

Rwanda

November – December 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

A. Rwanda hosted a total of 127,112 refugees and asylum seekers at the end of December 2021. The population of concern included mainly persons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (60.7%) and Burundi (38.9%).

B. The ETM Rwanda received the 7th evacuation convoy of 176 refugees and asylum seekers (81% males) from Libya, after months of suspended humanitarian flights, on Friday, 10 December of different nationalities - Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

C. Ms. Kelly T. Clements, UNHCR Deputy HC, conducted a 5-day mission to Rwanda, where she participated in the African Private Sector Forum of Forced Displacement. She also had meetings with Ministers of MINEMA and MINAFFET on Rwanda's role in finding solutions for African displacement issues.

KEY INDICATORS

10

Cases of COVID-19 were identified among refugees in November and December 2021. 1,678 cases identified since the beginning of the pandemic. 30,202 refugees have been vaccinated against the COVID-19, at least one shot.

437

Refugees departed for resettlement and complementary pathways in November and December 2021. A total of 2,552 departed in 2021.

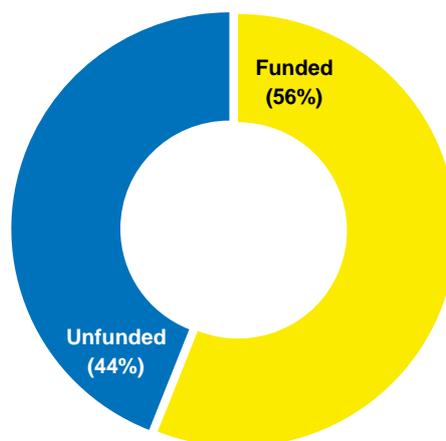
186

Burundian refugees were repatriated in November and December 2021. A total of 21,631, and 29,525 since August 2020.

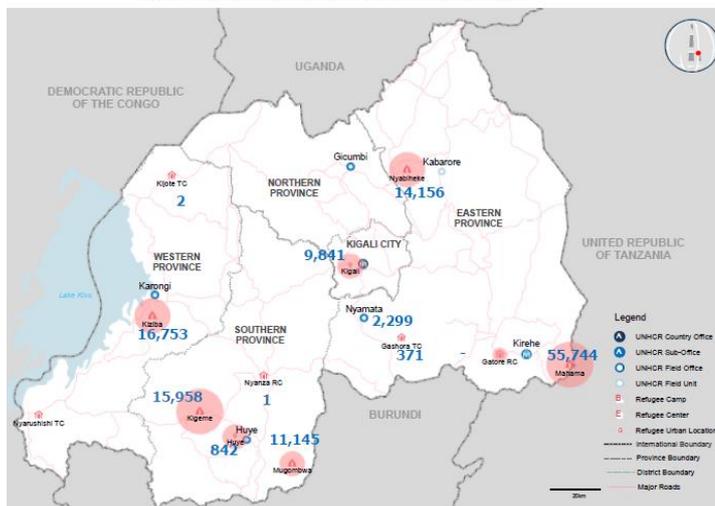
FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

USD 87 million

were needed for regular programmes, the Burundi and DR Congo situations, the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM), and the COVID-19 emergency in Rwanda.

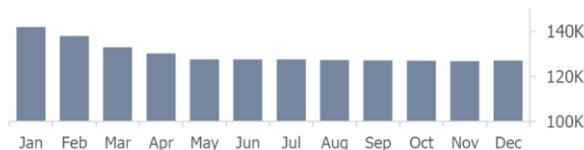


POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY LOCATION IN RWANDA

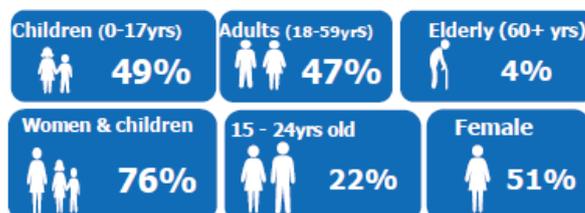


POPULATION OF CONCERN

MONTHLY POPULATION TRENDS | Jan 2021 - Dec 2021



DEMOGRAPHICS



Burundi Refugee Response



Connected Learning Project, implemented by UNHCR and partners – ADRA and WVI, helps refugee and host students to access information technology tools and improve the quality of their education. Rwanda @UNHCR/Eric Didier Karinganire

Achievements & Highlights



PROTECTION

- 26 Asylum seekers who were recently voluntarily repatriated to their Country of Origin (Burundi) returned to seek asylum in Rwanda, and they are currently hosted at Nyanza Transit Center. RSD Committee has interviewed five, and 21 were pending, scheduled for another date.
- UNHCR, partners, and refugees launched the annual 16 Days of Activism against GVB in the Mahama camp and urban settings on 25 November. The theme for 2021 was “Orange the World: End Gender-Based Violence Not.” The period was marked with different awareness-raising and advocacy sessions with the community and other shareholders, incl. public authorities, judges, prosecutors, Rwanda Bureau of Investigation (GBV), and Police.
- 1,333 refugee children in the Mahama camp received birth certificates from authorities.
- 116 refugee couples in the Mahama camp celebrated their Civil Marriage on the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and received marriage certificates from the authorities.
- 2,971 refugees in the Mahama camp received Refugee Identification Cards from the ongoing exercise conducted by the National Identification Agency (NIDA).
- Three new child protection cases with child neglect issues were identified in the camp and assisted accordingly. Three Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were completed to assess the wellbeing of the children and find solutions for their concerns.
- 73 new GBV cases were identified, 69 in the camp and four in Huye urban, including child defilement, physical assault, denial of resources, and emotional abuse cases. The survivors were assisted accordingly.
- 306 GBV and Child Protection (CP) Community-based group members in the camp were trained on the existing CP and GBV prevention and response interventions.
- 100% of refugees with specific needs (5,695), (i.e., disability, older persons at risk, and persons with medical conditions) in the camp received additional specific assistance provided by different partners, including with assistive devices for people with disabilities, rehabilitation services for children, palliative cares, psychotherapy sessions, supplementary feeding, material assistance, and specialized medical assistance.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 186 Burundian refugees voluntarily repatriated to Burundi in November and December.
- 390 Burundian refugees arrived in Rwanda from Uganda, with 144 in November and 246 in December 2021. A total of 1,494 Burundian refugees have come from Uganda since August 2021, and 1,251 were facilitated to travel to Burundi.
- Five Burundian refugees departed for resettlement in December and 37 since January 2021.
- Two cases of 10 individuals were submitted to resettlement countries in