and medical supplies. Depending on country contexts, Partners will also improve land and river communication infrastructure.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

Shelter and NFI Partners will focus on improving shelter and infrastructure for refugees living in camps in 2023. Work will be conducted to upgrade communal spaces, rehabilitate damaged individual shelters, and provide decent and more permanent housing, built with local construction materials, to groups with specific needs, such as children in child-headed households, older people living alone, and people with disabilities. Constructions will be climate-smart to counteract negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Structural designs will also take into consideration the mitigation of gender-based violence risks and the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases. Refugee participation in shelter construction efforts will be promoted through skills trainings in order to bolster accountability and ownership. In addition, shelter assistance will also target some host community members to help foster social cohesion.

Where the context allows, Partners will prioritize cash-based shelter and NFI assistance, in lieu of in-kind distributions, to empower refugees and contribute to local economic growth. Targeted cash and specialized NFI assistance, such as the distribution of women and girls' hygiene kits and emergency items, will be provided in some countries. Lastly, Partners will promote the use of "green" energy, offering refugees energy-efficient stoves, solar lamps, solar systems for homes and businesses, and liquefied petroleum gas to support clean cooking. Similarly, where relevant, Partners will invest in reforestation programmes to increase the green cover in and around refugee camps.

## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Partners will work to guarantee and safeguard equitable and sustainable access to safe, clean, and sufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene services. As such, Partners will ensure WASH facilities are operated effectively and efficiently, building accessible spaces for the most vulnerable, providing refugees with sanitary platforms for latrine construction, and carrying out operational maintenance, repairs, and improvement of existing water supply systems. Where relevant, the use of renewable energy for water pumps will be promoted, and diesel generators will be replaced to reduce operational costs and decrease the carbon footprint. Complementarily, Partners will support rainwater harvesting projects to take advantage of rainy seasons. Management of solid waste will be conducted at the household level, with families encouraged to separate organic and inorganic waste at home to increase opportunities for reuse and recycling and reduce disposal in dumpsites. Finally, Partners will raise awareness of safe hygiene practices, scaling up good handwashing and latrine use, promoting menstrual hygiene, and preventing the spread of communicable diseases.

Considerations of gender and accessibility for people with disabilities will be at the forefront of interventions, and Partners will be trained in gender- and diversity-sensitive programming. When establishing boreholes, Partners will be mindful of places of difficult access and will take into account the need to prevent potential conflicts with host communities around water resources. In order to engage concerned populations in the response, Partners will empower refugee and host communities in the management of their own water and sanitation facilities and support community-based hygiene approaches that promote local ownership, while also considering the establishment of water management committees to guide access. Most importantly, where feasible, Partners will support the transition of WASH responses from emergency projects to durable services meeting national standards.

## Innovative partnerships and impactful protection initiatives to be expanded in 2023

- A joint initiative between international organizations in the Southern Africa region to establish a dataset to be included in the national population censuses, to help with identifying information gaps and provide baselines for development activities that include host country populations and refugees;
- A joint international initiative in the region, in collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the India Ocean Commission, to address mixed movements, including through resettlement or repatriation of rejected asylum-seekers;
- The certification of all courses conducted by the National Institute for Employment and Vocational Training at Lôvua refugee settlement in Angola, thereby ensuring their recognition by the Ministry of Education and, as such, supporting refugees' socioeconomic inclusion;
- The comprehensive gender-based violence response in Burundi, whereby RRP Partners are providing psychosocial support, health services, legal aid, and GBV awareness-raising campaigns to refugees and host community;
- The expansion of the Government of the Republic of the Congo's World Bank-funded Lisungi Project to include DRC asylum-seekers, allowing the most vulnerable to benefit from conditional cash transfers and cash for income-generating activities while boosting socioeconomic inclusion and self-reliance capabilities;
- A partnership between the Vatel Hotel and Tourism Business School in Rwanda and an RRP Partner to provide culinary skills training and internships for young refugees from the DRC;
- Peacebuilding dialogues organized by RRP Partners to promote unity between refugees and host communities in Uganda;
- A joint project by the Government of Tanzania and RRP Partners to issue birth certificates for refugees. In 2022, more than 1,000 birth certificates were provided to DRC refugee children born in Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania and in 2021, around 22,300 birth certificates were provided, diminishing the accumulated backlog and preventing statelessness among the refugee population.
- In 2022, RRP Partners and the Government of Zambia facilitated the return of over 10,200 refugees from the DRC to their country of origin. Partners will continue to support voluntary repatriation when conditions allow for a safe and dignified return.

## Regional cross-cutting response priorities



### Accountability to affected populations

Partners will anchor the response in the AAP approach. As such, programming will encourage the full participation of every man, woman, boy, and girl in the target population in all stages of project planning, implementation, and evaluation. Refugee inclusion will be facilitated by the provision of timely and transparent access to information, and their inputs will be at the forefront of interventions.



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) constitute acts of gross misconduct and a violation of the fundamental rights of refugees and other affected people. RRP Partners are committed to upholding a zero-tolerance policy on SEA and to actively preventing SEA. Throughout the response, Partners will seek to provide a safe, trusted, respectful, and inclusive environment where refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities feel equipped and empowered to speak up for themselves. Partners also commit to taking a survivor-centred approach to responses to SEA. To achieve protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) goals, Partners will assess and mitigate SEA risks, integrate PSEA across sectors, ensure access of SEA victims to support through gender-based violence referral pathways, and enhance and strengthen complaints, feedback, and reporting systems, including through the

installation of GBV helplines, complaint boxes, protection litigation desks, and email addresses that are accessible to all community members and inclusive of groups of diverse genders, ages, and with diverse characteristics. Partners will also provide PSEA training to personnel, including on adherence to the Code of Conduct, and raise awareness among the refugee population on PSEA and how they can report any concerns related to SEA.

## People with disabilities

Individuals with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of any population, with higher numbers expected in situations of forced displacement. Statistically, the prevalence of disability is often higher among women. Programming under the DRC Regional RRP will seek to mitigate the physical, information, communication, attitudinal and institutional barriers faced by people with disabilities, taking into account gender and age considerations, to ensure they can access essential protection and assistance. Programming will be informed by the inclusion of people with disabilities in consultation and feedback mechanisms, in line with the AAP approach.

## Climate action

In 2023, RRP Partners working on the refugee response will strengthen efforts to make their programming climate-smart and environmentally sound. Scaling-up of activities that protect both people and the environment, such as reforestation, clean cooking, and solar energy interventions, will take place in all seven RRP countries. In addition, when relevant to the context, analyses of climate and environmental risk and their implications for protection and solutions will be conducted.

## Partnership and coordination

The RCM provides the blueprint for coordinating responses to refugee situations. In accordance with the RCM, host governments have a lead role in the DRC Regional RRP, while UNHCR coordinates Partners – which include United Nations Agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs, faith-based organizations, development actors, academia, community-based organizations, regional organizations, financial institutions, and refugee-led organizations. Partners' humanitarian and development response is planned and implemented in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts to support national initiatives.

As the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the DRC Situation, UNHCR's Director of the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa will work to ensure an overarching vision and coherent engagement for refugees from the DRC in

the seven RRP countries. The 2023 DRC Regional RRP will focus on building constructive connections with regional bodies, including the African Union, SADC, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and East African Community, among others. Strategic partnerships with development agencies, international institutions (such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank), bilateral donors, civil society actors, and the private sector will be established and reinforced to support the move towards resilience and durable solutions. Furthermore, in line with the GCR, RRP Partners are committed to working with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to bolster regular monitoring and data-based planning to advance development priorities and ensure no one is left behind. Furthermore, partnerships with refugee-led, women-led and faith-based organizations, as well as localization efforts, will be strengthened.

## Regional inter-agency financial requirements



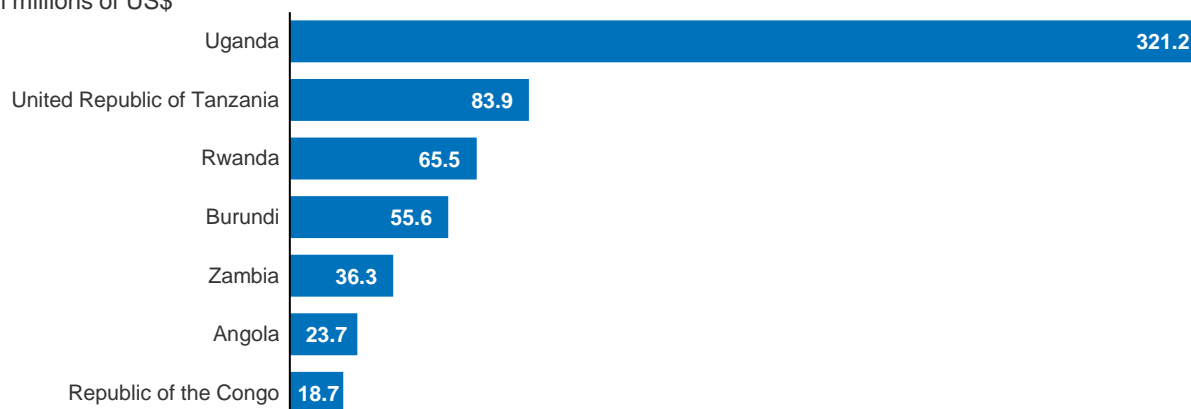
Total  
financial requirements

**\$605,048,527**



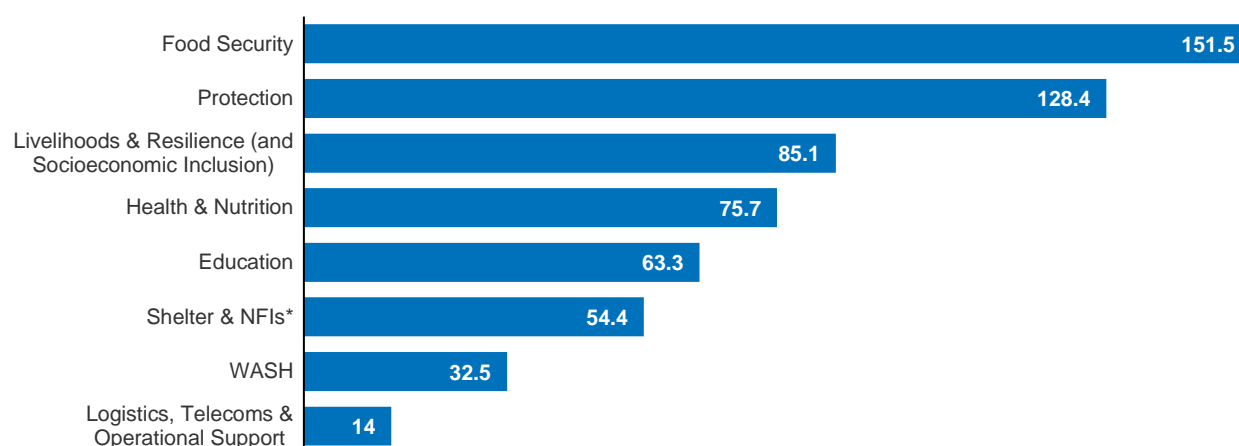
## Budget by country

In millions of US\$





## Budget by sector at regional level

In millions of US\$



\*Shelter and NFI financial requirements in Uganda incorporate Environment & Energy, Shelter, Settlement, and NFI financial requirements.

 <b>Total Protection requirements</b> <b>\$128,441,093</b>			 <b>Total cash assistance requirements<sup>4</sup></b> <b>\$85,757,952</b>		
Other protection activities <b>\$90,077,702</b>	GBV <b>\$16,440,492</b>	Child Protection <b>\$21,922,899</b>	Protection <b>\$2,437,500</b>	Food Security <b>\$78,823,653</b>	Livelihoods & Resilience <b>\$4,496,799</b>

## Budget by partner type at regional level

69	10	40	14	1	2	1	1
							
Partners involved	UN Agencies	International NGOs	National NGOs	Faith-based Organizations	Academia	Regional organizations	Development actors
	<b>\$466,407,054</b>	<b>\$129,734,685</b>	<b>\$6,904,563</b>	<b>\$9,665</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$851,800</b>	<b>\$640,760</b>

<sup>4</sup> Cash assistance is pursued as a key modality of assistance and protection and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic-needs approach. As the modality of choice of refugees and asylum-seekers, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

## Budget by Partner at regional level<sup>5</sup>

Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	942,500
International Labour Organization (ILO)	500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	7,461,700
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	9,045,889
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	12,000,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	277,574,238
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	7,164,136
United Nations Women (UN Women)	2,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	145,705,805
World Health Organization (WHO)	4,012,786
<b>International NGOs</b>	
Japan Association for Aid and Relief (AARJ)	500,000
Action Africa Help (AAH)	240,000
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	3,000,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)*	800,000
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	1,121,807
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	525,000
ALIGHT	8,467,094
AVSI Foundation	35,759,773
Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)	400,000
CARE International	2,517,808
CARITAS*	6,469,568
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)*	490,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	6,639,937
Finn Church Aid (FCA)*	2,800,000
Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)	550,000
HelpAge International (HAI)	300,000
Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)	52,000
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)	320,000
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	2,819,506
International Aid Services (IAS)	380,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	7,635,500
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*	1,879,161
Lifeline-Childline Zambia (LLC)	11,700
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)*	1,714,908
Malteser International	600,000

<sup>5</sup> This list only includes appealing organizations under the DRC Regional RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities.

Medical Teams International (MTI)	7,250,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	4,762,117
The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam)	1,486,881
Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)	423,091
Plan International (PI)	2,355,781
Save the Children International (SCI)	7,408,000
Self Help Africa (SHA)	1,000,000
Street Child	1,350,000
Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)	400,000
War Child Holland (WCH)	1,300,000
WATER MISSION (WMT)	1,300,000
WeWorld-GVC	235,000
Windle International (WIU)	1,288,000
World Vision International (WVI)*	12,760,001
Zuid-Oost Azië (ZOA)	422,052
<b>National NGOs</b>	
Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP)	25,000
Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)	1,146,869
CTEN (CTEN)	100,000
DanChurchAid (DCA)*	100,000
Dignity Kwanza – Community Solutions	286,000
Humane Africa Mission (HAM)	500,000
Hunger Fighters Uganda (HFU)	550,000
Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola (IEIA)*	187,300
Impact Hope	1,188,874
KadAfrica	50,000
Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR)	45,533
Relief to Development Society (REDESO)	1,799,600
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)	650,000
Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)	275,387
<b>Faith-based organizations</b>	
CARITAS Zambia (CZ)	9,665
<b>Academia</b>	
Cavendish University (CU)	200,000
Kepler	300,000
<b>Regional organizations</b>	
Inkomoko Business	851,800
<b>Development actors</b>	
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	640,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$605,048,527</b>

\* These RRP Partners are also faith-based organizations.



# Angola planned response



**28,200**

Targeted refugee population



**3,000**

Targeted host community members



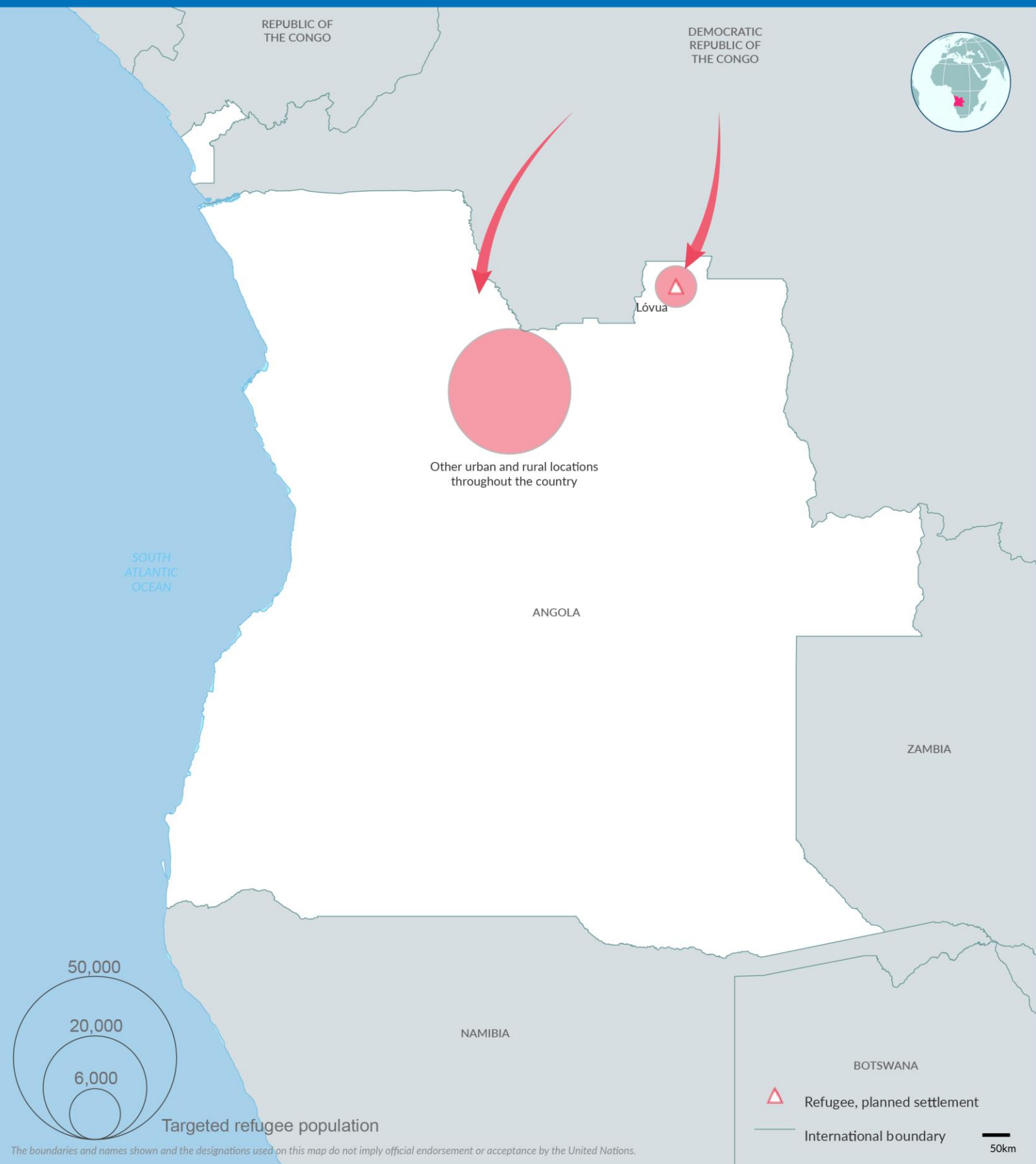
**23.7M**

Total financial requirements



**8**

Partners involved



## Current situation

### Situation overview

As of the end of November 2022, Angola hosted 23,100 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).<sup>6</sup> Out of this total, 72 per cent live in urban areas. Currently, the main refugee settlement is Lôvua, located in the Lunda Norte province. Of the approximately 9,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC living in Lunda Norte, 6,400 reside in Lôvua and 2,800 reportedly live in urban areas. A total of 40 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC in Angola arrived during the 2017 mass influx from the Kasai region and were recognized as refugees on a *prima facie* basis. In 2023, Angola expects an additional influx of around 5,000 refugees, mainly from Kasai province, due to continuing instability in the DRC and the planned December elections. As such, a contingency plan is being prepared, and the current early warning system will be reinforced throughout the year.

A restricted asylum space and limited reception mechanisms are the main challenges faced by refugees in Angola. Many individuals have been undocumented since the Government suspended registrations and refugee status determination (RSD) in 2015, a decision that bypassed the law on asylum promulgated that same year. More than 30,000 asylum-seekers, many from the DRC, are pending adjudication of their claims. This group faces major challenges in accessing basic services such as health, education, justice, and livelihood opportunities and engaging with durable solutions, also being vulnerable to arbitrary detention, deportation, discrimination, abuse, and exploitation.

Between October 2019 and February 2020, Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners and the Governments of Angola and the DRC conducted a voluntary repatriation programme in which a total of 2,900 refugees left Lôvua settlement and returned to the DRC. The programme was suspended in 2020 due to logistical challenges and COVID-19-related restrictions, only resuming in 2022. Preparations for repatriation included a simulation exercise for staff, partners and governments; vaccination brigades (for COVID-19, yellow fever and measles) and health certification; study certification; and identification of protection cases, such as people with specific needs and unaccompanied children.

Between July and October 2022, 820 refugees were voluntarily repatriated to the DRC. Despite the expressive number of refugees repatriated since the start of the programme, most refugees living in Lôvua settlement wish to remain in Angola, at least in the medium-term. In April 2021, a return intention survey was conducted in the camp: out of almost 6,200 refugees, 10 per cent expressed their willingness to return to the DRC, while 75 per cent expressed a desire to stay in Angola and 10 per cent had not yet made a decision at the time of the survey. Although these figures may vary depending on the evolution of the social, political, and economic context, both in the host State and the country of origin, it is important to consider durable and appropriate solutions for the majority who have chosen to remain in Angola.

RRP Partners in Angola plan to assist 28,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC by the end of 2023. Out of the total target population, 51 per cent are women and girls, 49 per cent are men and boys, 56 per cent are children, and 15 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, Partners will also aim to assist 3,000 members of the host community.

### Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks

The lack of registration and documentation remains the main protection risk for refugees and asylum-seekers in Angola. The documentation gap is a consequence of the narrow implementation of the legislation designed to protect refugees, combined with limitations in the Government's operational resources. Since the suspension of RSD in 2015,

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<sup>6</sup> As of November 2022, there were 55,800 refugees and asylum-seekers in Angola, mainly coming from the DRC, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Mauritania. See: [Country - Angola \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/country/angola)

there has been no recognition of new arrivals. Exceptionally, most of the 2017 refugee influx from Kasai was registered by UNHCR at the peak of the emergency; however, UNHCR has not received authorization from the Government to continue to offer registration services and identification documents to new arrivals after August 2017. The proof of registration provided by UNHCR can be used by refugees to access basic services, but it is not recognized by other sectors, such as banking and employment. The Government of Angola has expressed the intention to resume registration and documentation, stating this as a priority.

Without valid documents, refugees are unable to access social services, participate in the formal job market, and enrol in educational activities. For women and girls, this results in disproportionate vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation and abuse. In Luanda, where many families are headed by single women struggling to meet their basic needs, there are reports of girls and women engaging in the sale or exchange of sex as a coping mechanism. Furthermore, domestic violence, sexual violence, and early pregnancy exist within the refugee community, but cases are underreported.

Partners are also advocating with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to ensure that children born in Angola receive birth certificates even if their parents do not have proper documentation. The Government sporadically organizes mobile registration to expedite the issuing of birth certificates, but the backlog is considerable. Without valid and appropriate documents, refugees' enjoyment of rights and opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion is hindered, and vulnerability to abuse and *refoulement* is heightened.

It is important to mention that the security context has led to the reduction of the asylum space for new arrivals and refugees across Angola. Therefore, any new influx could lead to increased instances of harassment, arbitrary detentions and *refoulement*, occurrences that are already observed in some areas (mainly those close to the border in Lunda Norte, where appropriate reception procedures, including sensitive entry systems for people with specific needs, are absent).

The food security situation in Lôvua settlement is concerning — the percentage of households with an acceptable Food Consumption Score fell from 79 in June 2021 to 49 in May 2022. According to the Food Security Assessment from May 2022<sup>7</sup>, nearly nine out of 10 households rely on food assistance to survive, with agricultural production being a secondary subsistence source for 36 per cent of households; only 12 per cent of families listed trade and small businesses as their primary means of subsistence.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

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Over the past years, the Government of Angola has made efforts to strengthen human rights, promote democracy, and recognize and respond to Universal Periodic Review recommendations. In the coming years, these endeavours are expected to continue alongside a more systematic implementation of the multiple international conventions adopted by the country.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Angola was extended to the end of 2023, and RRP Partners will continue to promote the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into national development plans. Angola submitted seven pledges during the 2019 [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF), committing to providing support for voluntary repatriation, supporting local integration, and resuming registration and documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers, among others. The Government has been engaged in advancing pledge implementation, and new pledges are expected in the GRF conference taking place in December 2023.

With the support of the Government, Partners will work to foster solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers and promote an environment of peace and security, using human rights and community-based approaches as a basis. The main priorities for 2023 are to: continue advocacy efforts for the resumption of registration and documentation of refugees; strengthen protection mechanisms in border areas by improving early warning systems, border monitoring,

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<sup>7</sup> "Relatório de Avaliação de Segurança Alimentar", Assentamento de Lôvua, Maio de 2022.



and training of police and border officials; improve multi-sectoral referral pathways for refugee arrivals; organize awareness-raising activities on international human rights law, international refugee law, and the prevention and response of gender-based violence; support birth registration and enhance protection services for children at risk; offer basic services to refugees from the DRC living in the Lôvua settlement; and promote voluntary repatriation for those wishing to go back to the DRC. Resettlement remains a solution available only to a very limited number of vulnerable refugees.

The Government of Angola has recently announced that refugee registration and documentation activities are expected to be resumed in early 2023, reiterating this commitment during the 2022 meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. More than 14,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC who have either expired identification document cards or no identification are expected to benefit from the registration and documentation activities and the deriving access to key basic services. Partners will continue to offer authorities technical support for this critical exercise and advocate for the implementation of the 2015 Refugee Law, the strengthening and implementation of RSD procedures and reception mechanisms, and the clearance of the registration backlog of asylum-seekers from the DRC.

Continuous coordination and collaboration are being pursued with the Ministry of Welfare, Family, and Promotion of Women (MASFAMU) to include the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in the Ministry's sectoral plan and in the national development plan; as such, they will be entitled to the same social assistance support as Angolan nationals. Additionally, advocacy efforts with the Ministry of Education to include refugees from Kasai in the national education system and to ensure affordable access to schooling are ongoing.

## Country strategic objectives

### Ensure access to territory, registration and documentation

Emphasis will be given to ensuring protection mechanisms that are age-, gender-, and diversity sensitive are in place and guaranteeing access to basic rights and self-reliance opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers. The Government of Angola is committed to resuming registration and documentation activities in 2023, and Partners will continue to offer technical support to authorities and to advocate for these efforts to start as soon as possible. Additionally, Partners will continue working to foster the integration of refugees and asylum-seekers in national social protection systems and development plans.

### Increase food security

RRP Partners will continue to assist refugees in Lôvua settlement in meeting their basic food and nutrition needs as a means of preventing and effectively treating acute malnutrition, undernutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies such as anaemia. The provision of up-to-date food security and nutrition information and analysis will enable appropriate and needs-based programming. Finally, priority will be given to reducing dependence on food assistance through livelihood support.

### Promote livelihoods and integration

Promoting livelihood initiatives and integration solutions for refugees is a strategic priority in the response. Technical and vocational training and professional support will be offered to refugees from the DRC living in Lôvua settlement and in urban areas, with the purpose of increasing their livelihood and integration prospects. Additionally, Partners will continue advocating for the inclusion of refugees in national development plans, thus ensuring the availability of more sustainable solutions, encouraging self-reliance, and diminishing dependence on humanitarian assistance.

### Support voluntary repatriation

The voluntary repatriation of refugees from the DRC remains a priority in Angola and is supported by the Government. Considering that most refugees from the DRC living in Lôvua settlement do not wish to return to their country of origin at this time, in 2023, the humanitarian response will seek to empower refugees to make well-informed decisions and encourage safe and sustainable returns through campaigns to inform the population about the conditions in the DRC. Partners will continue planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating repatriation and reintegration activities to support the voluntary return of 1,000 refugees from the DRC in 2023.

## Sectoral responses

### Protection

Protection Partners will continue advocating for the registration of asylum-seekers, including new arrivals, and for the resumption of RSD procedures for those whose claims are pending adjudication. Additionally, Partners will advocate for the re-verification and update of registration for Kasai refugees who remained in the urban areas of Lunda Norte. In Luanda, refugees and asylum-seekers who are receiving assistance will be biometrically verified to allow for better accountability.

In 2023, different initiatives to enhance protection mechanisms will be supported, including the establishment of a Centre of Excellence, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; the training of judges and law practitioners; advocacy for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national health system; and case management for refugees at high risk of detention and *refoulement*.

To facilitate voluntary repatriation efforts, information campaigns and return intention assessments will continue to be carried out. Partners will offer support throughout return journeys, providing safe transportation, food, and accompaniment, conducting registration, and catering to the special needs of those who are vulnerable.

### Child Protection Sub-Sector

Many refugee children in Angola do not have birth certificates, as parents struggle to register their children due to a lack of valid documentation. Consequently, school enrolment is challenging, and numerous children are kept out of the school system, especially at the secondary education level. Child Protection Partners will work to facilitate refugees' access to birth registration services by supporting the identification and registration of an estimated 500 newborns in 2023. Additionally, training will be provided to 1,500 individuals on child rights, child protection, and gender-based violence, in collaboration with the GBV Sub-Sector.

Special attention will be given to supporting child and youth groups, with the goal of promoting self-advocacy. Efforts will focus on enhancing the identification and provision of best interests procedure and case management of children at heightened risk and survivors of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Partners will also work to strengthen alternative care arrangements and family tracing activities for unaccompanied children and to actively support family reunification, when in the child's best interests.

### Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Priorities for 2023 include: information sharing about gender-based violence services and capacity strengthening on safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors; providing opportunities for education and vocational training; encouraging small-business initiatives among women and girls to increase self-reliance; supporting women and youth groups to promote advocacy; and ensuring survivors have access to specialized GBV services. Also in 2023, GBV Partners will launch a Women Centre in Luanda, aimed at empowering and supporting refugee women and girls, including GBV survivors. The Centre will provide the community with training, counselling, awareness-raising activities, and a child-friendly space. In Lunda Norte, Partners will develop an Education and Livelihoods Strategy and will continue to conduct campaigns for child marriage and early pregnancy prevention and promotion of sexual and reproductive health, in alignment with the objectives of the Women-Friendly Space in Lôvua settlement.

In 2023, Education Partners will continue advocating to ensure refugees have unhindered access to schooling, with particular attention given to extremely vulnerable families. The response aims to implement agreements established in the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), anchoring its strategy in the principles of solidarity, responsibility-sharing, and cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to ensure refugee and host community children and young people have access to quality learning opportunities, from pre-school to higher education. Supporting the response to identified risks and promoting a safe learning environment in Lôvua settlement will be priorities. At least eight classrooms will be built in Lôvua's new school, providing students with more classroom space and better learning conditions. Partners will also work to prioritize study certifications for refugees wishing to return to the DRC.

Lastly, through the programmes Todos Unidos Pela Primeira Infância (TUPPI) and Foundational Numeracy and Literacy (FLN), Partners will provide access to improved parenting practices training for families with children under five years of age and FNL activities for children of primary school age who are lagging or are out of school. Based on the population estimates, 5,300 refugee children will be reached by these projects: 2,100 children by the TUPPI programme and 3,200 children by the FLN programme.



Gracia, a refugee from the DRC, is studying sewing in Lôvua settlement, Angola. © UNHCR/Lina Ferreira

### **Initiative: Course certification**

In 2022, the National Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (INEFOP) began to certify all courses conducted in the Lôvua settlement vocational training centre, ensuring that these activities are officially recognized by the Ministry of Education of Angola and thus benefiting all refugees taking part in trainings. Some 150 young refugees have enrolled in the first batch of courses: 110 in the Sewing course and 32 in the Information Technology course.



## Food Security

In 2023, Food Security Partners will continue to provide assistance to ensure refugees can meet food and nutrition requirements. At the end of 2022, Partners started an asset creation project, targeting 130 families with conditional food transfers, trainings, and seed and tool distributions. There is a pressing need to engage in activities that can protect livelihood assets, promote self-reliance and resilience, and address the needs of young people (who make up over 60 per cent of the target population). To make sure assistance reaches the most vulnerable, the sector will continue developing vulnerability-based targeting strategies.



## Health & Nutrition

Improving access to quality healthcare, reducing the spread of communicable diseases and decreasing child mortality rates will remain a priority in both Luanda and Lunda Norte. As such, joint advocacy for the inclusion of refugees into the national health system will be undertaken. Additionally, Health and Nutrition Partners will work to facilitate access to mental health services and integrated prevention and management of non-communicable diseases.

Partners will continue efforts to improve the prevention of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia, and to strengthen the effective treatment of acute and severe malnutrition. Special attention will also be given to the provision of up-to-date food security and nutrition information and analysis through Joint Assessment Missions and Standard Expand Nutrition Survey, to enable needs-based programming.

Finally, Partners will work to improve access to comprehensive services for reproductive health and maternal and newborn care. The emphasis will be on reducing HIV transmission through protection- and rights-based approaches, with the goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission.



## Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)

In 2023, livelihood initiatives will remain a priority in Luanda and Lunda Norte. In Lôvua settlement, Livelihoods and Resilience Partners will continue implementing a "graduation approach" with a focus on integrated and mixed farming (including crops, livestock, poultry, and fishery). The following projects will be implemented: promotion of production of biogas as a "green" energy source; improvements in irrigation systems and establishment of communal irrigation schemes; support for market development and financial inclusion; and provision of business training and start-up kits for small- and medium-enterprise development. Finally, tree planting will continue to take place to counteract deforestation due to harmful coping practices.

Refugees from the DRC living in Luanda and other urban areas will receive technical and vocational training from local training institutions and will be linked to employment opportunities after graduation. Entrepreneurship development will be supported through business training and the provision of start-up capital. At the same time, Partners will continue liaising with the Government and other stakeholders for the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees in national plans, projects, and activities.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

In 2023, Shelter Partners will offer support for refugees living in Lôvua settlement through improvements in settlement infrastructure. To provide refugees with the skills needed to build transitional shelters and reduce dependence on support from humanitarian actors and the host community, capacity-building and training activities will be provided. Partners will also offer training activities on construction skills and promote cash-for-work programmes for the building of public infrastructure, which will support refugees in starting their own businesses.



To maintain the water supply at Lôvua settlement at current standards, more investment will be needed for the procurement of backup diesel generators for solar-powered water pumps, which are disrupted during the rainy season due to cloud covers (in the long term, as funds to drill additional solar-powered boreholes become available, these generators will be phased out to reduce the carbon footprint). Concurrently, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Partners will work to support rainwater harvesting projects, taking advantage of the long rainy season. As part of the response, the construction of transitional latrines and bathing shelters will be bolstered, and the building of ablution structures in the health clinic and the market are expected to be completed. Finally, awareness-raising activities and hygiene campaigns aimed at preventing the transmission of water-borne diseases will be continued.



Three refugee siblings from the DRC participate in the celebrations of the International Day of the African Child at the Refugee Centre in Bairro Popular, Luanda, Angola. © UNHCR/Manuel Mbunga

## Country cross-cutting response priorities



### Accountability to affected populations

In Angola, different mechanisms to ensure accountability to affected populations are in place, and all are expected to be maintained in 2023. The protection helpline in Luanda and Lôvua settlements will continue to operate 24/7 to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers can address their concerns at any time. Additionally, RRP Partners will preserve the complaint and feedback mechanisms currently available in the settlement in Lunda Norte and in two community centres in Luanda. Finally, the bulk SMS messaging system introduced in 2022 to improve communication with refugees and asylum-seekers will continue to function; through this initiative, information about different activities, including food and non-food items distribution, as well as awareness-raising messages, are sent directly to registered mobile phones.



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

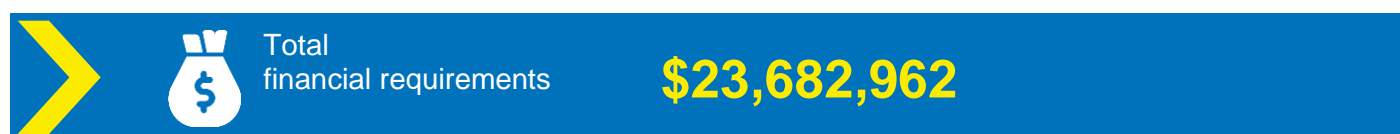
In 2023, training on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) with RRP Partners' staff and national and provincial authorities will continue to be carried out. The PSEA working group, comprised at the national level of UN Agencies and other stakeholders, has formulated a strategy and a 2023 country-level work plan that are currently being implemented; more Partners involved in the refugee response will be invited to join these efforts.

## Partnership and coordination

In Angola, a total of eight partners take part in the DRC Regional RRP, including four UN agencies, two international NGOs, and two national NGOs. The coordination mechanisms in place include sector meetings and consultations with national and provincial authorities, refugee community leaders, and UN agencies.

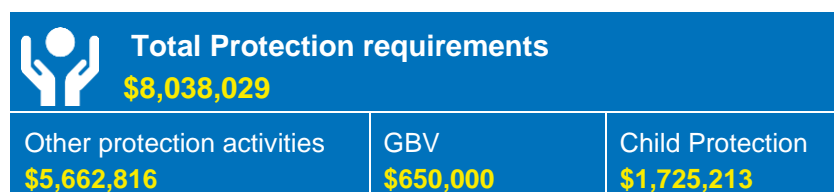
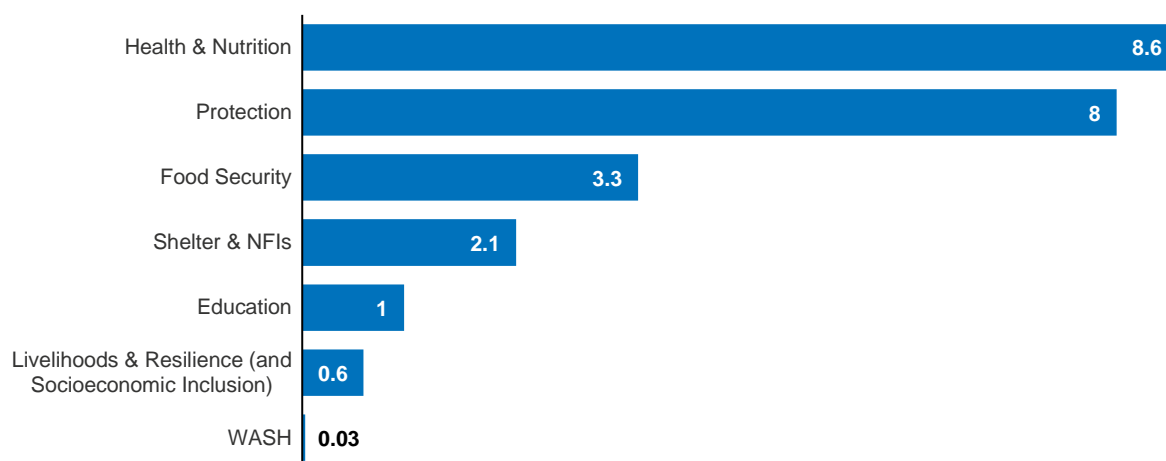
UNHCR will continue to coordinate the response in Angola in close collaboration with the Government through the Ministry of Interior, the Service for Migrations and Foreigners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and the MASFAMU. RRP Partners will also continue to work closely with provincial and municipal authorities, including the Municipality of Lôvua.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



## Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



## Budget by partner type



## Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	750,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	810,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	18,178,820
World Food Programme (WFP)	3,271,842
<b>International NGOs</b>	
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	220,000
World Vision International (WVI)	240,000
<b>National NGOs</b>	
Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP)	25,000
Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola (IEIA)	187,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,682,962</b>

# Burundi planned response



**115,000**

Projected refugee population



**22,000**

Assisted host community members



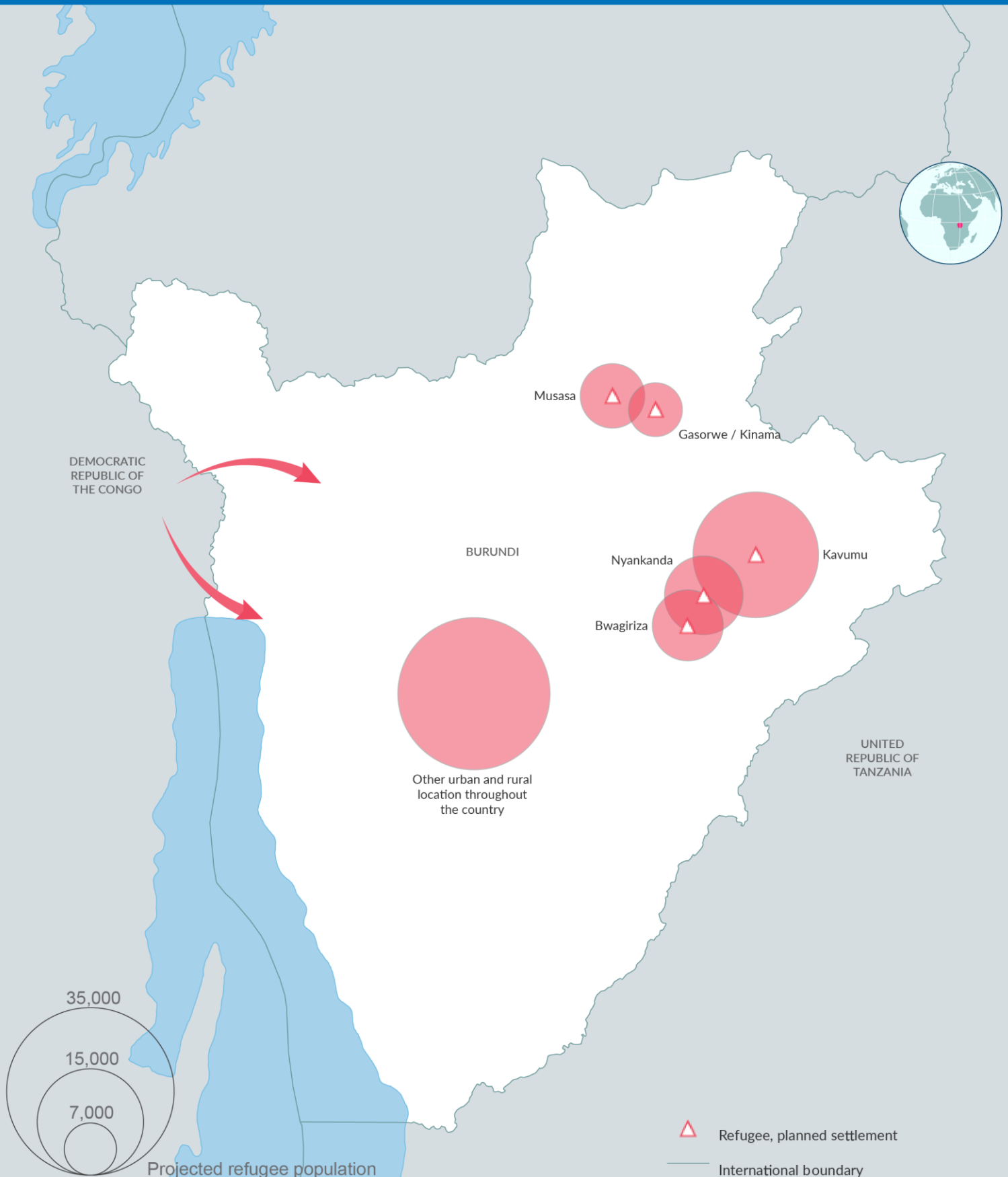
**55.6M**

Total financial requirements



**9**

Partners involved



Projected refugee population

△ Refugee, planned settlement

— International boundary



## Current situation

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### Situation overview

As of the end of November 2022, Burundi hosted 87,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).<sup>8</sup> About 37 per cent of these refugees live in urban areas, while the remaining majority live in five refugee camps located in rural areas. The country has also received large numbers of Burundian returnees from the region and beyond in the past years: between 2017 and 2022, over 256,700 Burundians returned home from asylum countries.<sup>9</sup> Continued instability in the eastern provinces of the DRC and the planned 2023 DRC elections could result in a significant influx of refugees and asylum-seekers to Burundi, expecting the total refugee population in the country to be 115,000 by the end of 2023.

In 2023, the overall political and security situation in Burundi is likely to remain stable, and the country will likely continue to be negatively impacted by inflation due to the shortage and increased prices of fuel, food, and other basic commodities. Burundi has a population of approximately 11.8 million people, 51 per cent of whom are women. Of this total, about 90 per cent live in rural areas and subsist on agriculture.

The 2022 Global Hunger Index classifies the hunger situation in Burundi as alarming, with more than 50 per cent of the population chronically food insecure. The August 2022 Integrated Phase Classification analysis indicates that 1.4 million people (12 per cent of the population) are in a situation of acute food insecurity, and 3.3 million people (26 per cent of the population) are categorized as under stress, bringing the total number of people at risk of facing acute food insecurity to 4.7 million. The main factors behind the food insecurity identified in this analysis are recurrent climatic hazards, displacement, intense repatriation flows, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the war in Ukraine in a context of low resilience.

In light of the economic situation, the trend of refugees moving from urban areas to refugee camps is likely to persist, prompted by food insecurity and by families' inability to afford rent and school fees and access healthcare. Within refugee-hosting areas, host communities face specific challenges and often require extended support from the Government and Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners to meet their basic needs.

In April 2021, the Government of Burundi launched the National Programme for the Capitalization of Peace, Social Stability, and the Promotion of Economic Growth (PNCP). This initiative aims to foster the development of rural areas and make Burundi an emerging regional power by 2025. The PNCP is expected to address issues related to governance, climate change, youth and women's empowerment, human rights, and inclusivity in development approaches and national planning, guided by the principle of "no one left behind". In line with the PNCP and anchored in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the UN Country Team has established its priorities as promoting economic transformation and improving governance for inclusive growth.

In 2021, the Government also ratified a new migration legislation, repealing the 2008 Asylum Law. The new law categorizes refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people as part of the larger group of foreigners, which includes migrants. Although this categorization is likely to jeopardize access to asylum, the Government has made commitments to promoting refugee and host community self-reliance, guaranteeing refugee freedom of movement, eradicating statelessness, and reducing the impacts of climate change.

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<sup>8</sup> As of November 2022, there were 88,300 refugees and asylum-seekers in Burundi, mainly coming from the DRC. Additionally, there were more than 85,000 Burundian internally displaced persons within the country.

<sup>9</sup> <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/84929>

RRP Partners in Burundi plan to assist 115,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC throughout 2023 – 51 per cent of the target population are women and girls, 49 per cent are men and boys, 55 per cent are children, and 15 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, Partners will also aim to assist 22,000 members of the host community.



Refugee women at the Women's Centre in Nyakanda refugee camp, Burundi, enjoy working on handicrafts together. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

### **Comprehensive response to gender-based violence**

RRP Partners are working in close cooperation to provide a comprehensive response to gender-based violence (GBV).

Partners coordinate to offer psychosocial support and specialized mental health care to survivors of GBV, legal aid to those who wish to file charges against a perpetrator, and awareness campaigns.

## **Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks**

A new law on migration was promulgated in 2021, categorizing asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons as migrants. Due to this categorization, the legislation does not present specific rulings safeguarding the rights of these populations. It is important to note, however, that at UNHCR's High-Level Officials Meeting in December 2021, the Government announced pledges to the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) that include: promoting refugee and host community self-reliance; guaranteeing refugee freedom of movement; eradicating statelessness; and reducing the impacts of climate change on displaced and host populations. Globally, donors, UN Agencies, NGOs, and private sector actors have also made a total of 12 pledges that could benefit refugees and Burundians. As such, RRP Partners, in collaboration with development agencies, will continue to advocate for freedom of movement and other key refugee rights, in line with national legal provisions and the [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) commitments.

Many cases of gender-based violence in refugee camps go unreported due to fear of reprisal, limited access to justice, stigma and discrimination, and a culture of impunity. The risk of incidence of GBV is elevated in settlements by the lack of public lighting, shelter, and privacy in communal facilities and in urban areas by refugees' low socioeconomic status. Additionally, the limited access to formal and informal justice mechanisms afforded to refugees

and asylum-seekers by their status compounds their vulnerability to incidents of violence, as do barriers related to cultural attitudes and behaviours around gender.

Refugee children, who account for 55 per cent of the total refugee population, face numerous protection risks, with an average of 600 documented cases of child abuse and exploitation per year, according to 2022 reports. Separated children, who are registered in greater numbers than unaccompanied children, are particularly vulnerable.

The Education sector is facing several challenges that expose young refugees to protection vulnerabilities. Poor infrastructure is a major issue, with some schools having, on average, 65 students per classroom. School attendance by girls is minimal, and the distribution of hygiene kits is insufficient. The lack of tertiary education prospects for refugees also leads to a high incidence of school evasion. RRP Partners report occurrences of child protection violations on a regular basis, including incidents of sexual violence and psychological abuse and instances of vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. Weaknesses in the child protection legal framework often create obstacles to an adequate response to these cases.

Freedom of movement continues to be a challenge for refugees. To leave camp areas, refugees are required to get exit permits, which are increasingly difficult to obtain. Refugees moving without such permits are subject to arrest and detention. Camp-based refugees also have very limited opportunities for income generation, and farming land is mostly unavailable. When coupled with restrictions on movement, this context makes them prone to dependence on food assistance and exposes them to protection vulnerabilities.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

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The political and security situation in Burundi is expected to remain stable and conducive for activities in 2023. However, the protection environment will be, in large part, determined by the implementation of the new immigration law governing issues of displacement, asylum, and migration. Prospects for local integration are expected to be limited, despite political goodwill and the inclusion of refugees in the national education system.

RRP Partners, emphasizing a humanitarian-development approach to response, have intensified activities and will continue to prioritize strategic partnerships with development actors, with the goal of bolstering the inclusion of refugees into national systems. Addressing gender-based violence will also remain a key activity, with projects focusing on providing psychosocial support, counselling, and legal aid to survivors and on conducting awareness-raising with communities on issues of gender inequality. Additionally, there will be inter-agency efforts geared towards supporting community mechanisms for child protection and strengthening the coordination between Child Protection, GBV, and Education working groups and relevant government ministries.

The response in Burundi has been chronically underfunded, and the level of humanitarian assistance is expected to shrink further in 2023. Coupled with the recent trend of movement of refugees from urban areas to camps, caused by economic constraints, this lack of funding will likely result in cuts on food assistance.

The eight GCR pledges made by the Government in 2021, alongside the recent lifting of sanctions by the United States of America and the European Union, present a unique opportunity to advance Partners' advocacy priorities in 2023, including on issues related to freedom of movement and the inclusion of the refugee population into national systems and planning. In line with GCR objectives and the [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#), Partners will continue to advocate for the implementation of GRF commitments and will emphasize a participatory protection approach to promote refugee community self-management, improved livelihoods, access to financial services, and vocational training.

With limited prospects for voluntary repatriation and local integration, resettlement remains the most viable and integral durable solution for eligible refugees. It is projected that there will be some 18,500 refugees in need of resettlement in 2023. In 2022, 3,600 individuals were submitted for resettlement to the United States and 130 to Canada, as per the established quotas. Based on the United States of America's multi-year resettlement programme,



a similar quota is expected to be allocated to Burundi in 2023. RRP Partners will continue to advocate for an increased quota from the United States and other resettlement countries, such as Canada, Australia, and Sweden, in order to close the gap between needs and availability.

Additionally, Partners will continue to pursue safe and regulated alternative solutions, including complementary pathways for admission, that promote refugee self-reliance and supplement resettlement efforts by providing lawful stay in a third country where their international protection needs are met. Efforts to foster family reunification, humanitarian corridors, and education and labour mobility programmes for eligible refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC will be undertaken alongside stakeholders. Finally, focus group discussions with refugees and advocacy for more opportunities will be prioritized in 2023.

## Country strategic objectives

### Enhance the protection response

RRP Partners will continue to conduct border-monitoring activities and to ensure that new arrivals are registered and that refugee status determination is performed according to international protection standards and age-, gender- and diversity sensitivity. Appropriate services will be provided to refugees in need of legal assistance, children at risk, and gender-based violence survivors, and referral and assistance mechanisms for people with specific needs, including people with disabilities and those living with HIV, will be established. Efforts will be made to identify unaccompanied and separated children and ensure that best interests determination is conducted. All children under 12 months will be provided with birth certificates. Equal (50 per cent) women's representation in refugee leadership and management structures will be promoted and advocated for.

### Continue implementation of multi-sector assistance

Investments in camp infrastructure, including in the areas of education, health, nutrition, and sanitation, will be continued. Partners will conduct food distributions and post-distribution monitoring, providing supplementary nutrition where needed. To promote access to primary and secondary education, classrooms will be built and rehabilitated, and investments will be made in training teachers. Water,

sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities will involve the provision of additional supplies and equipment to camp health facilities, improvement of quality and availability of WASH services, and promotion of access to drinkable water, bathing facilities, and sanitation, as well as to hygiene and dignity kits. Emphasis will be given to cash assistance in lieu of non-food items (NFI), to promote refugee autonomy.

### Promote self-reliance and social cohesion

RRP Partners will aim to develop and promote income-generating activities and support refugees with training and apprenticeships. The exploration of underutilized natural resources (lowlands, marsh, waste, etc.) will be promoted as a tool to help refugees and host communities achieve self-reliance in areas of food security, energy production, and environmental conservation. Additionally, partners will support interventions targeting both refugee and host communities, including livelihood initiatives and solar energy and tree-planting projects in camps.

### Improve access to durable solutions

Concerted efforts to advance refugee integration through improvements in self-reliance and economic inclusion will remain a priority. Resettlement and complementary pathways also remain important solutions for the most vulnerable refugees and will be pursued where opportunities exist.



## Sectoral responses

### Protection

In 2023, Protection Partners will continue to place the protection of refugees in Burundi at the centre of the response. Inter-agency efforts will be made to ensure community engagement and capacity-building initiatives are undertaken. Emphasis will be put on strengthening collaboration with authorities to improve access to legal and administrative services.

The categorization of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people as migrants, in accordance with the migration law promulgated in 2021, has created concerns about the legal protection of these groups. Partners will engage in advocacy efforts to safeguard the protection space for refugees and to ensure that the implementation of the new law is aligned with international instruments for refugee protection.

Lastly, refugees are required to possess hard-to-obtain exit permits to leave camp areas; those without this documentation are exposed to arrest and arbitrary detention. Thus, Partners will continue to advocate for freedom of movement for refugees, in line with national legal provisions and Burundi's GRF pledges.

### Child Protection Sub-Sector

The Child Protection sub-sector will continue to improve best interests procedure and child protection case management to support children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children. This includes enhancing community monitoring, referrals to services and improving coordination with local caseworkers, communal social workers, and protection focal points. In support of unaccompanied and separated children, Child Protection Partners will strengthen alternative care arrangements and family tracing and reunification. Additionally, Partners will ensure that refugees are provided with birth certificates and other legal documents. Furthermore, Partners will focus on supporting community child protection mechanisms and strengthening coordination between the Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, and Education working groups and relevant government ministries in 2023.

### Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

In 2023, Gender-Based Violence Partners will improve the quality, inclusiveness, and accessibility of services for survivors of GBV and will undertake prevention activities, community campaigns, and risk mitigation assessments. Particular efforts will be made to engage men in the response by sharing contextually- and culturally-appropriate messages about GBV awareness, services, and referral mechanisms. Concurrently, Partners will strive to expand socioeconomic empowerment programmes for women and girls, as they are often disadvantaged due to cultural norms. Focus on combating these challenges will require working alongside relevant refugee committees. Particular attention will be placed on the neighbourhood-specific risks identified in a GBV partner's [violence mapping exercise](#) conducted in November 2021. Partners will also continue to provide survivors with psychosocial support, counselling, legal aid, and gender inequality awareness-raising activities.

### Education

Population growth and the constant flow of new arrivals put a strain on infrastructure, and refugees in the five camps in Burundi often attend schools with dilapidated and crowded classrooms. Students are taught using the DRC curriculum, which leaves refugees isolated from the national education system. Inevitably, using a curriculum that is different from the one adopted by Burundi requires significant resources to obtain learning materials; furthermore, finding refugee teachers who are fully trained and understand the DRC curriculum is often a challenge, as they are few and mostly unavailable. Finally, while national examinations for primary school students are held in refugee camps, secondary school students require Education Partners' assistance to sit exams in authorized centres in Bujumbura.

To advance the implementation of the GRF pledge for refugee inclusion in national education systems, Partners have intensified advocacy efforts and are providing technical and financial support to the Burundian Ministry of Education for the development of a refugee inclusion strategy. The implementation of this strategy will require significant additional investment from both development and humanitarian stakeholders.



## Food Security

Assistance, in the form of rations and cash, remains the main source of food for most camp-based households. Any change in the level of food assistance delivered, especially in the context of movement restriction in camps, is likely to have a direct impact on the food security of refugee families and on the health of the population.

In 2023, Food Security Partners will intensify efforts to manage and prevent malnutrition and to treat diseases that aggravate this condition, in compliance with national protocols. Nutritional supplementation for pregnant and lactating women and children under five, as well as for people living with HIV/AIDS, will be a major priority in refugee camps. Emphasis will be placed on growth monitoring systems, community screening, reduction of instances of low birth weight, and prenatal supplementation.



## Health & Nutrition

The Health and Nutrition Partners will continue to strengthen health and nutrition education campaigns, with interventions focusing on the needs of refugees and host communities. Refugees and Burundians have free access to primary and secondary healthcare through health facilities and services in the camps; for tertiary healthcare, Partners provide referrals. In 2023, Partners will address poor lighting in facilities and gaps in access to mental health and psychosocial support services.

Unlike refugees in camps, urban refugees do not have access to free healthcare for children under five and for pregnant women, as they are not eligible for the national health insurance scheme. Advocacy to include refugees in the national health system will remain a major priority. Together with Food Security Partners, efforts will be made to enhance Burundi's capacity to provide inclusive and gender-sensitive services to all acutely, severely, and moderately malnourished children under five years. Finally, there will also be targeted interventions to strengthen COVID-19 prevention and response efforts.



## Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)

Given movement restrictions for refugees and the limited availability of agricultural land in camps, Livelihoods and Resilience Partners will continue making efforts to support alternative livelihoods, promote self-reliance, and improve household resilience, with special attention given to women and young people. Activities will include quick-impact projects (QIPs) and labour-intensive community and cash-for-work programmes. The most vulnerable households will be supported in establishing income-generating activities through skills- and knowledge-building projects and facilitated access to financial resources. In line with broader national social protection policies and programmes, short-term livelihood-stabilization activities focusing on cultivating safety nets will be provided. Opportunities for "green" and climate-resilient livelihoods, as well as for the introduction of digital solutions where relevant, will be explored and implemented.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

The five refugee camps in Burundi are at full capacity: infrastructure is run down, there is a high risk of shelter collapse, and community structures are poor. Additionally, refugees face major challenges in accessing latrines, bathrooms, and related core relief items. As a result, many are forced to adopt unsafe behaviours outside designated facilities, which often leads to water contamination and infection and disease outbreaks. In urban settings, access to housing is also limited.

The Government has allocated land for the building of a sixth camp, and Shelter and NFI Partners need urgent funds to start construction. In 2023, Partners will also use available funds to prioritize the distribution of female hygiene kits, rehabilitate individual shelters, and carry out awareness-raising campaigns within the camps to promote best hygiene practices.



*Cadet Kavugwa, a baker and refugee from the DRC in Burundi, unloads freshly baked bread from his earthen oven as his employees and trainees prepare dough for the next batch to go into the oven. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno*

## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

WASH Partners will continue to focus on improving the quality and sustainability of WASH solutions while enhancing community engagement and emphasizing considerations of gender and inclusion. Partners will prioritize the provision of hygiene items, including soap, water containers, and menstrual hygiene materials. Inter-agency efforts will be made to improve existing latrines, increasing their durability and quality, ensuring safety and privacy, and addressing the specific needs of women and girls, people with disabilities, and older people in these spaces. Over many years, Partners have attempted to maintain structures despite low operational budgets. Thus, the replacement of spaces and resources that can no longer be repaired is long overdue. Funding is required for urgent interventions, including replacing dilapidated water and sanitation infrastructures in several refugee locations.

## Country cross-cutting response priorities



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is a priority for RRP Partners, and a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) applies to all Partners, as well as implementing partners. Mechanisms for PSEA, including proper monitoring of SEA situations, established reporting channels, appropriate response for SEA victims, as well as capacity-building for all partners involved in the refugee response, will continue to be reinforced in 2023.



### Age, gender, and diversity

In 2023, partners will promote an age, gender, and diversity approach in operational activities within refugee communities. This will include: advocating with relevant authorities to ensure that laws, policies, and administrative procedures for managing refugees are sensitive to the specific risks faced by women, girls, and other marginalized groups and supporting education authorities, partners, and communities in addressing the root causes of school evasion; working with partners to provide specialized services to survivors of gender-based violence while strengthening and expanding early-warning and referral systems. Furthermore, the approach will seek to advocate with development actors to continue work in the areas of self-reliance, education, and environment in order to address socioeconomic inequalities among refugee groups; and advocate for refugees with disabilities to have access to special education and improve school infrastructures in refugee camps to accommodate children with physical disabilities. In addition, training refugee representatives on the identification of and support to people with specific needs at the community level; advocating for international protection and solutions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) refugees; promoting accountability to affected populations while strengthening and expanding existing communication channels and establishing new ones; and ensuring community engagement through an age, gender, disability, and diversity lens, to obtain a first-hand understanding of the diverse perspectives, priorities, risks, needs, capacities is foreseen.

## Partnership and coordination

The RRP in Burundi is led by UNHCR in close collaboration with the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers, acting under the Ministry of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security. In 2023, RRP Partners will continue to engage the Government of Burundi, the protection sector, and working groups in identifying needs, priorities, achievements, and gaps through varied analytical exercises and monitoring frameworks.

Provincial, communal, and local authorities will be more vigorously involved in programming efforts and will receive the necessary capacity-building. Monthly coordination meetings in camps and urban areas, which include refugee leaders and representatives, will continue to ensure streamlined and collaborative approaches between UN Agencies, NGOs, and other humanitarian and development actors.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



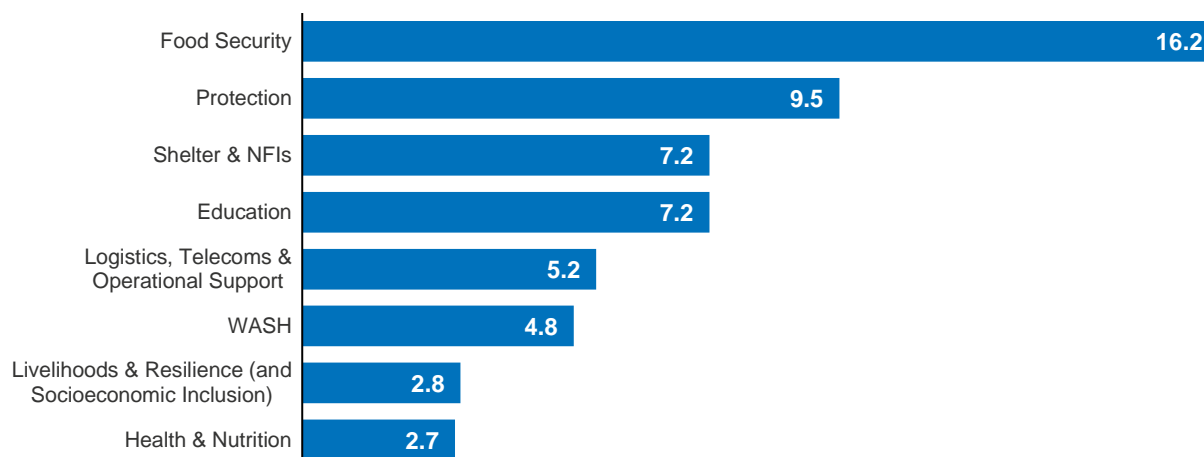
Total  
financial requirements


**\$55,643,762**



## Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



 <b>Total Protection requirements</b> <b>\$9,531,622</b>		
Other protection activities <b>\$7,735,339</b>	GBV <b>\$1,430,283</b>	Child Protection <b>\$366,000</b>

 <b>Total cash assistance requirements</b> <b>\$14,470,549</b>		
Protection <b>\$100,000</b>	Food Security <b>\$8,087,631</b>	Livelihoods & Resilience <b>\$1,000,000</b>

## Budget by partner type

<b>9</b>  <b>Partners involved</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>UN Agencies</b> <b>\$51,568,762</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>International NGOs</b> <b>\$4,075,000</b>
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## Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	35,243,500
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	150,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	16,175,262
<b>International NGOs</b>	
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	140,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	300,000
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	550,000
Save the Children International (SCI)	410,000
WeWorld-GVC	235,000
World Vision International (WVI)	2,440,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,643,762</b>

# Republic of the Congo planned response



29,400

Targeted refugee population



4,700

Targeted host community members



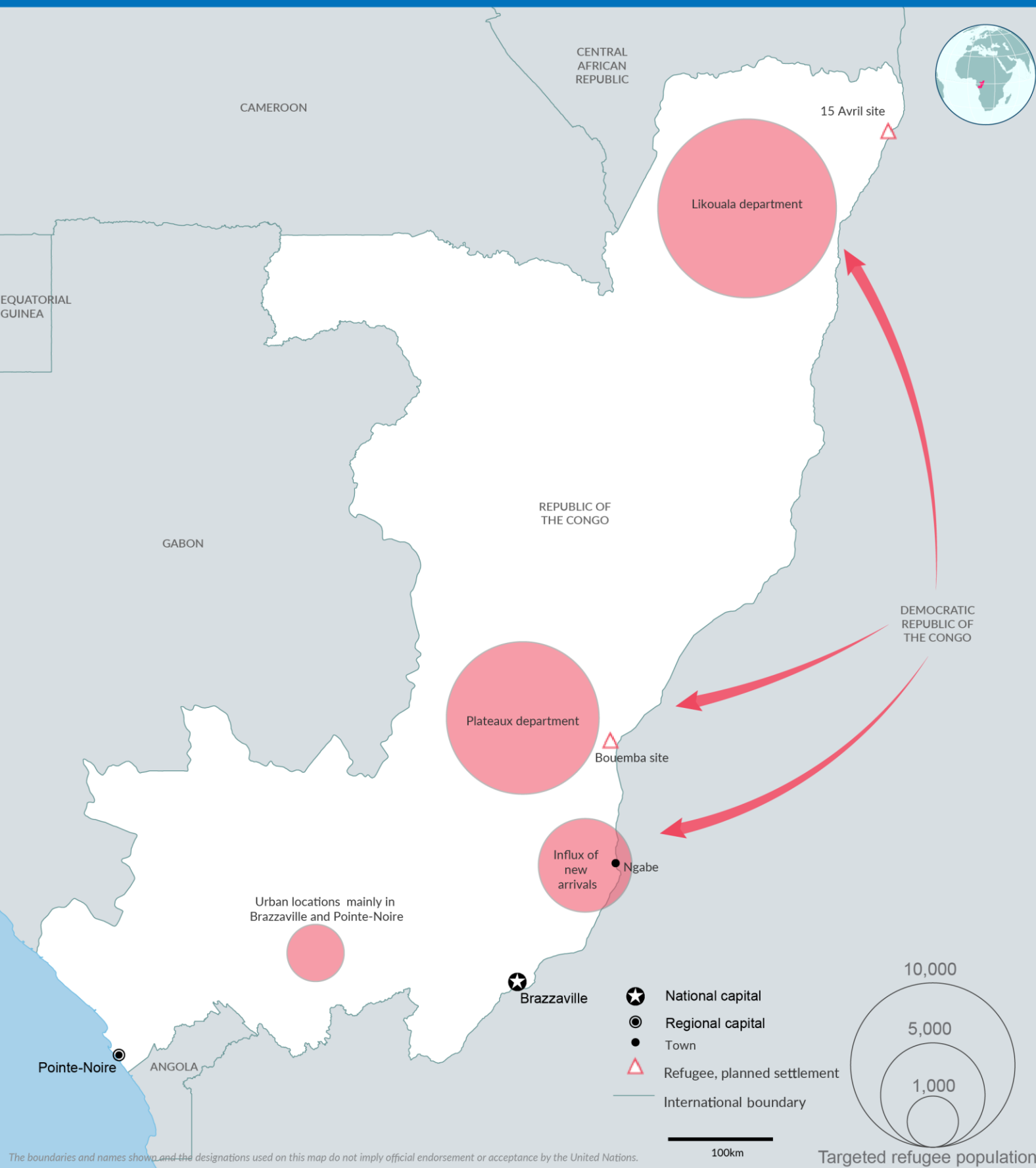
18.7M

Total financial requirements



6

Partners involved



## Current situation

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### Situation overview

As of the end of November 2022, the Republic of the Congo (Congo) hosted 26,400 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – 12,200 refugees and 14,200 asylum-seekers pending claim adjudication, including 4,200 new arrivals.<sup>10</sup> Ninety-five per cent of this population live in remote rural locations, including in the northern department of Likouala and Plateaux department. Five per cent live in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, cities that are home to more than half of Congo's population. While no major influxes are forecast for 2023, continued instability in the DRC, in particular in Kwamouth and Yumbi, and tensions arising from the planned elections can lead to further waves of new arrivals.

In December 2018, an outbreak of violence in Yumbi, Mai-Ndombe province in the DRC, led some 8,800 asylum-seekers to flee to Plateaux, where they have since been living. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners are advocating for the Government to recognize this group as *prima facie* refugees and issue them documents. In late July 2022, further instability in Mai-Ndombe, this time in Kwamouth, on the eastern bank of the Congo River, caused an additional influx of asylum-seekers, with 4,200 people having sought protection in Ngabé, Mpouya, and Inié districts, Plateaux and Pool departments, by 2 December 2022. A response plan was developed, in collaboration with the National Refugee Assistance Committee (CNAR) and local authorities, to meet their most urgent needs.

The protection environment in the Congo is favourable. In September 2021, the Government promulgated a comprehensive asylum legislation ([Law 41-2021](#)), establishing the right of asylum and refugee status and strengthening the legal protection framework for refugees. Additionally, the Congo has been at the forefront of implementing [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) pledges, showing commitment to promoting the socioeconomic integration of refugees and improving basic social services in host communities through the national development policy<sup>11</sup>. Prospects for local integration are further reinforced by inclusion initiatives such as the [Lisungi Project](#), a set of World Bank-financed governmental social safety nets which was rolled out in Likouala in 2021 and will expand to Plateaux.

Refugees and host community members face challenges in terms of overstretched services and limited economic opportunities. This situation was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and a long-lasting economic crisis in the Congo. RRP Partners will continue to work in collaboration with the Government for the effective integration of refugees and to respond to refugees' and asylum-seekers' fundamental needs through protection and assistance, while simultaneously focusing their activities on promoting empowerment and self-reliance.

RRP Partners in the Congo plan to assist 29,400 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC in 2023, 50 per cent of whom are women and girls, 50 per cent are men and boys, 42 per cent are children, and 15 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, Partners will also aim to assist 4,700 members of the host community.

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<sup>10</sup> As of November 2022, there were 59,500 refugees and asylum-seekers in the Republic of the Congo, mainly coming from the Central African Republic, the DRC and Rwanda. Additionally, there were 26,900 internally displaced persons who fled the violence occurring during the 2016 presidential elections.

<sup>11</sup> 2017 Letter of Development Policy no. 609.17 / MPSIR / CAB.



RRP Partners supporting the Government of the Republic of the Congo with the pre-registration of newly-arrived asylum-seekers, who fled intercommunal violence in the DRC, along the Congo River in Ngabé in September 2022. © UNHCR/Ibrahima Diane

## Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks

Refugees enjoy a largely favourable protection environment in the Congo, with freedom of movement, access to the justice system and other basic services, such as healthcare and education, and relatively unrestricted employment rights. However, refugee status determination (RSD), *prima facie* recognition, and documentation remain key protection risks; of particular concern is the situation of 8,800 asylum-seekers in Plateaux department and of 4,200 people who fled ethnic clashes in Mai-Ndombé in 2022, who have not yet been recognized as refugees nor given documentation.

Many refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC continue to urgently need dedicated assistance, especially those lacking proper documentation and those with specific protection needs, such as women at risk, older people, single parents, children at risk including separated and unaccompanied children, people with disabilities, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, and people with chronic medical conditions. There is also a need to continue to provide multi-sectoral assistance, notably for rural refugees who, like their host communities, lack basic necessities and services, including access to shelter, hygiene and sanitation, primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive healthcare, and education.

Many refugees from the DRC remain reliant on food assistance due to limited access to socioeconomic opportunities, especially in hard-to-reach areas. In addition, the 2022 new arrivals from Mai-Ndombe are not receiving food distributions. At the same time, while about 33 per cent of refugee adults are engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishery, 41 per cent report no economic occupation. Refugees need increased support to develop livelihoods and other income-generating initiatives to alleviate their reliance on assistance and gradually transition towards food self-sufficiency. Additionally, climate change-related vulnerabilities require close attention, as refugees and asylum-seekers are mostly located in rural areas that are prone to recurring periods of flooding.

Local integration remains the primary durable solution for refugees in the Congo. Voluntary repatriation to the DRC is expected to occur on a small scale in 2023, with around 1,100 voluntary returns throughout the year. Resettlement remains a solution available only to a very limited number of vulnerable refugees, including women, children, and



those in urgent need of protection. Finally, complementary pathways, offering avenues to third countries through family reunification, humanitarian visas, employment, vocational training, and education opportunities, are also limited.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

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In line with the four regional strategic objectives envisioned for 2023, RRP Partners will focus on strengthening the protection environment in the Congo by liaising with the Government to ensure access to documentation and asylum procedures for all asylum-seekers from the DRC and to promote the *prima facie* recognition — under the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention — of the 8,800 asylum-seekers in Plateaux department who have fled the DRC in 2018 and of the around 4,200 newly-arrived asylum-seekers in Ngabé, Mpouya, and Inié districts. Case management systems will continue to be strengthened to support child protection activities, with special attention given to 80 unaccompanied or separated children and 94 at-risk children; gender-based violence prevention and response for around 130 GBV survivors, and; assistance to more than 2,400 people with specific needs.

Providing multi-sector assistance and advocating for refugee inclusion into national systems will also continue to be priorities. Partners will work to achieve and maintain minimum standards of multi-sector assistance provision for refugees and host communities, especially in Plateaux department, where an alternative to camp policy has been implemented over the past year and a half to facilitate refugee integration (with particular emphasis given to Bouémba and surrounding villages, where access to basic socioeconomic services, healthcare, and education remains a significant challenge). Emergency assistance will be provided to around 4,200 newly-arrived asylum-seekers in Ngabé, Mpouya, and Inié. Additionally, RRP Partners will anchor activities and advocacy efforts in the "no one left behind" principle and work to strengthen local basic services alongside national and local authorities and according to a community-based approach, to ensure synergies and positive outputs to the entire community.

To promote self-reliance and social cohesion, Partners will emphasize the gradual reduction of dependence on humanitarian assistance and reinforce efforts towards socioeconomic inclusion and access to rights. In Plateaux department, where seasonal floods have had a significant impact on refugees and host communities, Partners will seek to mitigate climate change-related environmental impacts, such as soil erosion and crop and shelter destruction, and enhance climate resilience through joint projects. Additionally, the Lisungi social safety nets project, funded by the World Bank, will be extended to Plateaux, where refugees are hosted. The initiative will provide cash for income-generating activities and cash transfers conditional on children's school attendance and regular health check-ups based on vulnerability criteria, with the goal of improving futures.

Local integration remains the most accessible durable solution for refugees in the Congo. As such, RRP Partners will continue to advocate for refugees to be included in development projects that promote resilience. Advocacy for *prima facie* recognition, RSD, and the development and implementation of sound normative frameworks that stipulate and protect integration-related rights and strengthen the search for durable solutions, in line with the Government's 2017 Letter of Development Policy and law 41-2021, will also be prioritized. Finally, Partners will provide support to eligible refugees with naturalization processes when possible.

Other durable solutions pathways are also envisioned for 2023. Voluntary repatriation to the DRC is expected to resume on a small scale, with up to 1,100 individuals returning to areas where security conditions are conducive to sustainable reintegration. Furthermore, while more than 1,200 refugees (640 families) from the DRC are in need of resettlement, limited quotas and human resources hinder the ability to process cases.

## Country strategic objectives

### Ensure protection and access to essential services through inclusion into all national systems

Taking advantage of the favourable protection environment and progressive legislation, RRP Partners will promote the implementation of RSD procedures and *prima facie* recognition, with a goal of reducing the backlog of over 14,000 asylum-seekers awaiting adjudication for their cases. In light of the relatively high rejection rate of RSD for asylum-seekers from the DRC, advocating for the timely issuance of decisions, improved case analysis, child-friendly procedures, and fair and efficient access to asylum procedures, including legal counselling, will remain key priorities.

Protection monitoring, especially of asylum-seekers living near border points along the Congo River, will continue to be essential to ensuring respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*. Additionally, to prevent statelessness, Partners will support the Government in emitting birth certificates. Lastly, as access to essential services remains challenging, especially for asylum-seekers, delivery of basic health, nutrition, food security, education, gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response, child protection services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services will be strengthened, in collaboration with national systems.

### Foster refugee empowerment and self-reliance to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance

Local integration, which is well underway in Congo, is conducive to refugees' socioeconomic empowerment and self-reliance, reducing dependence on humanitarian assistance. Emphasis will be given to development-oriented opportunities and adaptation to climate change that increase resilience, including income-generating activities, vocational training, financial inclusion, and access to education and safety nets (such as through the Lisungi project), in

collaboration with the Government, development actors, and the private sector. Social cohesion will be strengthened to bolster refugee inclusion within local communities; partners will promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities through the implementation of self-reliance and cohesion projects targeting both populations. A particular focus will be given to women as active enablers of peace. Due to many refugees' reliance on agriculture for subsistence, focus will be given to advocacy for land access and implementation of mixed farming projects, with the goal of expanding autonomous access to productive means. Refugee-hosting areas, particularly in Plateaux department, are prone to regular flooding and soil erosion, which often destroy houses and other property belonging to both host communities and refugees; thus, in 2023, preparedness and response measures will be developed to enhance climate resilience.

### Ensure access to durable solutions

Local integration remains the most viable durable solution in the Republic of the Congo. The Nationality Law provides for the naturalization of foreigners who have legally resided in the country for 10 years, who have married a Congolese citizen, or who were born in the Congo (under specific conditions). Thus, the provision of legal aid to refugees seeking naturalization will be planned for 2023.

RRP Partners will promote access to other durable solutions according to feasibility and refugees' aspirations. Resettlement to third countries will be facilitated for a limited number of the most vulnerable refugees. Complementary admission channels, such as family reunification, humanitarian visas, and employment or education opportunities, will be supported where applicable. Finally, voluntary repatriation to the DRC is expected to take place on a small scale, provided that security and stability conditions are met in the localities of return.

## Sectoral responses

### Protection

Protection Partners will complement government efforts to provide protection to refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC and prevent statelessness. Support to the CNAR for the issuance of ID cards and advocacy for the granting of temporary residence permits and for the *prima facie* refugee recognition of some 11,500 asylum-seekers in Plateaux and Pool departments will be prioritized. Differentiated case processing and other RSD management strategies, with emphasis on safeguarding the right to fair, efficient, and timely adjudication, will be promoted to address the backlog of 14,205 asylum-seekers awaiting a decision on their claims. Work with district authorities will be strengthened to facilitate registration and the issuance of birth certificates for newborn children of refugees from the DRC, reducing the risk of statelessness. Additionally, legal assistance for access to justice on administrative, civil, and criminal matters, as well as for naturalization purposes, will be provided to those in need.

### Child Protection Sub-Sector

To prevent and respond to protection child protection risks and ensure that child protection services are accessible to children at risk, Child Protection Partners will advocate for the protection of refugee children and bolster their inclusion into national systems, in line with the “no one left behind” principle and a community-based approach. Partners will continue supporting the Government in undertaking best interests procedures and strengthening family tracing, reunification and alternative care arrangements for separated and unaccompanied children. Partners will ensure child protection services are accessible to children with disabilities.

### Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Gender-Based Violence Partners, alongside the Government, will continue to provide equal and quality GBV services to survivors and promote resilience. Priority will be given to enhancing community-based GBV prevention and response mechanisms, in line with a holistic case management and a survivor-centred approach; and to building capacity for all stakeholders, including national authorities, community leaders, and GBV-management committees, on child protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Awareness-raising campaigns will be organized through community relays to build refugee and host communities’ knowledge of GBV risks, prevention, and response. Finally, the Government will be encouraged to set up a referral system for case management, deliver *ad hoc* support for the safe referral of GBV cases, ensure survivors’ access to psychosocial services, and provide legal aid and financial support for those filing complaints.

### Education

Education Partners will work to ensure that all children of primary school age – 4,000 children between five and 11 years old – have equal and inclusive access to the national education system and benefit from learning opportunities with qualified teachers and adequate materials, including desks, writing equipment, audio-visual technology, and playground facilities. To reduce shortages of spaces and qualified staff, overcrowding (particularly in rural areas), and school evasion, children will receive school kits and free school insurance coverage; targeted institutions’ resource capacities will be bolstered through financial incentives; allowances will be provided to non-government deployed teachers; and adequate educational materials will be supplied. Additionally, reducing opportunity inequalities between refugee and host community children and enabling the development of employability skills will be a priority.

Simultaneously to advocating with the Ministry of Secondary Education and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training for refugee inclusion and the equitable deployment of school teachers across the Congo, Partners will intensify efforts to engage development and private sector partners in raising the quality and availability of educational opportunities and vocational training for children and young people.



## Food Security

In-kind, cash-based, and hybrid food distributions continue to be insufficient for the subsistence of most refugees from the DRC residing in rural areas, places where resources and livelihood opportunities remain highly limited. Food Security Partners will strengthen coordination to deliver food items in a timely and effective manner, with special attention given to the newly-arrived asylum-seekers in Ngabé, Mpouya, and Inié districts and to an eventual expansion of food assistance to those residing in hard-to-reach areas in Plateaux department. The delivery of cash transfers to enable refugees to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements is dependent on funding availability.

Food distributions will be complemented by timely post-distribution monitoring, and nutritional supplementation will be offered for the most vulnerable, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five years old. These households will also benefit from efforts to promote understanding of nutrition, care practices, and diets that enhance their nutritional status. Finally, to reduce dependence on assistance, a gradual transition towards increased livelihood opportunities – particularly in fishery and agriculture – and food self-sufficiency will remain a priority.



## Health & Nutrition

Health and Nutrition Partners will work to enhance refugees' access to national primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare. While supplementing the national system, partners will focus on strengthening national capacity, especially in the northern departments, where health infrastructure and services are weak. The transition from full primary healthcare coverage for refugees to a participatory approach is being articulated to increase sustainability and encourage ownership. Healthcare sustainability funds and initiatives such as the Lisungi project, which supports the management of 17 health centres and offers free consultations and medicine to vulnerable populations in Likouala, will also be supported. An *ad hoc* mechanism for referrals to secondary and tertiary healthcare (especially in urban settings, where medical capacities are stronger) will remain available. Partners will continue collaborating with the Government to strengthen community-based prevention and response to infectious diseases through the implementation of an integrated disease surveillance system, with a special focus on border entry points along the Congo River. Preventive and curative healthcare to tackle HIV/AIDS transmission will be strengthened. Awareness-raising sessions in Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux and Pool departments will promote sexual and reproductive health resources. Finally, reducing acute malnutrition among children aged six to 59 months will take place through the reinforcement of a nutritional surveillance system and food supplementation.



## Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)

Through a community-based and integrated livelihoods approach, the Livelihoods sector aims to foster empowerment and social cohesion, improve living conditions for refugee and host communities, and bolster local integration. Livelihoods and Resilience Partners will continue to advocate for the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and their integration in development and climate change adaptation projects, to increase their self-sufficiency; emphasis will be given to expanding the Lisungi social safety nets project, which offers cash for income-generating activities and conditional cash transfers to asylum-seekers from the DRC living in Plateaux<sup>12</sup>. Enhancing socioeconomic self-reliance through inclusion will also require increased advocacy with local authorities for the allocation of additional farmland for refugees and for the provision of capacity-building and support for innovative income-generating projects and start-ups. Partners will ensure that activities include host community members to promote peaceful coexistence and the sharing of natural resources and boost a positive trickle-down effect.

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<sup>12</sup> "The Lisungi Experience," Global Compact for Refugees (website), 15 July 2022, <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/news-stories/lisungi-experience>





Ortense, a refugee from the DRC and recipient of the Lisungi grants, at her market stall in Bétou © UNHCR/Ibrahima Diane

### **Initiative: Lisungi project provides opportunities for refugees and host communities**

*In collaboration with the Government, an RRP Partner provides technical assistance for the implementation of the Lisungi project, an initiative funded by the World Bank. This flagship national social safety nets project supports vulnerable populations, including refugees from the DRC, by providing grants for income-generating activities and regular conditional cash transfers to strengthen access to education and health services. In 2021, the project was launched in Likouala department, benefiting both refugee and host communities. As of September 2022, 1,300 refugee households from the DRC were receiving regular cash transfers — 460 households for improved access to health and education services and 810 households for income-generating activities. The inclusion of refugees in the Lisungi project contributes to promoting resilience and social cohesion through local integration.*

## **Logistics, Telecoms & Operation Support**

Logistics Partners will continue to work to build up the logistics and coordination chain throughout the Congolese territory. To promote backups to cash assistance, which is susceptible to problems due to the unstable telephone network, storage capacities and warehouse management will be strengthened, especially in Bétou and Gamboma, Likouala department, where core relief items will be pre-positioned for quick emergency responses. Additionally, Partners will coordinate the supply of goods to hard-to-reach areas where non-food items (NFI) are unavailable. Communication and telecommunication platforms linking refugees, asylum-seekers, and host populations with protection and assistance monitoring and coordination units will be established.

Focus will be given to strengthening river transport and car fleets, enabling Partners involved in the refugee response to carry out protection and assistance activities during inclement weather. Shared experience and expertise will be leveraged in the administration of the supply chain for the management of health inputs. Finally, interventions will prioritize improving land and river communication infrastructure to facilitate trade; boosting the electricity supply by promoting sustainable energy; and supporting the protection and development of forest ecosystems.

## **Shelter and Non-Food Items**

In terms of shelter and renewable energy, efforts will be made to pursue risk-based programming and mitigate the impacts of climate change and emergencies. Shelter and NFI Partners will undertake the construction of new shelters, with a focus on the use of local materials, to offer improved and more resilient housing for people with specific needs. Shelters provided to refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities in Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool departments will help promote social cohesion. Furthermore, the promotion and use of energy-efficient stoves, solar lamps, and other alternative energy sources in the infrastructure will be a pillar of the response, and the sector will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion in national and international programmes for climate resilience and adaptation.

## **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

Priority will be given to ensuring inclusive access to WASH services. Efforts will focus on providing safe and equitable WASH services and increasing access to water for refugees and host communities in Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool departments, taking into account specific needs. So far, an average water supply of 16 litres per person per day has been achieved across all sites; thus, more water points are needed, particularly in Bouemba and Bouanga (Plateaux department). Menstrual hygiene management will be at the heart of all activities and will take into account refugees', asylum-seekers', and host communities' cultural preferences and feedback.

While moving towards solar-powered pumping is a goal, interventions will first focus on the rehabilitation of non-functional hand-pumps, promotion of single-family latrine ownership, strengthening of hygiene practices, and empowerment of refugees for the management of water and sanitation facilities. The establishment of a network to exchange and sell spare parts is necessary to enhance the operation and maintenance of hand pumps at the community level.

## **Country cross-cutting response priorities**

### **Accountability to affected populations**

Guided by the accountability to affected populations (AAP) principles, RRP Partners will strive to ensure the inclusive and direct participation of refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the programme cycle, including in planning, implementation, and evaluation activities. AAP, combined with the age, gender, and diversity approach, will promote the mainstreaming of refugee inputs into protection and assistance delivery and bolster diverse refugee representation in coordination and decision-making structures. The inclusion of local communities' voices will also be emphasized, as it is pivotal to maintaining and strengthening peaceful coexistence and thus ensuring meaningful and sustainable local integration in the Republic of the Congo.

### **Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse**

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is a cornerstone of the refugee response, and a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) applies to all stakeholders working to implement protection and assistance activities. Mechanisms for PSEA, including channels to report SEA-related concerns, linkages with gender-based violence referral pathways to ensure access of victims to assistance, and accountability systems, will continue to be reinforced. Capacity-building on PSEA for partners involved in the refugee response and community engagement and awareness-raising for affected people will also be enhanced to increase awareness of and accountability for SEA.

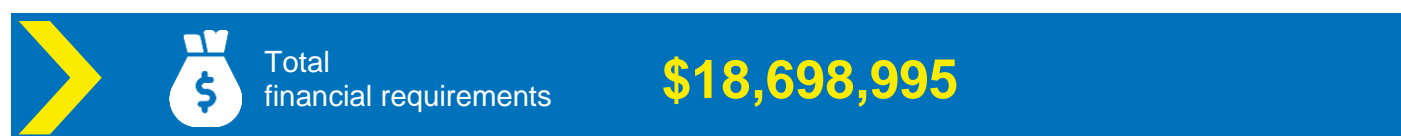
## Partnership and coordination

In line with the [Refugee Coordination Model](#), UNHCR coordinates the refugee response in the Republic of the Congo. As per the GCR, the 2017 Letter of Policy Development, and the [2022-2026 National Development Plan](#), the Government assumes a leading role in hosting refugees and asylum-seekers and facilitating their local integration through inclusion into national systems. Coordination is ensured through the leadership of the CNAR at the national level, prefectures assisted by the Departmental Directorate of Humanitarian Action and related sectoral directorates at the departmental level, and sub-prefectures and heads of villages at the local level.

Besides general collaboration with the Government, RRP Partners work closely with the CNAR for registration and RSD support with the Ministry of Social Affairs,

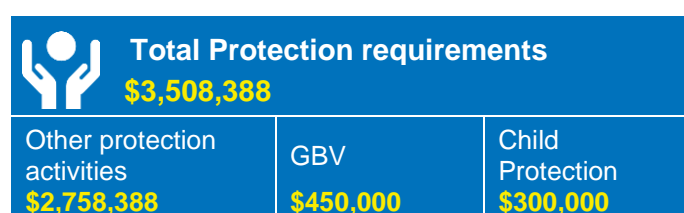
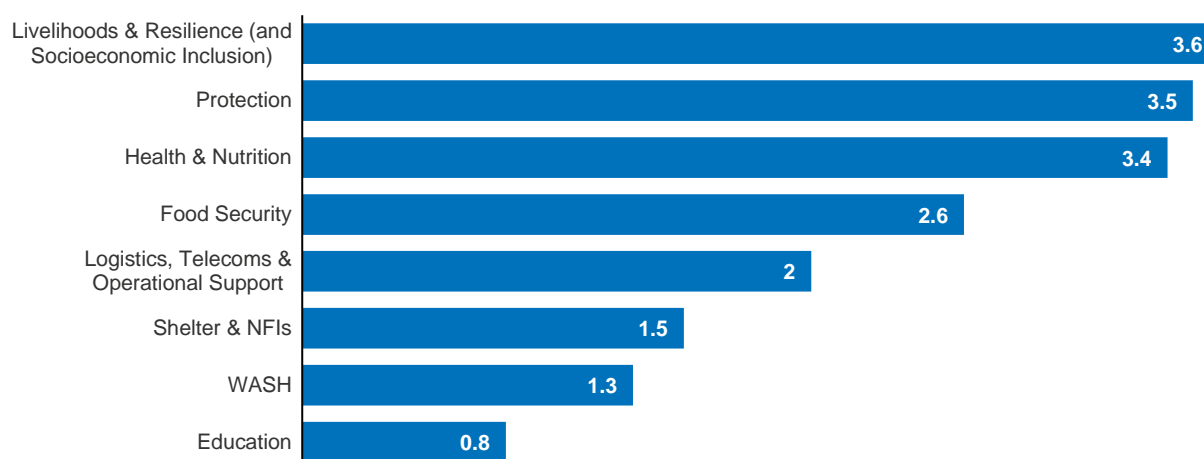
Humanitarian Action and Solidarity on humanitarian matters and with civil society for broader refugee assistance and protection programming matters. Partners conduct regular coordination meetings at both strategic and operational levels to ensure an effective and efficient response to refugee needs. In 2023, coordination mechanisms will be strengthened to encourage synergies and sectoral complementarity. Additionally, RRP Partners will continue liaising with the Government, stakeholders, and donors to bolster partnership-building and advance the implementation of the nine pledges and eight best-practices commitments made in the [Global Refugee Forum](#). Broadened advocacy to consolidate traditional donor resources and fundraise through private and public funding sources, anchored in the principle of “no one left behind”, will also remain a priority.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



## Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



## Budget by partner type



## Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	1,500,000
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	4,000,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	9,408,388
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	850,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	2,617,727
World Health Organization (WHO)	322,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,698,995</b>



# Rwanda planned response



**78,400**

Targeted refugee population



**8,200**

Targeted host community members



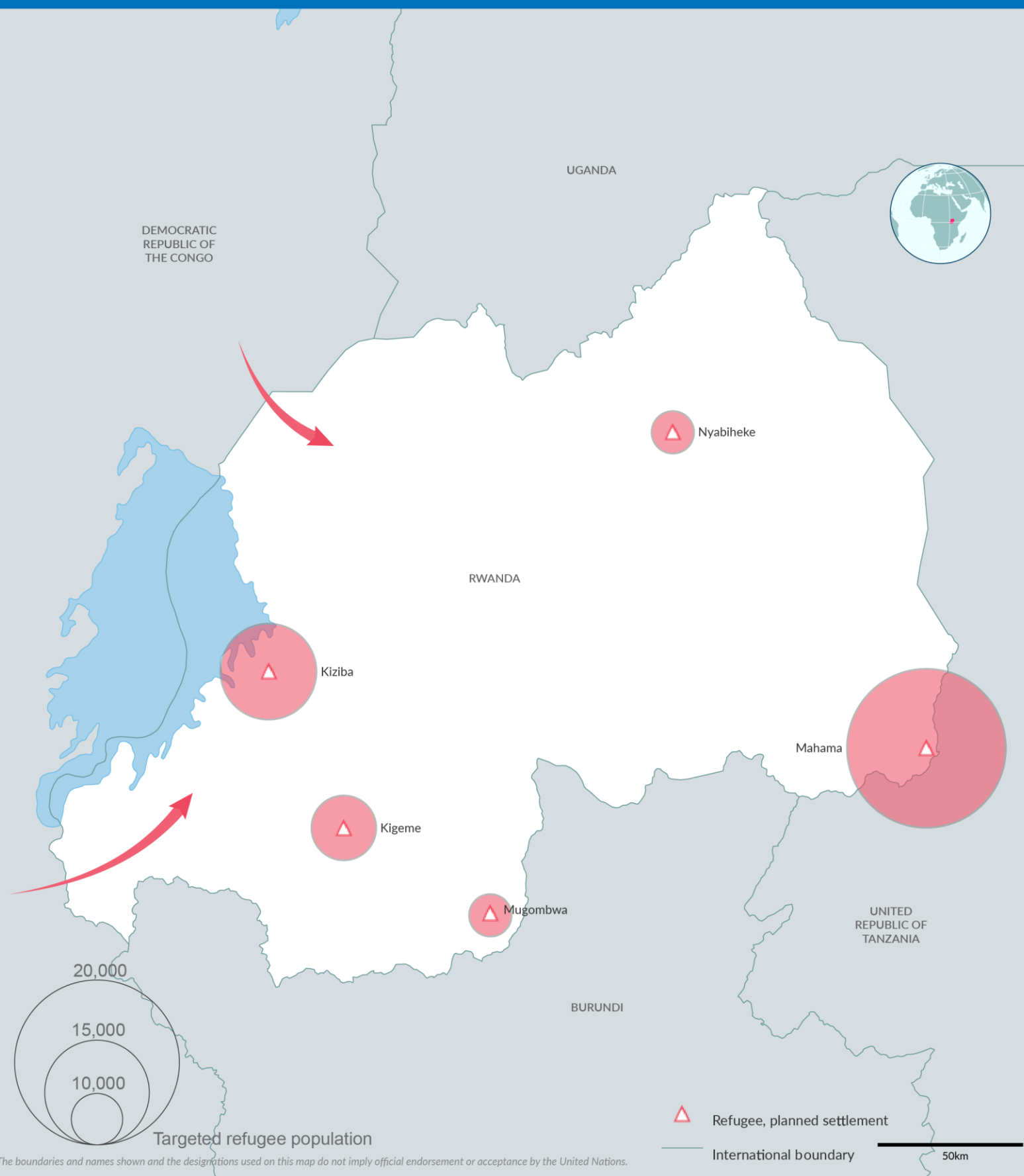
**65.5M**

Total financial requirements



**17**

Partners involved



## Current situation

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### Situation overview

*This chapter of the DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) covering Rwanda extracts information from the Rwanda Country RRP which relates to activities and budget needed to support refugees from the DRC in Rwanda in 2023. All partners working on supporting refugees from the DRC in Rwanda also support Burundian refugees, with most programmes being delivered regardless of nationality.*

As of the end of November 2022, Rwanda hosted 72,200 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), comprising 60 per cent of the refugee population in the country.<sup>13</sup> Of this total, 99 per cent live across Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa, Nyabiheke, and Mahama refugee camps, with only 1 per cent living in urban areas. Given the volatile situation in North and South Kivu, areas of origin of most refugees from the DRC in Rwanda, return is unlikely over the coming year, and RRP Partners predict that refugee and asylum-seeker figures will remain stable in 2023.

Refugees enjoy a favourable protection environment in Rwanda, and RRP Partners have good working relationships with key government ministries. Legislation is progressive, granting refugees the right to work and to access national services such as education, healthcare, and banking. The Government and its relevant ministries are responsible for civil registration and issuing of identification cards to all refugees aged 16 and above as part of their inclusion in national systems. Most refugees from the DRC currently living in Rwanda were previously registered on a *prima facie* basis. Since 2020, all asylum-seekers, regardless of country of origin, go through refugee status determination.

Health clinics and services are available in all camps and rated "satisfactory", and mortality rates are low. In urban areas, refugees can access national health facilities through the Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme. Furthermore, since 2021, partners working on the refugee response have provided cash assistance (including food assistance) on a targeted basis, to help refugees meet their basic needs. However, challenges persist. Despite improvements in refugee registration and documentation, some still struggle to access national services. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains one of the biggest protection concerns for refugee women and children. In addition, although refugee enrolment rates in primary school are high (94 per cent), only 43 per cent and 3 per cent of refugees are enrolled in secondary and higher education, respectively. Lastly, there is an increasing need to repair and maintain refugee camp infrastructure, as many are located on steep slopes with poor road access and are prone to environmental degradation and infrastructural decay. These conditions impact refugee well-being, health, and safety: most refugee households report little to no access to electric energy; water consumption averages 19 litres per day, against the humanitarian standard of 20 litres per person per day for post-emergency situations; and there is one only latrine for every 23 individuals.

Rwanda has solidified commitments to international frameworks such as the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) and to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a result of the protracted refugee situation in the country, the refugee response is expanding beyond a humanitarian response to include a developmental focus with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion. This has resulted in efforts to help refugees graduate from poverty and become less reliant on humanitarian assistance. In 2023 and beyond, RRP Partners will expand efforts to find durable solutions for all refugees in Rwanda. Resettlement and complementary pathways will remain an important way for the international community to share in refugee-hosting responsibilities.

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<sup>13</sup> As of November 2022, there were 127,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Rwanda, mainly coming from the DRC and Burundi. See: [Country - Rwanda \(unhcr.org\)](#)

RRP Partners in Rwanda plan to assist 78,400 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC in 2023, out of which 54 per cent are women and girls, 46 per cent are men and boys, 52 per cent are children, and 15 per cent are people with disabilities. Partners are also planning on assisting 8,200 host community members.

## Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks

The protection needs of refugees from the DRC in Rwanda will continue to be high in 2023, as most of the population remains dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Preliminary results from the 2022 Post Distribution Monitoring Preliminary Report<sup>14</sup>, for instance, indicate that 19 per cent of refugees living in camps are adopting harmful coping mechanisms. One of the main contributing factors to the protection situation is food insecurity. Rwanda has been hard-hit by inflation rises, with data indicating it is among the top ten countries most impacted by food inflation<sup>15</sup> – according to market monitoring data, food prices rose 12 per cent between May and June 2022 and 54 per cent between June 2021 and June 2022. This has a detrimental effect on refugee populations, as it increases the gap between the assistance provided and what families need to meet basic needs. Currently, 32 per cent of refugee households are at the threshold of food insecurity.<sup>16</sup>

Following the introduction, in 2021, of targeted conditions for the distribution of food assistance, assessments have indicated an increase in the use of negative coping mechanisms in camps.<sup>17</sup> This has included the selling of productive assets, begging, sale and exchange of sex, child neglect, and engaging in high levels of debt. Given that efforts to develop and implement further targeting criteria are planned for 2023, vulnerability is likely to increase as more households are expected to be removed from the assistance programme.

Although there have been improvements in child protection and prevention, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence over the past few years, GBV and incidents of violence, abuse and exploitation against children remain a concern and still go underreported among the refugee population. Exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) also poses a significant risk to refugee communities in Rwanda, and more investment is needed to boost the response capacity to this issue.

In Rwanda, although local integration is possible, challenges remain in engaging refugees with this solution as well as with inadequate awareness among the host community of refugee integration and refugee rights. As consequence, resettlement will continue to be the most likely durable solution for refugees from the DRC in 2023.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

Protecting refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC and finding solutions to their plight will remain the core focus of RRP Partners in 2023.

Partners will continue to offer technical assistance to support the Government in ensuring fair, affordable, and efficient asylum procedures. Moreover, refugees and asylum-seekers will continue to have access to free legal assistance through Partners. Emphasis will be given to enhancing information flows and legal counselling to asylum-seekers in their preferred languages, as well as encouraging the Government to allow representation by qualified lawyers throughout the process and advocating for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national legal aid system.

<sup>14</sup> The Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Report (JPDM) is an annual survey carried out by UNHCR and WFP. Full results are expected to be published in late 2022.

<sup>15</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/40ebbf38f5a6b68bfc11e5273e1405d4-0090012022/related/Food-Security-Update-LXXI-October-13-2022.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> JPDM Preliminary Results.

<sup>17</sup> UNHCR 2021 Participatory Assessment.

Strengthening community-based structures will also be a priority in 2023. Community centres across Rwanda will serve as a safe space for refugees to meet and access inclusive protection services. Such structures will not operate in isolation but cater to the needs of both refugee and local communities, even in camp settings. This will be achieved through the expansion of programmes to train refugees and asylum-seekers as community volunteers and mobilizers. Refugees will also be supported to participate in skills training, youth engagement projects, recreational activities such as sports, and national and international conferences where they can voice their ideas.

Although Rwanda has become a leading country in refugee social inclusion, more advocacy is needed to integrate refugees into social assistance categorizations (*ubuduhe*), as well as to incorporate refugee community mobilizers in the national child protection social workforce (*Inshuti z'umuryango*) and refugee foster families in the national programme Tubarerere Mu Muryango.

Addressing the key concerns highlighted by refugees during participatory assessments and reports will comprise, inter alia, of tackling the increase of family conflicts, gender-based violence incidents, sale and exchange of sex, child protection issues, and food scarcity. Given that further targeting is proposed for cash and food assistance distribution, programmes will need to deal with the potential negative impact of cuts on refugee families. Robust approaches to dealing with sexual violence and child pregnancies are needed, including regular campaigns in schools, support systems in the community, legal counselling, and psychosocial support.

Considerations of the particular needs of refugees, including people with disabilities, older people, and individuals with other specific requirements, will be streamlined throughout all programmes, with Partners providing material and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups as necessary and advocating for increased accessibility of communal facilities, services, and information sources across refugee camps.

In general, improving living conditions for refugees and asylum-seekers across Rwanda will be essential to ensure their protection and well-being. In line with existing strategies, where possible, the delivery of assistance through cash transfers will be mainstreamed, giving target populations flexibility, dignity, and autonomy to choose how they meet their most pressing needs. In addition, cash transfers have the potential to directly benefit the local economy and contribute to peaceful coexistence with host communities.

In sectors such as education, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), interventions will endeavour to align with national standards and benefit both refugees and host communities. Maintaining and improving facilities offering these services will ensure their sustainability in the long term and make them more favourable for inclusion in national systems. Engagement with local authorities on such projects is reflected in pledges made by the Government of Rwanda at the [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) and will be built upon ahead of the next GRF in 2023.

Although resettlement and complementary pathways to third countries will continue to be important avenues for durable solutions, opportunities remain limited due to low quotas. Additionally, the return of refugees from the DRC is not envisioned for 2023. As such, facilitating refugee inclusion and integration within local and national systems will be important to enhance social cohesion and promote solutions.



## Country strategic objectives

### Strengthen and maintain refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to comprehensive and inclusive protection services

In 2023, RRP Partners will continue to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals, receive reception services, protection, and assistance considering age, gender and diversity characteristics. By adopting a community-based approach to the response, interventions will be strengthened at a local level, and alignment with national structures will be achieved. Particular attention will be directed towards the participation and inclusion of women, girls, children at risk, people with disabilities, older people, and other vulnerable groups. Individual case management services will support people affected by violence and abuse, with psychosocial support and counselling provided accordingly. Partners will assist the Government of Rwanda to increase its capacity in areas such as refugee registration and documentation and asylum processing, as well as child-friendly procedures. In addition, advocacy efforts will be expanded around the inclusion of refugees in national systems relating to legal aid, child protection, and gender-based violence response.

### Improve the well-being and living conditions of refugees throughout Rwanda

Given the largely protracted nature of the refugee situation in Rwanda, in 2023, RRP Partners' efforts will center on improving living conditions for refugees across the country, with a special focus on refugee camps. Old and depreciating infrastructures, including shelters, WASH facilities, classrooms, and community centres, will be upgraded, maintained, and made accessible to all, in a process that will also enhance the overall environment of camps in a climate-sensitive manner. Focus on increasing the quality of education activities and service

delivery will also contribute to increased refugee well-being. Cash assistance will be targeted to the most vulnerable refugee populations in an effort to help individuals meet their food and other basic needs, and energy access will be strengthened through the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), pellets, and briquettes to support clean cooking.

### Support the inclusion of refugees in national systems to foster refugee self-reliance and their progressive graduation from humanitarian assistance

Building on commitments made by the Government of Rwanda as part of the 2016 [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#) (CRRF) and the 2019 GRF, the refugee response in Rwanda in 2023 will continue to support the inclusion of refugees from the DRC in national systems. In addition, focus will be directed towards strengthening refugees' and their host communities' livelihoods and self-reliance by scaling up sustainable and cost-effective interventions. Programmes will also target the large young refugee population with the provision of technical and vocational skills training and access to higher education. This will ensure that no refugee is left behind in accessing schooling, healthcare, employment, judicial services, and documentation.

### Seek the implementation of durable solutions to refugee situations

Helping refugee populations find solutions to their plight after decades of living in exile will be a priority in 2023. Resettlement opportunities to a third country will be offered to a limited number of the most vulnerable refugees from the DRC who meet the existing criteria. Finally, where possibilities for local integration present themselves, Partners will support refugee populations on the path to gaining Rwandan citizenship.

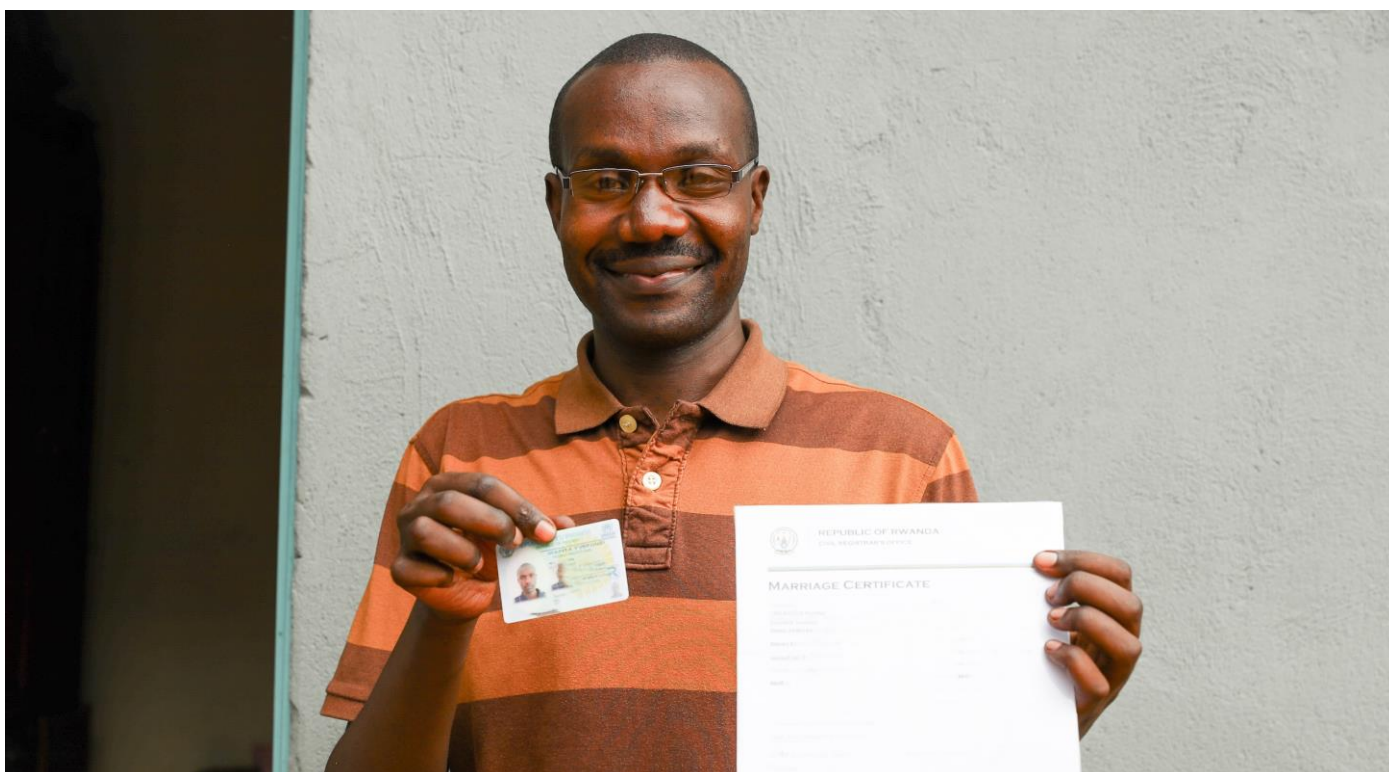
## Sectoral responses

### Protection

In 2023, protection priorities will include ensuring continued access to territory and asylum, improving registration and documentation, and promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. These priorities will be pursued through advocacy, protection monitoring, capacity-building for authorities and partners, and strengthening of community-based protection networks.

Protection Partners will ensure the provision of legal assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers, concurrently with advocacy for their inclusion into the national legal aid system. In addition, mechanisms that support refugees' voicing of concerns, such as protection desks, complaint boxes, and protection hotlines, will be maintained. In 2023, a focus on strengthening community-based structures and expanding the capacity of community volunteers, mobilizers, and youth groups will help empower refugees and support the identification of vulnerable individuals who need further assistance at the grassroots level. The delivery of material aid to people with special needs and vulnerabilities in urban areas will also continue.

In general, coordination mechanisms to support the protection of refugees and their Rwandan hosts will be strengthened in close partnership with the Government. In line with the spirit of "no one left behind", the protection response will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion into national systems while strengthening national capacity.



*Holding up his identity card and marriage certificate with pride, Mupenzi says that he is proud to be living as a refugee in Rwanda. The issuing of refugee identification documentations by the Government of Rwanda started in 2007. The Rwandan Government reaffirmed its commitment through a GRF pledge to issue refugee ID cards to all refugees in the country. RRP Partners will continue monitoring progress to ensure the remaining undocumented gap is closed. © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle*



## Child Protection Sub-Sector

Child Protection Partners will ensure that refugee children of diverse backgrounds are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation and have access to child-friendly and inclusive processes and services. Partners will work for timely identification and referral of at-risk children, to support student mothers, encourage children to stay in school, and prevent child pregnancy and marriage. Child protection community-based structures, including child protection committees, children's clubs, youth clubs, community volunteers, and mobilizers, will also assist in preventing child protection risks and in identifying and supporting at-risk children. Partners will upscale advocacy and collaboration with relevant institutions to support the inclusion of refugee children into national child protection systems, particularly as the national Rwanda child protection case management system is rolled out. Meanwhile, Partners will continue conducting best interests procedure for children at risk. Increased collaboration with national structures for the integration of refugee children into national services will be ensured.

Child- and youth-friendly spaces will be upgraded, rehabilitated, and made more accessible. Through these spaces, children will be able to access mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Appropriate staffing and continuous capacity-building are integral to the effective implementation of child protection programmes; thus, Partners will build staff capacity to ensure quality child protection case management.

## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Gender-Based Violence Partners will enhance the implementation of the GBV policy and its core areas. Community-based protection mechanisms will be improved, and boys and men will be involved in interventions to encourage the wider refugee community to take ownership of GBV prevention efforts. Innovative approaches will be adopted to emphasize accountability at various levels, and communities will be given responsibilities to address stigma and impunity.

GBV mainstreaming in all sectors has been a priority for Partners in Rwanda, and this will continue in 2023 with the strengthening of the support provided to GBV survivors. The quality of GBV response services will be strengthened, standard operating procedures on case management will be updated, and strong referral pathways for quality and inclusive services – including specialized medical, legal, psychosocial, material, and livelihoods-related assistance – will be reinforced. Regular coordination among Partners will continue, as well as advocacy for the integration of refugees into national structures and for the improvement of complaints-monitoring and feedback and reporting systems (such as through GBV helplines, compliant boxes, protection litigation desks, and email addresses). Teenage pregnancy and the sale and exchange of sex are issues of great concern in the response, and, as such, efforts to monitor occurrences and support survivors will be maintained.

## Education

To promote the sustainable inclusion of refugees in the national education system, Education Partners will continue to support the Government of Rwanda and the Ministry of Education in strengthening services for all children. To increase access to comprehensive, equitable, and quality basic education for refugee and host community children, Partners will advocate for more inclusive approaches and will continue to mobilize resources aimed at improving learning conditions and outcomes.

Investment in advancing the quality of education through the expansion of school infrastructures, teachers' capacity development, and access to teaching and learning materials will be a priority. In 2023, education interventions will also address challenges specific to out-of-school children, girls, and children with special educational needs.

## Food Security

Ensuring food security for camp-based refugees in 2023 will continue to depend primarily on the distribution of food assistance through unrestricted cash transfers. Following the implementation of targeted food assistance delivery in 2021, the development of additional targeting criteria will take place in 2023; this will be achieved through close coordination between the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and Food Security Partners to ensure that funds are being used as efficiently as possible. Nevertheless, refugees with specific needs will continue to receive specialized support, including school feeding and nutrition interventions. Partners will provide cash assistance for food and accommodation for the most vulnerable refugee families living in urban settings on a temporary and exceptional basis. Refugees in reception and transit centres and Rwandan returnees will receive in-kind food support upon arrival and until relocation.

In 2023, further emphasis will be put on expanding livelihoods and socioeconomic opportunities to supplement the monthly humanitarian food assistance and increase food security among refugee and host community populations. Supporting the expansion of joint agricultural projects between the two communities will be a priority, helping ensure

sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity, contributing towards zero hunger.

## **Health & Nutrition**

In 2023, health and nutrition programmes for refugees will focus on maintaining and building up existing services to make them more efficient, accessible, and responsive. Health and Nutrition Partners will continue to deliver primary healthcare services for refugees in camps and to facilitate referrals to hospitals. Health information systems will be improved, and, where possible, so will the quality of data. MHPSS activities will be strengthened. Additionally, partners will work to increase capacity and preparedness for future health emergencies, in collaboration with MINEMA, district authorities, and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre.

The nutrition response will prioritize the prevention, detection, and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Existing referral mechanisms to government-run facilities for the care of patients with severe conditions will be refined, and pregnant and lactating mothers will receive specialized nutritional support. Nutrition education and awareness-raising for behavioural change at the community level will be constant efforts. In addition, partners will continue advocating for the inclusion of camp-based refugees in the CBHI scheme. To this end, health infrastructure and equipment across refugee camps will be rehabilitated and maintained to reach the standards set by the Ministry of Health.

## **Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)**

Livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 2023 will focus on scaling up a “graduation approach”, which supports refugees, asylum-seekers, and the local community in becoming self-reliant. Key components of this approach include: 1) improving socioeconomic data about the refugee population to identify individuals who have the potential to become self-sufficient; 2) promoting technical and entrepreneurial skills through livelihoods training and the development of business plans; 3) providing cash grants for start-ups; 4) developing refugees’ budgeting and money-saving skills as a tool to access financial resources and build resilience; and 5) providing mentorship and coaching to all target populations to foster life-skills and confidence.

To inform these interventions, increased advocacy for the inclusion of refugees in private sector initiatives, development actors’ programming, and national strategies will be essential. Supporting the reduction of non-legal barriers to employment will also be a focus. Efforts will be made to align livelihood activities with the sectors identified by Rwanda in its Vision 2050 strategy as presenting growth potential, such as technology and agriculture. Additionally, scaling up previous livelihood interventions, such as the climate-smart agriculture initiative in the Misizi marshlands, will be a significant effort in 2023.

## **Shelter and Non-Food Items**

In 2023, the refugee response in camps will aim to increase shelter accessibility, improve communal infrastructures to meet minimum standards, and protect refugees against harsh weather conditions and the impact of climate change, with the goal of improving refugee well-being. Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) Partners will continue to provide refugee families in Mugombwa and Mahama camps and in reception and transit centres with LPG to support clean cooking. In Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme camps, families and businesses will receive smart subsidies to purchase pellets, briquettes, and stoves. Cash-for-energy will be provided to refugees living in camps where LPG is not in use. Partners will continue to promote solar energy systems for homes and small businesses and encourage private sector investment to scale up renewable energy in all refugee camps. Additionally, efforts will be made to implement an impactful reforestation programme to increase green cover in and around the refugee camps. Partners will also work on improving drainage systems and networks, including rehabilitating ravines, on degraded land. Lastly, every quarter, cash assistance will be distributed to refugee households to cover transportation, hygiene items, such as soap and sanitary napkins, and NFIs.





Young refugees from the DRC taking part to the culinary skills training and internships. © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

### **Initiative: Vatel hospitality and catering training**

*In 2022, a Partner and Vatel, an International Hospitality School based in Kigali, gave start to a partnership focused on providing culinary skills training and internships for young refugees. In Rwanda, refugees have the right to work, but finding employment remains a challenge for many due to limited opportunities, lack of awareness from employers about refugee rights, and inadequate skillsets among refugees. The partnership aims to reduce some of these barriers, building the skills of young refugees and supporting them in breaking into the job market through internships and job placements.*

*Multiple cohorts of refugee students have now completed the six-week training course in catering and hospitality at Nyruah restaurant in Kigali. According to Olivier, a refugee from the DRC living in Nyabiheke camp, the experience has renewed his hope for the future: “after the training, if I get capital, my goal is to set up my own restaurant and work on my own and provide jobs to other people. Self-employment makes you more independent.”*

## **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

Improving WASH services for refugee communities in 2023 will require a three-pronged approach: increasing access to facilities; ensuring facilities are operated and used effectively and efficiently; and raising awareness about safe hygiene practices among the refugee population. These activities will include considerations of gender and of access for people with specific needs, as per international standards.

Coordination between WASH Partners, as well as with government agencies, will ensure that water systems are maintained, securing an uninterrupted water supply and reducing water loss. In Mugombwa, Kiziba, and Nyabiheke camps, the water supply will be extended to the host community, to support Rwandans who face challenges similar to those of the refugee population. Partners will work on plans to hand water services in camps over to the respective district authorities to be locally managed and service both nationals and refugees.

Within the refugee communities, committees and individuals will be trained in the operation and maintenance of facilities; this will support the national community-based hygiene approach, referred to as the [Community-Based Environmental Health Promotion Program \(CBEHPP\)](#), in promoting local ownership. Furthermore, more hand-washing stations will be established to bolster ongoing campaigns to stave off epidemics.

## Country cross-cutting response priorities



### Accountability to affected populations

In 2023, the refugee response will continue to employ participatory methodologies to ensure that refugee, asylum-seeker, and host community voices are incorporated into the response and that feedback reflects the diversity of gender, age, religion, ethnicity, needs, ability, and sexual orientation that exist within the targeted population in Rwanda. Communicating with communities will occur through leveraging a variety of channels to ensure inclusion and accessibility for all groups. In consultation with Rwanda's Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration and MINEMA, RRP Partners will develop information materials for asylum-seekers detailing the asylum process, the procedure to obtain ID cards upon recognition, and the benefits of doing so, among other frequently asked questions in accessible languages. The consistent sharing of information about programmes and services available to all populations will also be prioritized. The information will be made available at places of interest, such as community centres, partner offices, border controls, and Immigration Offices, and will be shared via a multitude of channels, including SMS and social media.



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) remains a priority for all RRP Partners. In 2023, several activities between stakeholders are planned to encourage the discussion of PSEA issues and the identification and improvement measures to combat SEA. Working together, Partners will identify gaps and areas where capacity-building for staff and affiliated personnel is needed, with the goal of ensuring that adequate PSEA mechanisms are in place and that refugees and asylum-seekers feel safe in seeking help. The following includes key priority areas for the refugee response in 2023: enhancing coordination on PSEA at country level; building the capacity of all partners' PSEA focal points; providing PSEA refresher sessions for personnel and refugee communities; monitoring for compliance with PSEA policy by all partners; ensuring effective standard operating procedures, complaints, and feedback mechanisms on PSEA which are child friendly and accessible.



### Climate action

In 2023, RRP Partners will bolster efforts to make their programming climate-smart and environmentally sound. To facilitate this, a robust analysis of climate and environmental risks and their implications for protection and solutions will take place, concurrently with the scaling-up of concrete actions that protect both people and the environment.

Focus will be given to increased access to clean energy for cooking and electricity; environment recovery via activities such as tree planting, rehabilitation of ravines, construction of radical terracing, regenerative agriculture, and awareness-raising initiatives; risk-informed site planning; improved waste management and drainage networks; and conversion of water supply systems into solar-run systems (with Mahama camp as a priority due to its high operating costs and large size).

These measures will enhance the self-reliance and economic inclusion of displaced persons while protecting the environment. Sustainable site planning will mitigate land degradation and exposure to landslides, floods, and other climate-related shocks. Additionally, the provision of clean cooking alternatives, such as LPG stoves and pellets, will positively impact the health and livelihoods of refugees and host communities in Rwanda. Environmental

consciousness and accountability will be heightened by embracing community-based natural resource management approaches to enable refugees and Rwandans to take increased responsibility for their landscapes. All interventions are aligned with global and national goals and targets — SDGs, National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), Vision 2050, Nationally Determined Contributions, Energy Strategy, and CRRF.

## 01 Data

The main data about refugees in Rwanda is collected through an RRP Partner's registration database and the annual joint post-distribution monitoring, which collects information about refugee households through a representative sample, painting a picture of the impact of assistance and the socioeconomic status and well-being of refugee populations. Despite these datasets, there are few statistics or surveys that report on refugee employment, education, income, consumption, and agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities. To inform evidence-based programming, RRP Partners will seek to address this data gap in 2023, with a special focus on data on poverty among refugees. The use of the RRP Partner's registration database will be further built upon in 2023, including through the facilitation of access for several RRP Partners. This will involve training frontline staff, as well as strengthening monitoring, data analysis, and trend follow-up to inform planning and the effective use of resources.

## Partnership and coordination

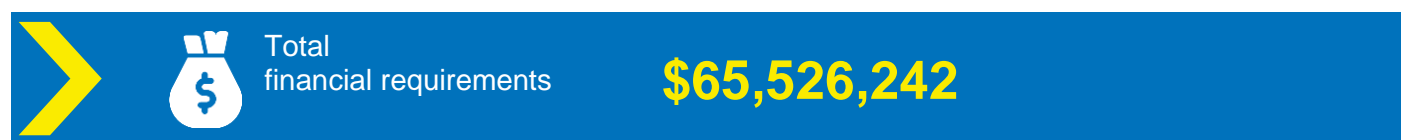
In line with the [Refugee Coordination Model](#), MINEMA and UNHCR co-lead the response in Rwanda involving 17 different partners, including UN Agencies, NGOs, academia, and development partners. In Rwanda, a quarterly Refugee Coordination Meeting is organized for all partners to share information, develop mechanisms to respond to challenges, and define the way forward. RRP Partners have close working relationships with relevant ministries across the Rwandan Government.

Additionally, Rwanda has a Country RRP, which addresses the needs and response to all refugee nationalities present in the country, including refugees from the DRC. The RRP is tightly aligned with the [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) and

the [NST1](#), which provide thematic pillars for growth in the areas of economy, social protection, and governance, while emphasizing sustainable results and inclusive development for all.

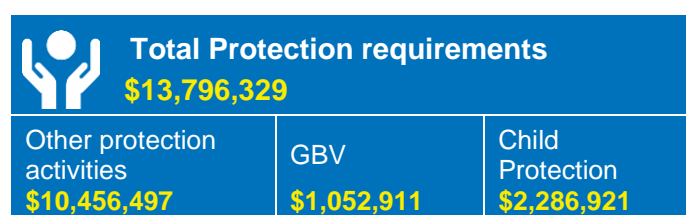
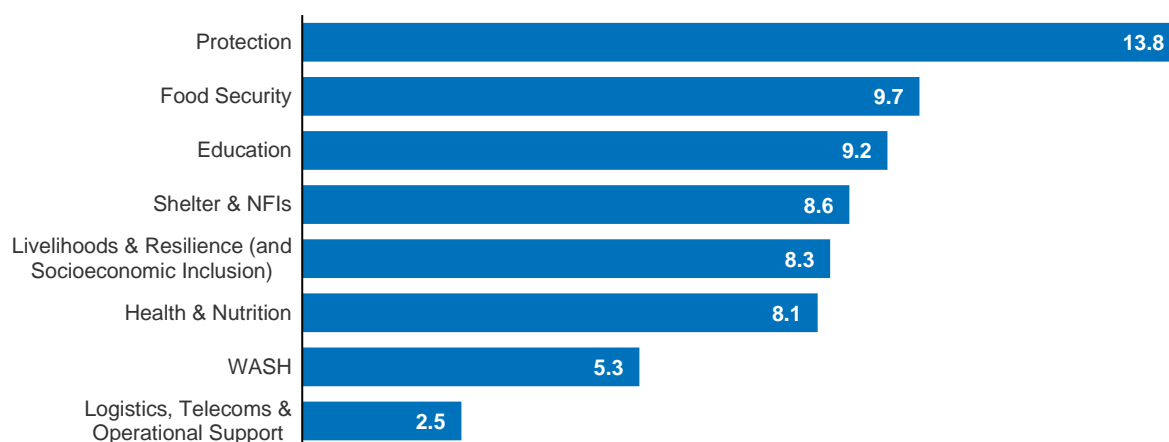
Rwanda is going through a gradual progression from a humanitarian response to a development response with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion, reflecting the global move towards humanitarian-development nexus approaches. Rwanda's involvement in the GCR and pledges made at the GRF have built up the move in this direction, creating space for Partners to explore partnerships with new and strategic stakeholders to support refugees.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



### Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



### Budget by partner type





## Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	525,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	1,313,365
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	37,103,128
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	307,716
World Food Program (WFP)	14,687,086
<b>International NGOs</b>	
ALIGHT	2,003,094
CARE International	74,808
CARITAS	591,790
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	819,506
Plan International (PI)	1,325,781
Save the Children International (SCI)	498,000
World Vision International (WVI)	3,250,001
<b>National NGOs</b>	
Impact Hope	1,188,874
Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR)	45,533
<b>Academia</b>	
Kepler	300,000
<b>Regional organizations</b>	
Inkomoko Business	851,800
<b>Development actors</b>	
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	640,760
	<b>\$65,526,242</b>

# Uganda planned response



522,200

Targeted refugee population



511,800

Targeted host community members



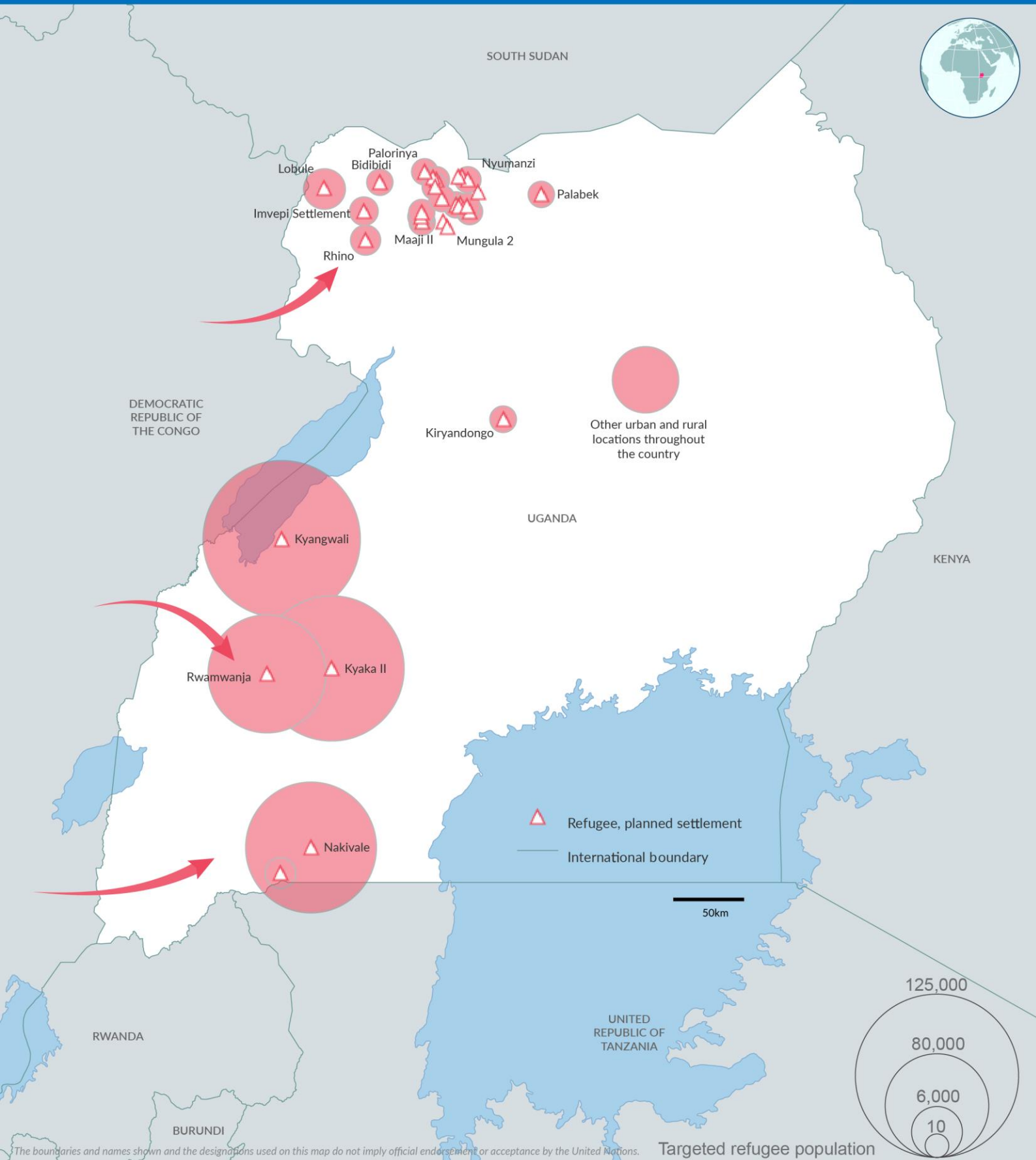
321.2M

Total financial requirements



52

Partners involved



## Current situation

### Situation overview

*This chapter of the DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) covering Uganda is an updated extract from the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP), a joint plan between the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, and international and national Partners covering the period of 2022-2025 and presenting detailed planning for 2022-2023. Under the UCRRP, the response for refugees from the DRC, alongside other refugee populations hosted in the country, is articulated in a comprehensive and integrated manner.*

Uganda is Africa's largest refugee-hosting country, with nearly 1.5 million refugees located across 13 districts. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are the second largest population in Uganda, numbering 473,500 as of the end of November 2022 — with over 93,800 new arrivals received.<sup>18</sup> Such a large presence of refugees has exacerbated the economic, environmental and development challenges faced by the host communities. In 2023, it is anticipated that refugees from the DRC will continue crossing to Uganda through official and unofficial entry points due to ongoing instability in North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Uganda has one of the world's most progressive asylum regimes, anchored in the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. This legal framework safeguards refugees' freedom of movement and the right to work, establish a business, own property, and access national services, including education and healthcare. In Uganda, refugees live in settlements alongside nationals; in dedicated areas, they are provided with plots of land for housing and cultivation, a practice that favours self-reliance and resilience. Asylum-seekers from eastern DRC are granted refugee status on a *prima facie* basis.

Funding for the UCRRP has dwindled in the past years, and Uganda is now considered one of the world's most underfunded refugee situations. The capacity of RRP Partners to provide lifesaving support to new arrivals and basic assistance to refugees has diminished; this has manifested as significant reductions in food rations, cuts in the distribution of hygiene kits and soap, and undue strains on public services (water and sanitation, healthcare, and education) in settlements. Partners continue to prioritize the delivery of essential services, but more involvement and support from development actors, as agreed through the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR), are needed.

Poverty levels are high among both refugee and host communities in Uganda, with 91 per cent of refugees considered to be highly economically vulnerable. Although refugee households have access to land, in accordance with the legislation, productivity is low and frequently impacted by drought and flooding. Overall, only 13 per cent of refugees aged 15 years or above are classified as self-employed. The main source of income for 54 per cent of refugee households is food and cash assistance, and reliance on aid is lower among those who arrived more than five years ago. Because of extreme poverty, rising costs, limited household food production and livelihood alternatives, and cuts on food assistance due to funding shortfalls, many refugees face increasingly high levels of food insecurity.

Lastly, on 20 September 2022, Uganda declared an Ebola disease outbreak which spread to several districts of Uganda, some of which host refugees. The seven refugee settlements in the southwestern part of the country, which host most of the refugees from the DRC, were classified as very high risk in the Ebola response and increased the pressure on already overstretched resources.

Uganda has been invited as one of six co-conveners at the next [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) 2023 for its exemplary leadership in refugee management. This will be an opportunity to build on the significant progress made by governments

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<sup>18</sup> As of November 2022, there were 1.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda, mainly coming from the South Sudan, the DRC, Somalia, Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda Ethiopia and Sudan. See: [Country - Uganda \(unhcr.org\)](#)

and other stakeholders towards the implementation of the GCR pledges and initiatives announced since 2019 and to announce new pledges.

RRP Partners in Uganda plan to assist 522,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC in 2023; 51 per cent are women and girls, 49 per cent are men and boys, 47 per cent are children, and 16 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, Partners will also aim to assist 511,800 members of the host community.



*Refugees from the DRC crossing Bunagana border into Uganda in March 2022 following fresh fighting in Eastern DRC.*

© UNHCR/Tukundane Yonna

## Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks

Most asylum-seekers and refugees in Uganda are highly vulnerable. Gender-based violence (GBV) is widespread among refugee and host communities, demanding special attention from RRP Partners. In particular, underreporting of GBV cases due to fear of stigma and of reactions from the family and the community, perceptions of GBV as a private matter, and lack of confidence in reporting channels remains a major concern. Children face greater risks of neglect, separation from caregivers, violence, exploitation, child labour, exploitation, GBV, child marriage, and psychological distress. Additionally, across Uganda, host communities and refugees have experienced an increase in mental health issues and poor psychosocial well-being that often go untreated.

The [June 2022 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment \(FSNA\)](#) found that 63 per cent of refugees from the DRC were food insecure, up from 26 per cent in December 2020. Forty-seven per cent employed crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies such as borrowing, begging, engaging in illegal activities, and selling productive assets, while most of the refugee households limited their portion sizes. The food security outcomes are linked to refugee socioeconomic factors, severe food ration cuts, food, fuel, and fertilizer price inflation, and limited livelihood opportunities.

The global outbreak of COVID-19 and the consequent extended periods of school closures in 2020 and 2021 have resulted in the reversal of educational achievements. Challenges related to teacher availability and qualification,



inadequate infrastructure, financial resource gaps affecting the national education system, and restricted availability of scholarships compounded the impacts of the pandemic on refugee education.

The capacity of primary healthcare institutions in Uganda is overstretched, with clinicians conducting, on average, 61 consultations a day. The leading causes of death are malaria, maternal and perinatal morbidity, and respiratory tract infections. Lack of medicines, long waiting times, and failure to get referrals are listed as the main obstacles for refugees to access healthcare. For HIV/AIDS, poor knowledge and awareness about the condition, stigma, and inadequate provision and low uptake of preventative and treatment services hinder interventions. In 2022, in reaction to the Ebola outbreak, partners began restructuring existing resources to increase the response capacity amid limited funding.

There has been a reduction in the availability and level of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, which is attributed to the gap between the high rate of arrivals from the DRC and the speed of infrastructure development in settlements. The rise in the population number has strained the existing sanitation system, reducing latrine coverage in households, schools, and health centres. The process of handing WASH services over to the management of local authorities has been completed for Rwamwanja settlement; two other settlements (Nakivale and Oruchinga) have handovers to the National Water and Sewerage Corporation planned.

The lack of adequate electricity supply in camps is impacting Partners' ability to operate health facilities, schools, water pumps, reception centres and street lighting. Furthermore, increased environmental degradation is expected to exacerbate tensions, protection risks, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities and compromise basic shelter. Major drivers of environmental degradation both within and around refugee settlements include the continuous influx of people and deforestation for fuelwood, construction materials, and farmland.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

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The 2022-2023 UCRRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and Partners, with interventions aligning with national policies and strategies to respond to evolving needs and complement and build upon international assistance programmes in the country. The Plan focuses on humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities and seeks to expand investments, partnerships, and delivery models geared towards longer-term development strategies. Accordingly, the response is anchored in national and regional multi-year protection frameworks, policies, laws, and standards that comprehensively address the legal and physical protection needs of refugees from the DRC, with a particular emphasis on children, women, and young people through an approach sensitive to age, gender, and diversity (AGD) considerations.

The RRP priorities are: maintaining the current asylum policy; increasing refugee self-reliance through access to livelihood activities (in particular sustainable-agriculture joint ventures between refugee and host communities); increasing the response focus on environment-related initiatives (notably tree planting and reforestation); ensuring quality education through adequate infrastructure (including temporary structures) and a double-shift school system; incorporating basic services for refugees into government systems and promoting capacity-building, including in partnership with development actors; enhancing preparedness for instances of large influxes from neighbouring countries; ensuring refugee-hosting districts benefit from investments by development actors; supporting strong coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and line ministries, and local authorities; ensuring activities in general and targeted assistance in particular (including cash transfers) benefit the most vulnerable; and improving community outreach activities, especially in the education and health sectors.

Support for people with specific needs, gender-based violence, accountability to affected populations (AAP), peaceful coexistence, child protection, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are mainstreamed across sectors. Many RRP Partners also integrate the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the principle of "no one left behind", which are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, into their projects.



## Country strategic objectives

Uganda's asylum space is maintained and unhindered; access to territory is preserved; and international protection standards are adhered to.

Life-saving humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are met, with attention to any specific needs.

All Persons of Concern<sup>19</sup> in refugee hosting districts benefit from a healthy natural environment and improved social services,

including health, education, water and sanitation, and social welfare, provided through national systems where possible.

All Persons of Concern in refugee-hosting districts live peacefully with each other and progressively attain self-reliance in a conducive environment for livelihood opportunities.

Refugees and stateless persons access durable solutions, including voluntary return or third-country solutions.

## Sectoral responses



### Protection

As stated in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework ([CRRF](#)), ensuring equitable socioeconomic opportunities and improving basic service delivery for both local communities and refugees remains central to preserving the asylum space. With the goal of a coordinated, accountable, and sustainable refugee response aimed at the socioeconomic transformation of refugee and host communities, the protection sector will focus on strategic objectives 1, 4, and 5.

Furthermore, Protection Partners will support the government in the lead-up to the 2023 GRF in a series of initiatives to highlight good practices, identify key asks and develop new pledges to appeal for further burden sharing.



### Child Protection Sub-Sector

Child protection is a key priority, given the large number of refugee and asylum-seeker children in Uganda (over 860,000) and the disproportionate number of unaccompanied and separated children.

During displacement, children are often at heightened risk of violence, abuse, neglect, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and child labour. To promote longer-term change and prevent child-rights violations, Child Protection Partners will work to enhance the role of community members in protecting children. Furthermore, to address the complex needs of refugee children, the Child Protection Sector Working Group will continue to apply a comprehensive approach, prioritizing the provision of quality best interests procedure and case management for children at risk; placement of unaccompanied children into adequate alternative care through community-based fostering initiatives, in line with the National Framework for Alternative Care, under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD); promotion of children's access to psychosocial support and recreation; and targeted programming focused on the specific needs of adolescent girls and boys. To foster sustainability and change, all programme components will integrate capacity-development activities for UN and NGO personnel and community-level workers. All activities are geared towards facilitating inclusion and access of refugee and Ugandan children into national child protection systems.

<sup>19</sup> The UCRRP refers to "People of Concern" in its Response Plan which includes "refugees, returnees, stateless people, internally displaced, and asylum-seekers".



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### RRP Partners work to build peace

*The influx of refugees from the DRC continues to strain Uganda's limited resources, creating tension between host communities and asylum-seekers. To respond to this issue, Partners in Uganda have organized peacebuilding dialogues in the southwestern Kisoro district. This initiative promotes unity and peaceful coexistence between refugees and Ugandans.*

## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Gender-based violence poses a significant protection risk for refugees from the DRC and disproportionately affects women and children. The main types of GBV incidents disclosed to service providers include emotional abuse and physical and sexual violence, mainly perpetrated by intimate partners. Exposure to GBV remained underreported in 2022 due to the fear of stigma and social exclusion. To decrease the occurrence of GBV, GBV Partners will continue to engage in prevention activities aimed at addressing the root causes of violence, such as social norms and behaviours, and to implement quality response services. Efforts to increase awareness of women's rights, foster male engagement, and promote community-led responses will also continue in settlements and urban locations. In line with the [2021-2025 GBV Sector Working Group Strategy](#), GBV incidents will be reduced by integrating risk-mitigation measures and reviewing sectoral strategies and activities. Partners have already developed comprehensive referral pathways ensuring timely access to services, and in 2023, the sector will enhance the integration of the response into existing national coordination platforms, in collaboration with the OPM and the MGLSD.

### Education

To improve learning outcomes for refugee and Ugandan children and young people, the Ministry of Education and Sports has developed the [Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities \(ERP\) I and II](#). Some 202,200 school-aged refugee children (between three and 18 years old) will be targeted to benefit from this support.

The UCRRP is aligned with the ERP and has as a key objective to ensure that the population in refugee-hosting districts benefits from a healthy natural environment and improved access to social services, including education

(provided through national systems where possible). Currently, 36 per cent of education services for refugees are provided through the national system, and continued advocacy from Education Partners will ensure that more refugee schools will be transferred. In the period between 2022 and 2025, Partners will contribute to the achievement of goals set by the ERP and the UCRRP by increasing access to services (including formal and informal learning and skills training opportunities), promoting quality (including supply and training of educators), and strengthening systems (including monitoring systems and community engagement).

Additionally, the sector will continue to focus on refugee-data inclusion into the national Education Management Information System.



## Food Security

In 2023, the Food Security sector will improve access to adequate and nutritious food among refugees and asylum-seekers in settlements. Food Security Partners will structure assistance in a manner that contributes to refugee self-reliance and development objectives. This will be achieved by going beyond the provision of general food assistance and engaging in complementary activities, such as promoting digital financial inclusion to eligible refugees based on assessed household needs.

Food assistance will be provided in-kind or via cash transfers and commodity vouchers. Where local markets and other conditions allow, Partners will favour the use of unrestricted cash assistance. Additionally, Partners will work alongside refugees, market actors, and regulators to influence their behaviour, decisions, interactions, and norms in order to improve market systems. The needs and causes of food and nutrition insecurity across the different settlements will be assessed by food and nutrition security monitoring and evaluation systems, such as the FSNA. It is important to note that due to diminishing funding, the sector has been forced to reduce rations for most refugees in Uganda in the past years; Partners are looking to increase relief food assistance to vulnerable households through a process of resource-based prioritization and targeting. Through the same process, self-reliant refugees will be gradually removed from relief food assistance activities.



## Health & Nutrition

Health and Nutrition Partners aim to strengthen the provision of equitable, safe, quality, and sustainable healthcare for refugees and host communities. The integration of comprehensive primary health services for refugees into the national system will remain a goal. Emphasis will also be given to strengthening disease prevention through health promotion, making use of Village Health Teams and Refugee Welfare Councils and providing curative, palliative, and rehabilitative services, in line with the [2019-2024 Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan](#). A key sector objective will be to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with natality, HIV, Tuberculosis, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and undernutrition.

In September 2022, the Ministry of Health confirmed an outbreak of Ebola in Mubende district, central Uganda. Since then, seven districts, two of which host refugees (Kyegegwa and Kampala), have reported cases. To guide critical preparedness and response activities in refugee-hosting districts, the Refugee Health Working Group has developed the Uganda Refugee Ebola Preparedness and Response Plan based on the national response plan. Additionally, Partners have supported the mainstreaming of refugee considerations in the United Nations Plan of Response to the Ebola Virus Disease in Uganda.



## Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)

The Livelihoods and Resilience sector will ensure that all refugees live peacefully and progressively attain self-reliance. The core focus of Livelihoods and Resilience Partners will continue to be promoting surplus agricultural production for income generation and facilitating employment and small-enterprise building. This approach directly

supports the CRRF agenda and [Uganda's Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan for Refugees](#); it aligns the development of market-driven skills with access to financing, technical services, and key production factors, such as farmland and capital, to achieve the set goals. Implementation of this strategy requires liaising with the Government for the integration of refugees into district development plans.

In a context of high levels of poverty and diminishing external funding, the only way forward for most refugees is to seize the economic opportunities offered by the Government of Uganda (through elements such as the right to work and access to farmland). Given the right enabling conditions, refugees take charge of meeting their basic needs, including food, shelter, health, and education; however, current income levels are insufficient, and more attention to livelihoods is needed.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

In 2023, the Environment and Energy Sector and the Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items (NFI) Sector will work together to ensure that all refugees can benefit from a healthy and resilient natural environment and improved social services provided through national systems.

Achieving a healthy and resilient natural environment that also meets the community's needs for shelter, water, livelihoods, and settlement services requires an integrated, area-based approach to settlement planning that takes into consideration land-carrying capacity, sustainability of natural resources, and community priorities. Prior to the relocation of new arrivals, land will be systematically allocated and demarcated for specific uses, such as shelter, livelihoods, woodlots, protected areas, roads, and other physical infrastructure. After this allocation and following awareness-building projects, refugees and host communities will be mobilized to actively carry out tree-growing initiatives at household and institutional levels.

Shelter and NFI Partners will continue to ensure that all refugees receive appropriate and timely emergency shelter materials and NFI support, in line with the minimum standards agreed upon for Uganda. Partners will also continue to prioritize cash-based shelter and NFI assistance in lieu of in-kind kits, to empower refugees and contribute to local economic growth.



## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

WASH Partners will aim to improve access to equitable, sustainable, and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The needs of the population and of the environment will remain at the centre of all interventions, and innovative approaches will be explored to help refugees achieve self-reliance. The specific needs of refugee groups, including people with disabilities and women, will be addressed.

The [Water and Environment Refugee Response Plan](#) will continue to guide the sector response. Partners will keep focusing on the incorporation of the delivery of WASH services into systems managed by government institutions, such as the Ministry of Water and Environment, Catchment Management Committees, and District Local Governments.

In 2023, WASH service improvements are expected in households and institutional spaces like schools and health facilities. Improvement in the coverage and quality of water supply and sanitation infrastructure is needed to meet minimum thresholds for WASH services. In line with the objectives of the Energy and Environment sector, the use of renewable energy for water pumping will be promoted. Community engagement in managing facilities and services will be strengthened to improve participation and ownership. Finally, opportunities to engage with the private sector will be explored.

## Country cross-cutting response priorities



### Accountability to affected populations

To achieve a response that is coordinated, accountable, and sustainable, meaningful engagement and participation of communities, with due attention to AGD considerations, will remain at the centre of programming activities. Emphasis will be given to efforts to ensure that refugee representatives can effectively represent their communities in discussions with authorities; that there is meaningful and effective communication with refugees and communities about their rights and obligations and about service provision; and that refugees are able to give feedback to service providers to improve the quality of the response. Additionally, there is a goal of achieving 50 per cent of women's representation in leadership structures.

Refugee-led organizations will also be involved in relevant planning, coordination, and decision-making fora to ensure meaningful participation of refugee community structures and strengthen localized approaches. All RRP Partners in the response are committed, in a coordinated approach, to sharing accessible, relevant and timely information with communities and to consistently capturing refugee and community feedback to inform and improve interventions, ensuring they can take part in the decisions that affect their lives in all stages of the programme life cycle.



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

RRP Partners will ensure that gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation, and response are effectively mainstreamed throughout all activities. Partners will continue to adhere to a zero-tolerance policy and ensure that all staff and contractors are aware of and implement the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#), and reporting mechanisms, such as the network of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) focal points at country, regional, and settlement levels, will be maintained. PSEA will be mainstreamed through the assessment and mitigation of potential GBV risks in projects, and the concerns and experiences of women, girls, men, and boys will be integral to the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes. Finally, accountability for the PSEA by personnel will be ensured by all Partners working in the refugee response.



### People with disabilities

Providing support to people with specific needs is a priority for all sectors and activities, including MHPSS. Partners will ensure that quality data disaggregated by AGD is continuously collected and analysed for programming and monitoring purposes; that barriers to participation and access to services are systematically identified and addressed; and that people with specific needs and their representatives at the community level are empowered to participate in decision-making processes.



### Mental health and psychosocial support

To ensure that the mental health and psychosocial needs of refugees and Ugandans are improved, RRP Partners will work to offer appropriate and impactful care that is accessible to communities. The provision of MHPSS services will be achieved through coordination, harmonization, and standardization of services according to minimum international standards. Partners will ensure communities and humanitarian stakeholders are better equipped to identify mental health issues and refer them to MHPSS service providers, given that prevention, early identification, and rapid response are critical to maximizing response impact. Additionally, availability of quality data is key for evidence-based programming, planning, monitoring, and evaluation, allowing for better optimization of resources, efficiency, and meaningful impact on affected populations. Thus, focus will be placed on the collection of robust qualitative and quantitative data to inform on needs and support programming and decision-making.



## Peaceful coexistence

To promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and between refugees and host community members, conflict sensitivity is being strengthened and mainstreamed across the response through measures such as conflict analysis and mapping, early identification of tensions, behavioural change, and capacity-building. Furthermore, Partners are empowering communities to prevent and respond to conflict and violence by supporting community dialogue structures, building peacebuilding and conflict mediation and transformation skills among young people and other community members, bolstering community-led initiatives to address drivers of conflict, and implementing activities to bring together refugee and host communities and enhance social cohesion.

## Harmonizing cash and voucher assistance

Cash practitioners have made significant progress in harmonizing approaches, and, as such, RRP Partners are developing a more common, collaborative, and integrated inter-agency strategy with a focus on digital and financially-inclusive forms of cash delivery. To support these initiatives, investing in financial literacy training in refugee-hosting areas and in the use of basic banking services, mobile money, and other financial resources that support livelihood initiatives (such as access to credit) are priorities. Gender issues that impact access to banking, phones and financial services will also be addressed. Any scaling-up of cash assistance remains contingent on market functionality, accessibility, availability, and affordability and on local agent liquidity. Various humanitarian stakeholders are already encouraging and facilitating market-based programming and monthly price and market joint monitoring activities.

Partner interventions will continue to emphasize collaborative cash assistance via complementary operational models and a common cash approach. This is in addition to models such as the regional (cash) working group and sub-groups, which are already in place and adhere to IASC structure requirements.

## Partnership and coordination

The UCRRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and Partners, with interventions aligned with national policies and strategies and seeking to complement other international assistance in the country. Uganda's refugee response is co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Refugees within the OPM.

The multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society refugee response is coordinated under the leadership of the [CRRF Steering Group](#), the main policy and decision-making body for the implementation of the CRRF. The Steering Group is co-led by the OPM and the Ministry of Local Government in a national arrangement for the fulfilment of GCR commitments, and it includes Government departments and agencies, local authorities,

development and humanitarian donors, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and international financial institutions in its membership. The CRRF Steering Group also involves the participation of affected populations, with five Ugandan nationals and two refugees representing their communities.

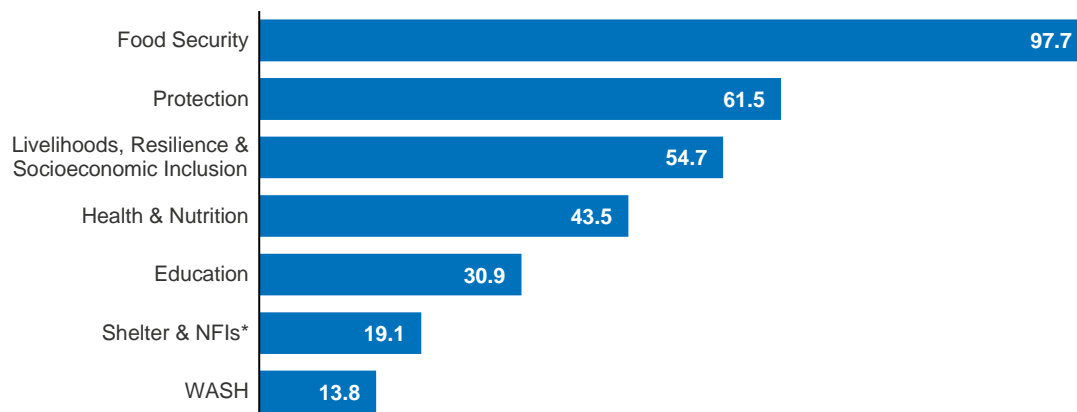
The [Refugee Engagement Forum \(REF\)](#) is a quarterly event that brings together refugee leaders from all settlements and Kampala, providing communities with a platform that amplifies their voices and ensures that they can continuously play a central role in the humanitarian response. The REF is always held ahead of CRRF Steering Group meetings, so issues affecting refugees and decisions taken by community leaders are brought to the attention of the Steering Group in a timely manner.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



## Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



\* Shelter and NFI financial requirements in Uganda incorporate Environment & Energy, Shelter, Settlement, and NFI financial requirements.

Total Protection requirements \$61,548,611			Total cash assistance requirements \$58,009,268		
Other protection activities \$35,379,249	GBV \$11,457,298	Child Protection \$14,712,065	Protection \$0	Food Security \$58,009,286	Livelihoods & Resilience \$0

## Budget by partner type

52 Partners involved	10 UN Agencies	35 International NGOs	7 National NGOs
	\$226,531,266	\$91,603,428	\$3,096,869

## Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	942,500
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	6,186,700
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	4,314,524
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	8,000,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	109,899,451
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	5,856,420
United Nations Women (UN Women)	2,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	85,141,765
World Health Organization (WHO)	3,689,906
<b>International NGOs</b>	
Japan Association for Aid and Relief (AARJ)	500,000
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	3,000,000

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	800,000
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	1,121,807
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	525,000
ALIGHT	6,464,000
AVSI Foundation	35,759,773
Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)	400,000
CARE International	2,200,000
CARITAS	277,778
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	490,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	1,799,937
Finn Church Aid (FCA)	2,800,000
Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)	550,000
HelpAge	300,000
Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)	52,000
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)	320,000
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	2,000,000
International Aid Services (IAS)	380,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	2,948,000
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	1,109,161
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	1,714,908
Malteser International	600,000
Medical Teams International (MTI)	6,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	3,821,040
The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam)	1,486,881
Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)	423,091
Save the Children International (SCI)	6,500,000
Self Help Africa (SHA)	1,000,000
Street Child	1,350,000
Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)	400,000
War Child Holland (WCH)	1,300,000
Windle International (WIU)	1,288,000
World Vision International (WVI)	1,500,000
Zuid-Oost Azië (ZOA)	422,052
<b>National NGOs</b>	
Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)	1,146,869
CTEN	100,000
DanChurchAid (DCA)	100,000
Humane Africa Mission (HAM)	500,000
Hunger Fighters Uganda (HFU)	550,000
KadAfrica	50,000
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)	650,000
<b>\$321,231,563</b>	

# United Republic of Tanzania planned response



**83,100**

Targeted refugee population



**20,000**

Targeted host community members



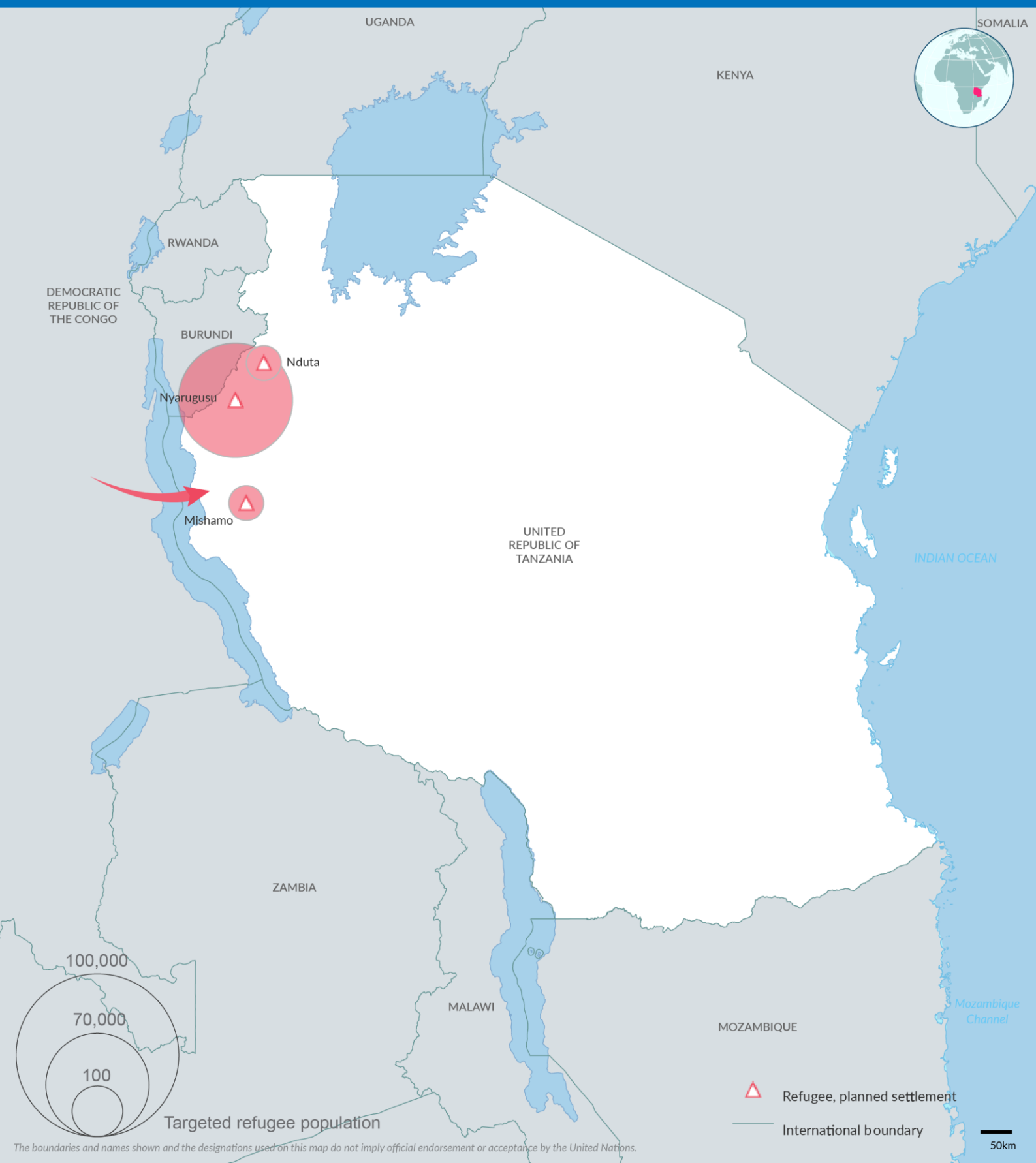
**83.9M**

Total financial requirements



**12**

Partners involved



## Current situation

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### Situation overview

As of the end of November 2022, the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) hosted 80,400 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).<sup>20</sup> In 2023, a population verification exercise is planned in Nyarugusu refugee camp, the largest in the country, to ensure that all refugees residing there are counted and registered. There is potential for significant further influxes of refugees from the DRC into Tanzania due to continued instability in the eastern areas of the country, mainly North and South Kivu. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners have been closely monitoring the volatile context and have put in place emergency preparedness measures for a quick response in case the situation deteriorates. Resettlement to third countries will continue to be the main durable solution for refugees from the DRC, with about 7,000 individuals expected to be processed for resettlement in 2023. However, this opportunity remains limited, considering the size of the overall refugee population.

In Tanzania, refugee affairs are governed by two main instruments: the 1998 Refugee Act and the 2003 Refugee Policy, both of which contain restrictive sets of measures for refugees and asylum-seekers. Constraints on access to territory and asylum procedures severely impact refugee populations, with border entry points closed or inaccessible to humanitarian partners. Furthermore, a strict encampment policy, coupled with limitations on livelihood and self-reliance initiatives, contributes to increased dependence on humanitarian assistance. Despite this context, the March 2022 High-Level Bilateral Meeting between UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania has renewed opportunities for engagement and collaboration with the political establishment for the preservation of the asylum space.

Underfunding poses a significant challenge for the response in Tanzania, requiring prioritization of planned activities and the scaling-down of programmes across sectors. In this context, RRP Partners will continue to provide protection services and basic assistance to refugees from the DRC, while giving priority to targeted interventions that address the humanitarian and development needs of both refugee and host communities. With chronic underfunding having been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, Partners plan to intensify resource mobilization and advocacy to ensure refugees receive adequate protection and access to basic services.

Additionally, Partners will give continuation to COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in refugee camps, in line with the National Response Plan and the Kigoma Contingency Plan on preparedness and response to the pandemic. Partners have mainstreamed COVID-19 preparedness, prevention, and response measures in all sectors, in accordance with national guidance, and engaged with the COVAX scheme in Tanzania, ensuring that refugees had access to vaccines. Due to intensive awareness-raising efforts, 100 per cent of the targeted refugee population in Nyarugusu camp was fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Tanzania has made promising pledges at the 2019 [Global Refugee Forum](#). The Government pledged, among others, to ensure access to territory, access to fair and efficient asylum procedures, improve education for refugees, and access to labour markets. RRP Partners will continue advocating for the implementation of the pledges made by the Government.

RRP Partners in Tanzania plan to assist 83,100 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC by the end of 2023; 51 per cent are women and girls, 49 per cent are men and boys, 57 per cent are children, and 15 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, Partners will also aim to assist 20,000 members of the host community.

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<sup>20</sup> As of November 2022, there were 247,400 refugees and asylum-seekers in the United Republic of Tanzania, mainly coming from Burundi and the DRC. See: [Country - Tanzania \(United Republic of\) \(unhcr.org\)](#)



## Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks

Funding for the protracted refugee situation in Tanzania is chronically insufficient to meet the considerable humanitarian needs. The economic repercussions of the war in Ukraine have further aggravated the situation, negatively impacting displaced communities, including refugees from the DRC living in Nyarugusu camp. In particular, limited livelihood activities, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising costs, and the reduction of food rations due to limited funding and supply issues have led to deteriorating protection and nutrition conditions among the population.

The asylum space in Tanzania has remained restricted by policies limiting access to territory, essential services, and livelihood opportunities. However, in light of the Government's engagement in the March 2022 High-Level Bilateral Meeting with UNHCR, RRP Partners foresee improvements to the protection environment in 2023. As such, advocacy, engagement, and close collaboration with the Government will be essential to building and strengthening the national capacity to address the needs and uphold the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, in line with international standards.

Refugees, most of whom rely on humanitarian assistance for survival, continue to face multiple protection risks in Tanzania. Particularly concerning is the occurrence of gender-based violence (GBV), including child marriage caused by limited access to livelihoods, overcrowded shelters, lack of domestic energy supply, and reduced humanitarian assistance delivery. Additionally, governmental restrictions on shelter upgrades negatively impact the ability of Partners to provide support that is tailored to the needs of the community, especially those who require specialized assistance. The challenging protection environment exposes refugee children, who account for 57 per cent of the refugee population, to increased risks of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Shortage of food makes refugees vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. Poor quality diets and vitamin and mineral deficiencies contribute to delayed childhood development, causing irreparable damage. This could lead to longstanding, life-changing effects, such as severe malnutrition or rising susceptibility to disease.

As such, key concerns in Tanzania that require immediate response include guaranteeing access to territory, expediting adjudication processes, improving livelihood activities for refugees living in camps, enhancing refugee access to education, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health and nutrition services and fostering greater coordination and collaboration between Protection Partners and their Government counterparts.

As the political contexts in Tanzania and in the DRC remain complex and unpredictable, no returns to the DRC are foreseen for 2023.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

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RRP Partners will continue to collaborate with authorities, stakeholders, and refugee representatives to address key protection concerns, including access to territory, timely adjudication processes, livelihood opportunities within camps, and other basic services for education, health, nutrition and WASH. Though it is unlikely that restrictions on refugee movement will be eased, the Government of Tanzania has committed to supporting refugee livelihood activities, such as the implementation of kitchen gardens and the provision of vocational trainings for all refugees.

To improve protection and assistance outcomes, Partners' capacities will be monitored, coordinated, and strengthened through technical support. A broader understanding of and engagement with communities will enable the development of sustainable approaches to the response. Sustainability will be further supported by the strategic application of financial resources, including through the inclusion of host communities in the programming, thus ensuring refugees are better protected and can live in dignity and peace. Finally, joint border monitoring missions to entry points will take place in 2023.

While the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) established a dedicated outcome group on refugees and migrants, the more recent [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) (UNSDCF) has mainstreamed displacement issues across the people, planet, and enabling environment outcome areas. This mainstreaming of refugee matters in the UNSDCF is expected to broaden opportunities for UN agencies involved in the refugee response to support the inclusion agenda, including expanding services to host communities.

## Country strategic objectives

### Ensure refugees and asylum-seekers can enjoy fundamental rights and access essential services

Obstacles to unrestricted access to territory, fair and efficient asylum procedures, unimpeded movement, justice services, livelihood opportunities, and durable solutions remain major issues of concern in Tanzania. The complex and challenging protection environment in the country demands a multi-faceted response strategy that promotes and facilitates refugees' enjoyment of rights; supports an asylum system that is compliant with international protection standards, principles, and values; and enables community empowerment and delivers stronger protection outcomes through a humanitarian-development nexus approach aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2023, RRP Partners will continue to advocate for the safeguarding of refugees' fundamental human rights, in particular for access to quality basic services. Partners will work with donors and other stakeholders to promote a more conducive policy environment and to respond effectively to the needs of the refugee community. Additionally, emphasis will be given to strengthening the national legal aid capacity on asylum and statelessness issues, mobilizing human rights institutions and civil society organizations and engaging foreign representations involved in humanitarian and policy affairs in the response.

### Support an environment that enables refugee and asylum-seeker protection, in compliance with international protection standards, principles, and values

In 2023, RRP Partners will continue efforts to improve the quality of services being delivered in Nyarugusu camp and to ensure that programmes meet the minimum international standards and adequately meet the needs of refugees. Strengthening advocacy for the removal of barriers to service delivery, such as restrictions on construction, training, and recruitment, will be a priority. In light of the funding scarcity, Partners will also seek to mobilize resources needed for efficient programming.

RRP Partners will provide assistance in line with the humanitarian-development nexus principles and the SDGs. Partnerships with ministries and departments in sectoral interventions will be expanded to promote local ownership and improve the quality of service delivery.

### Reach refugees with a wider range of durable solutions

As the situation in the DRC is not generally conducive for returns, RRP Partners will emphasize resettlement as a durable solution for refugees and asylum-seekers. Thus, judicious analysis of cases and advocacy for increased resettlement quotas, in alignment with the principle of global responsibility-sharing presented by the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR), will remain key activities.

Partners expect improvements to the protection environment in Tanzania in 2023. This context will be conducive to the identification and delivery of better protection solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, supporting a cohesive approach that is aligned with the SDGs and national development plans.

## Sectoral responses

### Protection

The Government of Tanzania has signed a work plan committing to supporting refugee livelihood activities, such as the implementation of kitchen gardens and the provision of vocational trainings. As such, in 2023, Partners will continue to advocate for policy engagement, the inclusion of refugees in national and district development systems, and revision of restrictions on refugees' socioeconomic rights and freedom of movement. Finally, in 2023, the main durable solution planned for refugees from the DRC will be resettlement to a third country.



Refugee from the DRC and mother-of-eight, Bobina Mzaliwa, with her eight children and their grandmother Shaona Bukyaka at their home in Nyarugusu refugee camp, Tanzania. Bobina benefitted from an initiative to secure Tanzanian birth certificates for her children to protect them against statelessness. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

#### **Partners support the birth registration and prevent statelessness**

In 2021, the Government of Tanzania and RRP Partners successfully provided birth certificates to 22,300 children who were born in Nyarugusu refugee camp and had not yet received documentation. In 2022, an additional 1,000 children were provided with birth certificates. This initiative helped diminishing the accumulated backlog and preventing statelessness among the refugee population. In 2023 RRP Partners will continue to work to improve access to legal identity and civil documentation through the provision of information, legal counselling, legal assistance, advocacy, and capacity-building to communities and

### Child Protection Sub-Sector

In 2023, child protection interventions will include: strengthening the identification of children at risk and referral to appropriate services; conducting quality best interests procedure for children at risk; providing psychosocial support and individual counselling to children, in alignment with the age, gender, and diversity approach; facilitating cross-border family reunification for unaccompanied and separated children, when safe and in the child's best interests; ensure refugee protection procedures and solutions are child friendly and informed by the child's best interests; formalizing care arrangements; promoting community-based child protection mechanisms and engagements; and



conducting child-protection risk mapping to inform prevention and response interventions for children in care arrangements. Additionally, Child Protection Partners, in collaboration with the Government and the Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency, will work to implement a functional mechanism for documentation to ensure newborn children are automatically issued birth certificates.

## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation, and response will be a priority in 2023. GBV Partners will focus on strengthening community participation in social transformation initiatives, such as Girl Shine, Engaging Men for Accountable Practices, and Start Awareness Support Action (SASA!), to prevent GBV and promote gender equality and cultural and normative change. GBV campaigns and awareness-raising activities, including international events, will be undertaken. Furthermore, Partners will monitor GBV risk mitigation in other sectors and programmes at the camp level, specifically community-based protection, protection of people with specific needs, shelter, health, nutrition, education, livelihoods, WASH, energy and environment, child protection, and access to justice.

Coordination of the delivery of comprehensive and quality GBV services and collaboration between stakeholders will be achieved through sub-working group meetings, alignment of GBV referral systems, and capacity-building on GBV for humanitarian personnel, Government representatives, and refugee leaders.

## Education

Education Partners will continue to provide education to refugee children in Tanzania and work to dismantle barriers to access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education. In line with the SDGs, GCR commitments, and the 2030 Refugee Education Strategy, the focus of the response will be on achieving the following outputs: inclusive and quality education is provided and supported; the learning environment is improved; and the education system is strengthened.

Partners will advocate for refugees to fully enjoy their right to education. Initiatives will include recruitment of teachers and provision of incentives to qualified staff, distribution of learning and teaching materials, delivery of targeted support, and supply of assistive devices to out-of-school children. In 2023, special attention will be given to children at risk of school evasion, girls, and children with specific needs.

To promote a safe learning environment, Partners will continue to build, rehabilitate, and equip classrooms and improve school water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Additionally, the Parent and Teacher Association will be strengthened and trained on safe disclosure and referral of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), child protection, positive discipline, and other education-related topics. Finally, the Refugee Education Management System in Nyarugusu camp will be improved.

## Food Security

Refugees in Tanzania are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their nutritional needs; however, the food rations currently provided only supply 80 per cent of their daily calorie requirements. Taking into account the negative impact of recent economic shocks (aggravated by the war in Ukraine) on refugee and host communities, any reduction in assistance will likely exacerbate the competition for resources and jeopardize social cohesion. Thus, sustained and timely funding for the response is crucial for vulnerable refugees to meet their food needs in peaceful coexistence with local communities. As such, advocacy with donors as well as with the Government for greater mobility and increased livelihood options for refugees will be a priority in 2023.

In line with the SDGs, Food Security Partners will provide refugees living in Nyarugusu camp with monthly food assistance consisting of fortified cereals, pulses, fortified vegetable oil, and iodised salt. To bolster food diversity, Partners will promote the consumption of green vegetables and sweet potatoes through kitchen garden activities, and

emphasis will be given to supplementary feeding programmes and refugees with special needs. Efforts to strengthen stakeholders' response capacity and encourage the mainstreaming of gender, protection, diversity, and accountability considerations in the programming will be undertaken.

## **Health & Nutrition**

In 2023, evidence-based and low-cost health interventions will be implemented in the camps. Health and Nutrition Partners will provide refugees with primary, preventative, and community health care, HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) services, and comprehensive maternal child health services. Additionally, efforts will be made to establish a functional referral mechanism, support regional and district health systems, strengthen community health workers system, and offer care to refugees being voluntarily repatriated.

The sector will also focus on promoting nutritional well-being and providing complementary feeding, especially to vulnerable groups in Nyarugusu camp. Partners will support the prevention and treatment of acute and chronic malnutrition among children aged between six and 59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and refugees between six and 23 years old through blanket supplementary feeding and the provision of micronutrient powders. Nutritional support will also target those suffering from chronic illnesses, HIV and TB, as well as hospitalized patients.

Two Standardized Expanded Nutrition Surveys and a Joint Assessment Mission will be conducted in 2023 and will be used to inform programming. Partners will work towards stronger coordination and collaboration with stakeholders and the Ministry of Health for the inclusion of refugees in national policies and plans.

## **Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC will benefit from a wide array of livelihood interventions, including: cultivation of kitchen gardens with more intensive resources per plot size; promotion of sustainable agricultural practices; provision of life, technical, and vocational skills training; distribution of inputs for vegetable production for dietary diversification; installation of information communication technologies for online learning; and promotion of small-scale commercial activities, such as common market initiatives, in Nyarugusu camp. Host communities will also benefit from activities to promote good agriculture practices and will receive small-scale irrigation support. Additionally, the Multi-purpose Community Centre in the camp will continue to offer a broad range of livelihood activities, including briquette-making.

In 2023, Partners will promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to the response that enables a greater inclusion of refugees into national and district systems and promotes peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities. Capacity-building for stakeholders will be key to achieving sector objectives.

## **Logistics, Telecoms & Operation Support**

To support the activities planned in Nyarugusu camp in 2023, Partners will ensure the availability of all necessary logistical services and resources. This goal will be achieved through the strengthening of various logistics coordination mechanisms and the establishment of multi-purpose spaces, such as warehouses for non-food items (NFI), food, and medical equipment.

## **Shelter and Non-Food Items**

Shelter and NFI Partners will provide shelter and housing solutions anchored in safe and inclusive approaches. Through assessments, Partners will identify and design interventions and best-practices to promote access to shelter, offer specialized assistance to groups with specific needs — such as older people, child-headed households, people living alone, and individuals with disabilities — and mitigate and address risks occurring during programme implementation.



Resources will be required for the targeted distribution of NFIs. The supply of blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, and solar lamps will ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have basic domestic items that will last for two to three years. Additionally, all women and girls of reproductive age will receive sanitary materials on a bi-annual basis, and the general population will receive 450g of soap per month. A detailed NFI Standard Operating Procedure was developed and validated in 2022 and will be used as a reference tool to guide distributions in 2023.



DRC refugee girls taking a break outside their school in between exams at the Nyarugusu refugee camp, Tanzania. © UNHCR/Maimuna Mtengela

## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

In 2023, WASH Partners will continue working to provide safe, clean, and sufficient water to refugees and asylum-seekers, maintaining and improving existing water supply systems in a cost-effective manner. Partners will also support the construction of water and sanitation facilities in households, institutions and public places. Hygiene awareness will be prioritized so as to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Furthermore, the dissemination of information about people's entitlements (such as entitlement to hygiene items) will foster access to WASH services and solutions and reduce refugees' vulnerability to exploitation.

Assessment teams and WASH staff will be trained in inclusive and evidence-based approaches. Additional and specialized hygiene products will be distributed to people with disabilities and older people when required. Gender-sensitive distribution methods that protect individual dignity (for instance, delivering intimate hygiene products directly to the person who needs them) will be emphasized. Lastly, men will be actively involved in hygiene-promotion activities, such as through the deployment of male volunteers to working sites during the day.

## Country cross-cutting response priorities



### Accountability to affected populations

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability presents accountability to affected populations (AAP) as an essential part of humanitarian responses. AAP seeks to ensure that target populations receive timely, appropriate, and relevant assistance, that communities can conduct informed participation in programmes, and that feedback on the response is properly addressed. RRP Partners will employ various methods to promote AAP, including maintaining active participation in the inter-agency Community-Based Complaints and Feedback Response Mechanism, engaging in context-appropriate information exchange with refugees, and adapting the nature and scope of ongoing and planned projects (managed remotely or not) according to input from affected populations.



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

The development and humanitarian community in Tanzania has developed a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network Strategy to prevent, mitigate, and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Strategy covers all refugee-hosting areas and is anchored in a zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual misconduct. Its implementation in 2023 will be guided by a work plan, agreed upon by all Partners involved in the refugee response, which focuses on three pillars: inter-agency structure, preparedness, and response. This is aligned with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Acceleration Plan and is anchored in the PSEA Results Framework template.

RRP Partners' main objectives will be to ensure that quality, survivor-centred assistance mechanisms are operationalized and to promote and document harmonized activities for progress-tracking and resource mobilization. Trainings for the humanitarian and Government personnel working with refugees are planned, with special attention given to all staff working in refugee camps, including RRP Partners, implementing partners and the Ministry of Home Affairs.



### Age, gender, and diversity

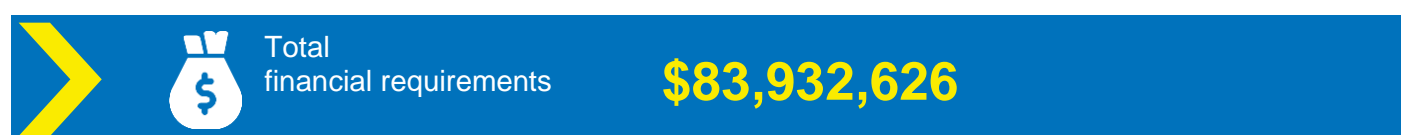
To reinforce the longstanding commitment to ensuring that the planning and delivery of humanitarian interventions centres refugees and asylum-seekers, RRP Partners will continue to promote their participation throughout the programming cycle and strengthen age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming in all intervention areas. Participatory assessments, community engagement appraisals, focus group discussions, town halls, community-leader representations, and sectoral committee meetings have always been key platforms for refugee populations to raise their protection concerns and suggest viable solutions based on available capacities and resources. In 2023, these platforms will be maintained and improved, and their inputs will guide project design and implementation. Partners will bolster community-based structures (such as community leadership and sector committees) while ensuring equal gender and diversity representation. The participation of children and young people in programming through robust community-based platforms, including children committees and the child parliament, will be encouraged. Finally, Partners will undertake training and awareness-raising sessions with humanitarian and governmental stakeholders on the AGD policy to foster effective mainstreaming across all sectors.

## Partnership and coordination

The overall coordination of the refugee response in Tanzania is based on the [Refugee Coordination Model](#) (RCM), with UNHCR and the Government, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs, taking the lead. Under the RCM structure, UNHCR and the Ministry co-lead a monthly Refugee Operations Working Group at the national level; at the field level, the Inter-agency and Inter-sector Working Groups meet regularly to promote synergies and complementarity between the sectors on day-to-day implementation. Various coordination sectors, working groups and subgroups, including for the sectors and

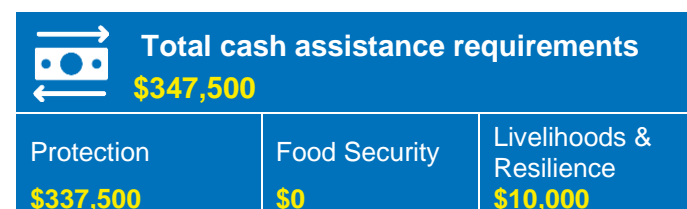
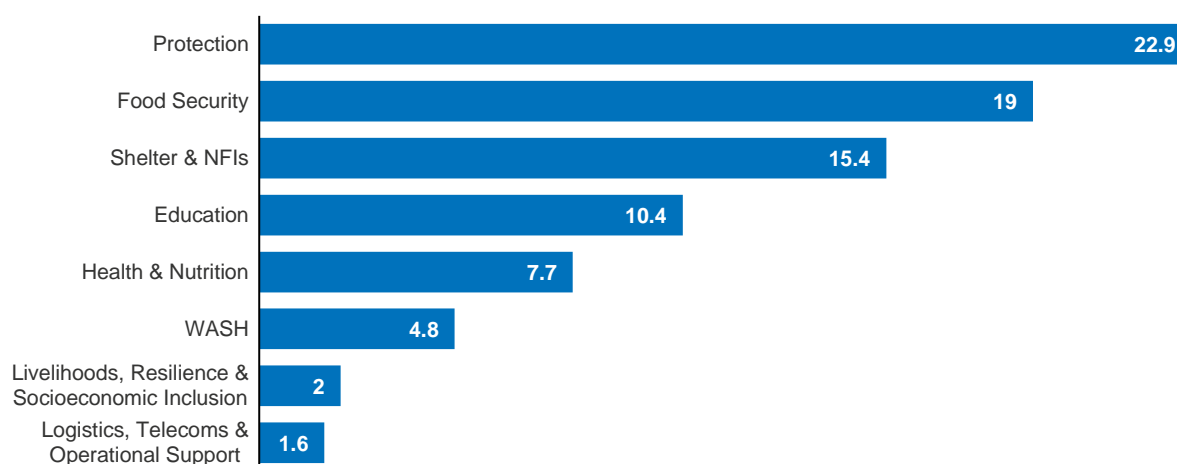
areas of Education, Protection, Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Shelter, NFIs, Health, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, and inter-agency coordination, will collaborate to support a coordinated response within the camps, to avoid duplication and to increase the effective use of resources. In 2023, these partnership-management mechanisms will work to ensure refugees are strongly represented in discussions and that Partners involved in the refugee response are held accountable for the provision of services to refugee and host communities.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



## Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



## Budget by partner type



## Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	858,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	46,363,939
World Food Programme (WFP)	20,041,123
International NGOs	
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	4,700,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	4,387,500
Medical Teams International (MTI)	1,250,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	941,077
WATER MISSION (WMT)	1,300,000
World Vision International (WVI)	1,730,000
National NGOs	
Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions	286,000
Relief to Development Society (REDESO)	1,799,600
Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)	275,387
Total	\$83,932,626

# Zambia planned response



60,000

Targeted refugee population



15,000

Targeted host community members



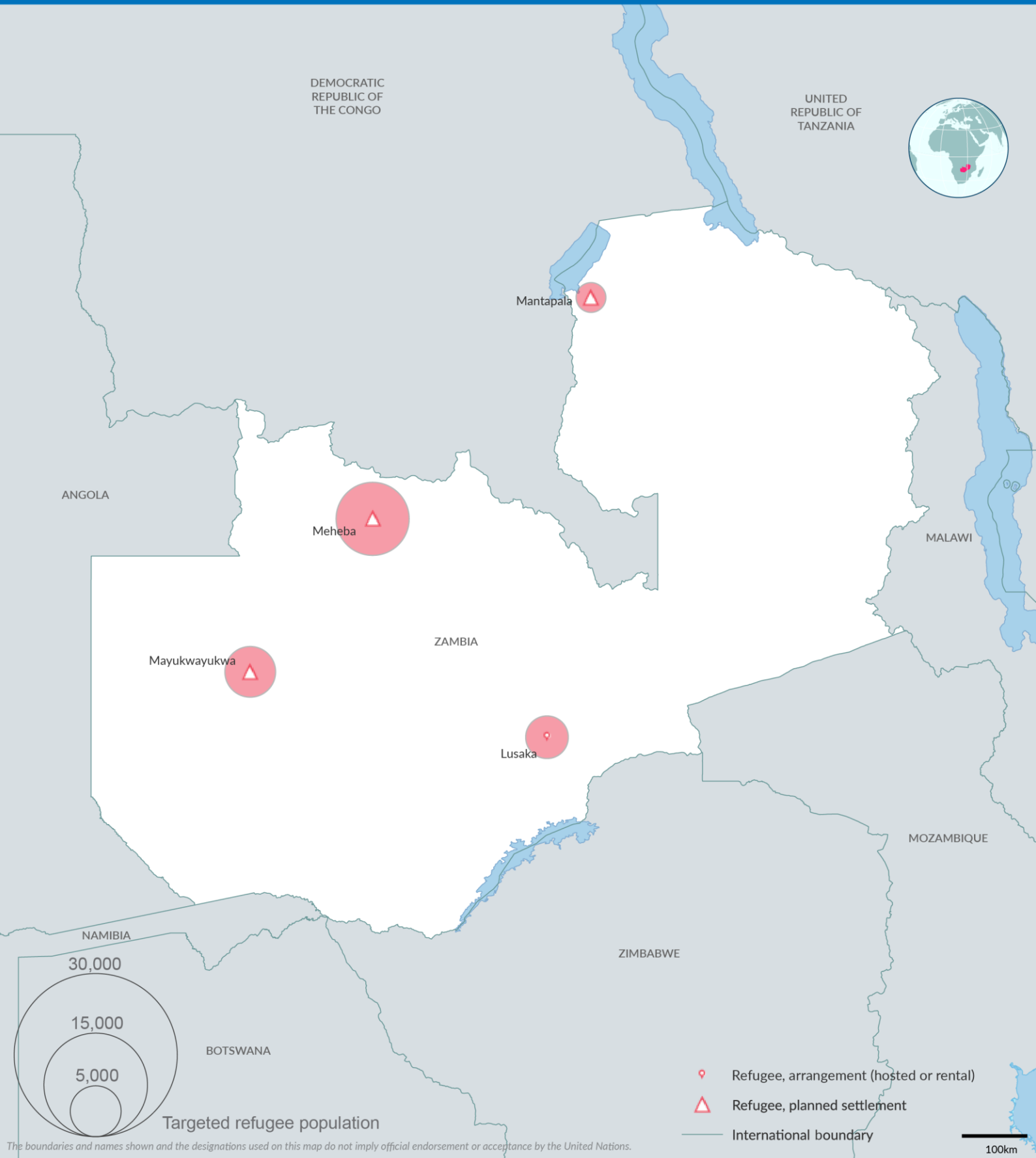
36.3M

Total financial requirements



11

Partners involved



Targeted refugee population

Refugee, arrangement (hosted or rental)

Refugee, planned settlement

International boundary

100km

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



## Current situation

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### Situation overview

As of the end of November 2022, Zambia hosted 52,100 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).<sup>21</sup> The country's central location on the African continent and its proximity to the Great Lakes region has led to various flows of refugees into and through its territory over the years. Zambia receives between 600 and 800 new arrivals from the DRC every month, and this influx is expected to remain stable, in part due to the national open-door policy, political stability, and goodwill from the Government. In addition to expected continued arrivals from the South Kivu, Haut-Katanga and Tanganyika provinces<sup>22</sup>, a possible influx of around 10,000 people from Kasai and Tanganyika provinces is predicted for 2023.

Zambia's population was estimated by the National Statistics Agency as 18.4 million in 2021, with around 156,000 people living around refugee settlements. Inequality levels are high, and approximately 58 per cent of the population struggles with poverty; most of those impoverished live in rural areas, including refugee-hosting districts.

Over the past years, Zambia's economy has stalled due to high inflation, fiscal deficits, and unsustainable debt levels, all of which were aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Despite this, the Government has upheld the country's open-door policy, allowing refugees to live in Meheba, Mayukwayukwa, and Mantapala settlements, as well as in urban areas (in special cases). With the country's recent classification as low-income and the Government's commitment to achieving macroeconomic stability through debt restructuring, Zambia has received an IMF Extended Credit Facility (\$1.4 billion over the next three years) and improved donor goodwill (\$750 million from the World Bank). As such, Zambia is implementing a decentralization policy, which entails increased funding at the ward/constituency level and presents an opportunity for refugee inclusion.

Zambia has maintained reservations to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees that affect refugees' freedom of movement and access to education and socioeconomic opportunities. The 2017 Refugees Act conflicts with other legislation, such as the Immigration Act, and thus Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners are emphasizing efforts to support the Government in developing a refugee policy that can bring clarity and cohesion to the law and ease existing restrictions. This policy is at the final stages of its development as it has already gone through a national validation and is being channelled to the cabinet for final adoption; it will improve the protection environment and push for *prima facie* recognition of refugees from the DRC, in line with the revised [UNHCR Position on Returns to Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu provinces](#).

Despite challenges, Zambia is a [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#) model country, pursuing refugee inclusion in health, education, sports, protection, and agriculture, in line with the seven [Global Refugee Forum](#) pledges made by the Government in 2019. Finally, the country is currently implementing its eighth National Development Plan, which broadly recognizes refugees as vulnerable people. RRP Partners will undertake further advocacy efforts to achieve more recognition and inclusion for the refugee population.

RRP Partners in Zambia plan to assist 60,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC by the end of 2023, 48 per cent of whom are women and girls, 52 per cent are men and boys, 51 per cent are children, and 15 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, Partners will aim to assist 15,000 members of the host community.

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<sup>21</sup> As of November 2022, there were 63,800 refugees and asylum-seekers in Zambia, mainly coming from the DRC, Burundi and Somalia. Additionally, there were 17,100 Angolan and Rwandan former refugees within the country. See: [Country - Zambia \(unhcr.org\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> Seventy-six per cent of the total refugee population from the DRC originated from three provinces: South Kivu, Haut-Katanga and Tanganyika.



Chiluba Chimpinde joins her fellow returning refugees at the pick-up station in Mantapala settlement, Zambia. She returned from Mantapala settlement to Pweto in the DRC in January 2022. © UNHCR/Bruce Mulenga

### **Returning home to the DRC**

*In 2022, RRP Partners and the Government of Zambia facilitated the return of more than 10,200 refugees to return to the DRC. This support will be continued in 2023.*

## **Country protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks**

Zambia has engaged with the international framework on refugee protection and response. The country became party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in September 1969, and soon after ratified the Organization of African Unity's 1969 Convention Governing Specific aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Additionally, the Government has worked to progressively improve the protection environment, in particular by repealing the restrictive 1970 Refugee Control Act and replacing it with the 2017 Refugees Act. However, despite commitments, Zambia still maintains important reservations in the national legislation; restricted employment and business and investment opportunities continue to adversely impact efforts to foster refugee self-reliance and enhance their socioeconomic inclusion.

Access to asylum, registration, and the quality of refugee status determination (RSD) processes in Zambia are hindered by insufficient human resources, ineffective technology and equipment, low capacity among responsible Government officials and institutions, and frequent staff turnover. There currently is a backlog of 5,600 RSD cases, with the COVID-19 pandemic having contributed to aggravate the situation. Furthermore, the fees required to obtain residence and work permits for refugees create obstacles to longer-term residency and employment.

Newly-arrived refugees from the DRC and groups with special needs are in immediate need of life-saving support. The remoteness of the refugee settlements exacerbates this situation, making service delivery a serious challenge and deterring effective Partner presence in key areas. Due to funding and resource constraints, the provision of

services has been further narrowed down to those who are most vulnerable, thus perpetuating access gaps. Additional efforts are required to strengthen protection services and community-based protection for children, young people, older people, and other groups with special needs and to prevent, mitigate the risk and respond to gender-based violence (GBV). In particular, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) refugees are especially at risk and require urgent support to access registration and RSD services, find safe housing, and meet their basic needs.

There is a need for development partners to respond to longer-term demands for increased inclusion in services such as education, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), shelter, and social protection. The three refugee settlements in Zambia (two of which are over 50 years old) are not connected to the national power grid and have no reliable sources of energy, which further hinders refugee engagement in livelihood projects, inhibits social and domestic activities, and perpetuates protection risks.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the level of vulnerability of refugees and host communities in Zambia — an impact assessment conducted in 2021 revealed that the pandemic has eroded gains made towards refugee self-reliance and resilience by impacting their ability to earn a living. RRP Partners will continue to work to find suitable solutions for the majority of refugees who have been in Zambia for a long period, including through socioeconomic integration, voluntary repatriation, and resettlement to third countries.

Information gathered in the Registration and Verification exercise conducted in 2022 will be used in 2023 to improve the quality of data available for planning and reporting purposes.

## Country protection and solutions strategy

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RRP Partners remain engaged in protecting refugees and improving their well-being and self-reliance through advocacy for improved access to rights, creation of opportunities for economic contributions, and identification of durable solutions.

In line with these objectives, Partners have developed a strategy to address the needs of refugees from the DRC. The strategy aims to support the Government in the provision of international protection by ensuring that the immediate humanitarian needs of refugees are effectively addressed and by enabling a progressive transition towards long-term development responses. Recognizing the need for responsibility-sharing for the protection of refugees and implementation of durable solutions to their plight, the Strategy is anchored in the eighth National Development Plan, the National Decentralization Policy, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF). Priorities and global commitments articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) were also included in the work plan.

Within the context of resource limitations, the key outcomes outlined in the strategy include: facilitating refugee access to improved protection and durable solutions; supporting efforts to meet the humanitarian and development needs of refugees and host populations; supporting the Government in implementing refugee-related pledges and promoting the inclusion of refugees in national systems; and fostering human-capital development, sustainable livelihoods, and the economic integration of refugees and host communities. Stakeholder consultations, aimed at reviewing the implementation and relevance of the strategy, especially ahead of planning cycles, will be held annually.



## Country strategic objectives

### Strengthen the legal framework for refugee protection

At the end of 2022, the Government was engaged in developing a new refugee policy, which is expected to ease reservations to the 1951 Convention and provide normative clarity by harmonizing the 2017 Refugees Act with other existing legislation. Thus, in 2023, support for the adoption of the new policy and implementation of the 2017 Act will be prioritized, along with efforts to strengthen institutional capacities, promote community-based protection, and ensure reservations to key international convention provisions (such as those related to the rights to employment and public education, freedom of movement, and documentation) are reviewed.

Zambia made five statelessness pledges in 2019, committing to facilitating the naturalization procedures for stateless persons and their children and to improving access to birth registration (including late birth registration) for individuals born in Zambia. Additionally, the Government is committed to supporting the adoption of the draft Regional Action Plan to end statelessness. These pledges will be beneficial for many refugees from the DRC, including the 15,600 unregistered children born in Zambia. Implementation of the statelessness commitments is an ongoing process: high-level consultations will continue to take place, and Partners will prioritize advocacy for the adoption and validation of a National Action Plan.

### Promote a favourable protection environment

To foster a favourable protection environment for refugees from the moment they enter Zambia, Partners will support the Immigration Office and the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) in improving the quality of registration, RSD, and documentation processes. Priority will also be given to the provision of essential equipment and technology to further improve and simplify activities and to the strengthening of joint monitoring efforts, especially in border areas and detention centres.

### Build up community-based protection mechanisms

Partners will prioritize the needs of refugees with serious medical conditions, at-risk children, people living with

disabilities, and survivors of violence and torture, including gender-based violence, in programming. Mainstreaming age, gender, and diversity (AGD) and accountability to affected populations (AAP) principles through the promotion of community engagement will help ensure the humanitarian and development needs of refugees and host communities remain at the centre of programme and service delivery, informing interventions.

In 2023, community-based approaches to prevention, mitigation, and response activities will reach some 11,700 people with specific needs. Specific livelihood activities will target young refugees, a group vulnerable to a wide array of protection risks, such as drug abuse and sexual violence. Partners will ensure that services for school-aged refugees, in particular for the 2,800 unaccompanied and separated children in Zambia, are accessible and effective, with emphasis given to specialized assistance for family reunification and alternative care services. The [Isibindi](#) community-based child protection model, applied in Meheba and Mantapala settlements, will be strengthened to enhance the protection of at-risk children and foment the establishment of sustainable child protection systems. Finally, vulnerable groups will receive support for registration, RSD, safe accommodation, and durable solutions.

### Provide social services and livelihood opportunities

Although the Zambian Government offers free basic education and healthcare to refugees, associated costs often hinder adequate access to these services. RRP Partners will continue to provide support through service delivery and cash assistance targeting those who are most vulnerable; they will also advocate for increased donor engagement to expand the coverage of these activities, which so far is minimal. Food assistance will be provided based on vulnerabilities, with the phasing-out of distributions of food items and a full transition to cash-based support in 2023. Following major investments over the last three years, WASH interventions will mostly involve the maintenance of existing infrastructure. In 2023, shelter-based livelihood interventions (making use of available brick-making machines), especially in Meheba settlement, will be implemented. Finally, in terms

of energy, emphasis will be placed on connecting settlements to the national power grid, which will create opportunities for refugees to engage in education and

health activities at night, improve household living conditions, support the prevention of GBV, and foster small-scale trading activities.

## Sectoral responses

### Protection

In 2023, priority will be given to improving the protection environment in Zambia through the provision of technical capacity-building to the Government and support for the implementation of the 2017 Refugees Act and the new Refugee Policy (which is at the final stages of its development). In particular, Protection Partners will offer technical assistance, equipment, and capacity-building to the COR, with the goal of improving reception and RSD procedures and boosting registration and documentation processes, specifically through digitalization initiatives. Humanitarian interventions will be tailored to suit the circumstances of targeted beneficiaries and will seek to promote refugee participation to enable self-reliance and decrease dependence on assistance. Finally, people with special needs (including older people, people with serious health conditions, and unaccompanied children) will be given special attention during the distribution of cash transfers and non-food items (NFI).

### Child Protection Sub-Sector

Under the COR Partnership Agreement, child protection activities in Lusaka and in Mantapala settlement were handed over to the Government, as was the case for Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements, with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) being responsible for implementing interventions. The Government has personnel assigned to the settlements, and in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa, staff live within the settlements. The main challenge faced by the MCDSS in the response derives from limited capacity, both in terms of technical expertise and adequate physical presence. Additionally, community engagement is insufficient — for instance, many refugees are unwilling to volunteer to foster children in the absence of incentives.

Child Protection Partners will work to strengthen child-friendly referral procedures, improve specialized assistance, including best interests procedure, for children at risk, and identify alternative care arrangements. Psychosocial support and more child-friendly spaces equipped with toys and educational materials will be made available. The Isibindi community-based child protection model employed in Meheba and Mantapala settlements will be strengthened through support for the development of the capacity of MCDSS staff. Furthermore, the model will be replicated in other locations, bolstering the protection of at-risk children and the establishment of sustainable child protection systems and encouraging community participation and ownership.

### Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Notable efforts have been made in the past years to establish robust gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms in all refugee-hosting areas, resulting in increased community awareness and improved service delivery. GBV Partners will work to preserve achievements by developing the capacity of staff, contractors, and other affiliates (to prevent exploitation and abuse) and by empowering the community to prevent GBV. Capacities of frontline workers and community members on safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors will be improved, and referral pathways will be updated, disseminated, and made more accessible. GBV survivors will receive appropriate health and psychosocial counselling support, as well as targeted legal and socioeconomic interventions. Additionally, Partners will include GBV survivors in programmes designed to economically empower women and girls. In particular, young people and men will be engaged in activities aimed at preventing GBV and addressing damaging behaviours and norms. Partners will also ensure that young refugees are involved in sports and skills training activities. Finally, the



provision of legal support to GBV survivors, which has remained a persistent and complex challenge, will be emphasized.

## Education

The Government provides free education from grade one through to grade 12 to both refugees and Zambian nationals. There are government schools in refugee settlements staffed by teachers employed by the Ministry of Education. The role of Education Partners in 2023 will be to continue to complement national authority efforts by providing infrastructure and equipment, including textbooks, desks, and computers, and deploying learning aides when needed. In addition, emphasis will be given to addressing the hidden costs of education to facilitate access, increase retention, and promote meaningful participation, especially for children from vulnerable households. Over time, refugees have established their own schools to supplement the educational services delivered by the Government and expand learning opportunities closer to targeted populations. These institutions receive official recognition from the Government but are developed and sponsored by the community; as such, Partners will continue to support communities in running these spaces and paying for teachers. The biggest gap in education remains at higher levels, due to many refugees' inability to afford the high tuition fees. In 2023, some tertiary education scholarships will be provided to eligible students, and potential links to employers for internship opportunities will be evaluated.

## Food Security

In Mantapala settlement, which was established in 2018, approximately 9,000 refugees and newly-arrived asylum-seekers are receiving food assistance, both in-kind and through cash transfers. This intervention is expected to continue in 2023, with the phasing-out of distributions of food items and a full transition to cash-based support. In Lusaka and in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements, areas without Food Security Partners' presence, only vulnerable people (approximately 3,000 older individuals, unaccompanied children, and people with serious physical and health challenges) are targeted to receive a multi-purpose cash grant every quarter. Provision of this cash assistance, which helps refugees access food and other essential needs, will be maintained in 2023, depending on the availability of funds. Partners have agreed to conduct a Joint Needs Assessment and a Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey in Meheba and Mayukwayukwe settlements in 2023. The data gathered will inform the allocation and mobilization of resources, with the goal of promoting access to food and responding to pressing nutritional issues.

## Health & Nutrition

Primary health services in Zambia (such as maternal and reproductive care and HIV/AIDS services) are free for all, including refugees, and settlements have clinics and health posts manned by government staff where services can be accessed. Secondary and tertiary healthcare, on the other hand, is charged, and most vulnerable refugees are unable to afford the fees deriving from these services. Additionally, refugees often require assistance to procure medications that are unavailable or out of stock in the public system. In 2023, Health and Nutrition Partners will continue to assist vulnerable refugees and support access to secondary and tertiary medical care, examinations, and medicine. Taking into account diminishing resources, priority will be placed on promoting the inclusion of refugees in the national health insurance system (NHIMA). Partners will also continue to complement Government efforts by supplementing medication and other medical supplies needed in refugee-hosting areas. Finally, people with specific health conditions will be targeted for specialized activities, such as prosthetics support and wheelchair supply.



## Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)

Promoting livelihood opportunities in Lusaka, and Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements to empower refugees, increase self-reliance, and foster positive contributions to the Zambian economy remains a priority for the response (Mantapala is not included for 2023 because repatriation activities make the future of the settlement uncertain). Given that over 70 per cent of the refugee population in Zambia relies on aid to survive, dependence reduction will be emphasized in programming. In 2023, Livelihoods and Resilience Partners will support entrepreneurship through business grants for the establishment of new small-scale businesses and the expansion of existing ones. Group activities like cooperative schemes will also be supported. Participation in agriculture value chains, from crop cultivation and livestock production to market access, will be promoted in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa, and farming inputs and training will be offered to target groups. Partners will support vocational skills training and, when possible, offer graduates start-up capital. Additionally, advocacy efforts to enable refugee access to employment opportunities and to link graduates to apprenticeships and internships will be continued. Lastly, support will be given to initiatives promoting access to financial services, including credit and savings platforms, and activities that increase financial literacy, such as trainings and savings groups.



## Logistics, Telecoms & Operation Support

In 2023, Partners will stock warehousing supplies in a single location in Lusaka; items and resources will be transported from this centralized warehouse to all other field locations. Currently, there are three warehouses in Zambia: in Meheba, Mantapala, and Lusaka.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

Due to dwindling resources and with the goal of reducing disparities between refugees and Zambian nationals, Shelter and NFI Partners have encouraged refugees in all settlements to build pole and mud-thatched shelters, materials similar to those used by local communities. However, in 2023, a small investment will be made towards renewing shelter structures, especially in Meheba settlement, using the brick-making machines available. Special attention will be given to considerations around livelihoods and the special needs of different groups. In terms of NFIs, Partners plan to move away from in-kind distributions and provide cash transfers in all locations to maximize resource efficiency and reduce warehousing, logistical, and distribution costs. Preliminary activities, including surveys, will be concluded before the full-fledged implementation of this plan.



## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Most water-supply facilities in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa were built over 50 years ago using iron pipes (as opposed to polythene, the preferred material). These systems are now obsolete and inadequate for safe and dignified consumption — the high iron content in some water points, for instance, colours the water. WASH Partners have made significant investments in the past three years to rehabilitate WASH facilities and build new systems, but many water points still need to be reformed. Some technicians have recommended a complete restructuring of the settlements, in line with a more modern and simplified approach to water supply, which would require massive investment. However, given decreased funding, Partners will prioritize efforts to maintain existing water points, replace diesel generators in pumps with solar power to reduce operation and management costs, and advocate for additional resources to respond to persisting gaps. Sanitation coverage is above 90 per cent, thus focus will be on replacements and installations for new arrivals. The sector will emphasize active community participation – latrines will be built for vulnerable refugees, while the general population will receive support to construct their own latrines. Health and hygiene promotion will also continue, spearheaded by community volunteers and WASH groups.



Kaulu, a refugee from the DRC, is working at his carpentry shop in Mantapala settlement, Zambia, one of the livelihood activities supported by RRP Partners. © UNHCR/Bruce Mulenga

## Country cross-cutting response priorities



### Accountability to affected populations

Streamlining AGD principles to address the humanitarian and development needs of refugees remains a priority for programme and service design and delivery. Responses are informed by population assessments and continued input from refugees; in particular, the annual inter-agency age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming participatory assessment, conducted in all refugee-hosting areas, is the main tool used to enable programming that takes into account the various identities, situations, vulnerabilities, and capacities that exist within the refugee community. In 2023, refugees will continue to be engaged and involved throughout the programming cycle, with particular attention given to community leadership structures (with at least 30 per cent women's representation). Other than the general leadership, various other community bodies, such as social welfare committees, and sector-specific community management groups, including community WASH groups, agriculture cooperatives, and savings groups, will also amplify refugee voices. RRP Partners will continue to make use of refugee community volunteers to implement their activities, promoting empowerment and ownership among the population. Furthermore, all settlements and Lusaka have an inter-agency complaints and feedback mechanism (in addition to partner-specific mechanisms), which will be strengthened.



### Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

RRP Partners will continue to promote protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) through efforts to institutionalize and harmonize a code of conduct; hold periodic training sessions with all stakeholders, including refugee volunteers, government workers, and UN and NGO staff; maintain a robust community-wide system of reporting; ensure access of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) survivors to appropriate support through gender-

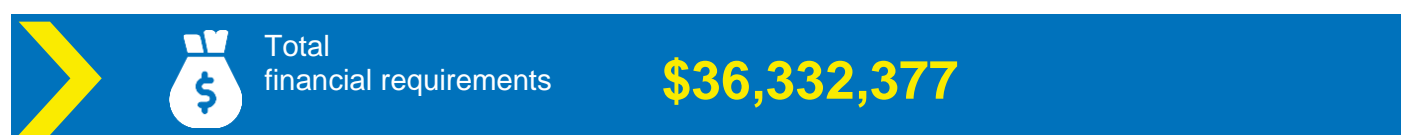
based violence referral pathways; ensure that all reports of SEA are properly investigated and that feedback is provided to survivors; and strengthen PSEA communication strategies and plans to include awareness-raising with communities through various channels as well as key messaging displayed in partner offices, settlements, and reception centres.

## Partnership and coordination

The response in Zambia follows the [Refugee Coordination Model](#), with the Government leading the response and UNHCR coordinating with other stakeholders to provide support. Monthly inter-agency meetings are conducted in all refugee-hosting locations,

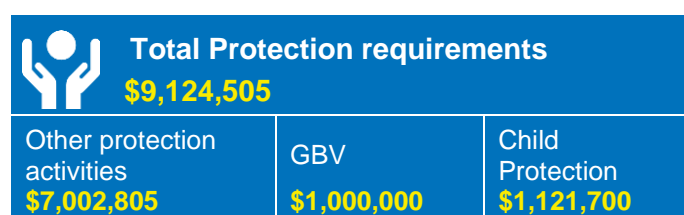
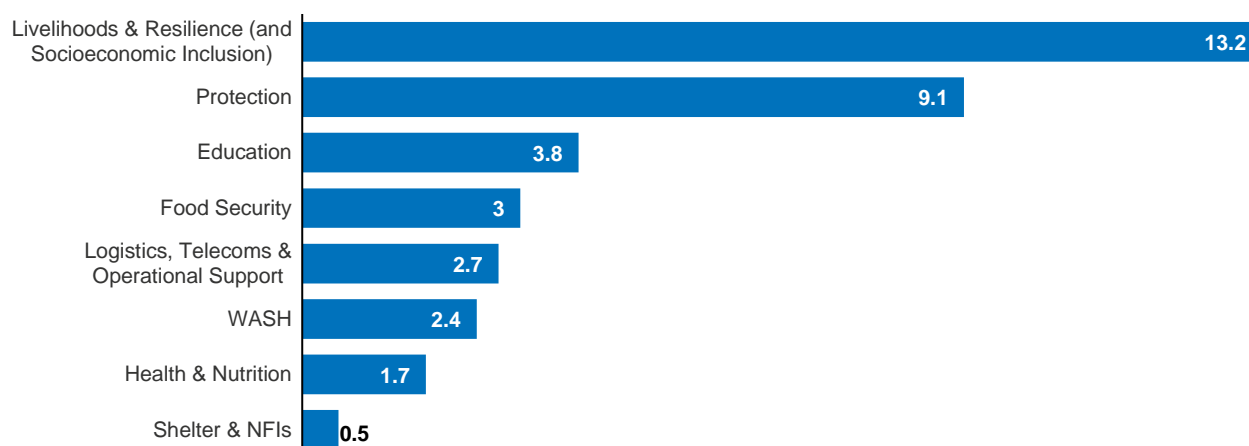
co-chaired by UNHCR and the COR. Working groups are in place for various sectors, including education, livelihoods, WASH, protection, food security, and health. Finally, consultations with donors are also conducted regularly.

## Inter-agency financial requirements



## Budget by sector

In millions of US\$



## Budget by partner type




## Budget by Partner






Partner	Requirements in US\$
<b>United Nations</b>	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	250,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	21,377,012
World Food Programme (WFP)	3,771,000
<b>International NGOs</b>	
Action Africa Help (AAH)	240,000
CARE International	243,000
CARITAS	5,600,000
Lifeline-Childline Zambia (LLC)	11,700
Plan International (PI)	1,030,000
World Vision International (WVI)	3,600,000
<b>Faith-based Organizations</b>	
CARITAS Zambia (CZ)	9,665
<b>Academia</b>	
Cavendish University (CU)	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,332,377</b>




# Annexes

## Annex 1: Country and regional monitoring targets

Sector		Indicator	Angola	Burundi	Congo	Rwanda	Uganda	Tanzania	Zambia	Regional
	Protection	Number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered on individual basis	23,154	24,000	13,739	78,408	522,223	80,218	60,012	801,754
		Number of refugees and asylum-seekers receiving legal assistance	1,000	690	13,739	1,500	30,000	21,200	0	68,129
		Percentage of active female participants in leadership/management structures	25	50	50	50	50	50	30	48
		Number of refugees who voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to their country of origin	1,000	0	1,050	200	-	20	2,000	4,270
		Number of refugees submitted for resettlement	50	4,100	80	4,500	2,010	7,000	3,000	20,740
	Child Protection	Number of children whose birth is registered	500	3,500	1,463	1,949	29,000	25,000	3,000	64,412
		Number of children at high risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, with best interests procedure undertaken	20	1,200	174	471	4,601	1,000	300	7,766
		Number of individuals trained on child rights and child protection prevention and response, including mainstreaming	1,500	1,868	175	1,200	1,944	15,000	2,524	24,211
	Gender-Based Violence	Percentage of reported incidents where survivors receive case management services by service providers trained in gender-based violence survivor-centred approaches	100	100	80	100	90	100	100	94

		Number of trained participants (Partners workforce and government authorities) who increased their GBV knowledge and skills in prevention and response	20	60,000	200	90	2,000	30	100	62,440
	Education	Number of refugee children enrolled in early childhood education	2,100	5,085	929	4,644	20,264	4,358	3,000	40,380
		Number of refugee children enrolled in primary education	3,200	17,018	5,302	15,163	58,306	18,012	15,000	132,001
		Number of refugee children enrolled in lower secondary education (lower and higher)	100	7,657	1,932	8,683	2,458	8,282	5,000	34,112
	Food security	Number of people receiving food assistance (in-kind or cash assistance)	8,000	60,000	20,500	85,158	490,997	83,640	13,350	761,645
	Health & Nutrition	Number of refugees provided with primary healthcare services	6,180	60,000	27,951	65,000	435,000	80,218	60,000	734,349
		Number of children aged 6 to 59 months screened, identified, and admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition	42	230	150	150	250	420	345	1,587
		Number of children aged 9 months to 5 years who have received a measles-containing vaccine	266	2,101	1,550	1,750	14,500	20,173	750	41,090
	Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socioeconomic Inclusion)	Number of people receiving livelihood support (cash grants, inputs/tools/equipment, small business development, self/employment opportunities, training and capacity-building, etc.)	750	2,809	17,500	8,801	209,984	7,030	12,026	258,900
		Number of refugees and asylum-seekers who benefit from government social safety nets	20	8,000	2,000	13,337	-	0	0	23,357
	Shelter & Non-Food Items	Number of people receiving emergency shelter	NA	2,270	4,500	60	30,000	50,000	100	86,930

		Number of households reached with NFIs	1,411	17,600	6,500	25,700	20,000	80,218	8,500	159,929
		Number of women and girls receiving sanitary material (in-kind or cash assistance)	1,884	4,726	8,801	37,000	166,127	29,500	5,000	253,038
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Average litres of potable water available per person per day	20	20	20	20	20	29	20	21
		Percentage of households with access to soap	100	100	90	100	100	100	60	97
		Percentage of households with household latrine/toilet	60	20	90	NA	77	68	90	69

## Annex 2: Cover picture description

Estelle is a DRC refugee and seamstress in Kigeme refugee camp, Rwanda. She works as part of a cooperative of 15 women and four men who tailor clothes for the refugees living in the camp as well as the Rwandan host community. © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle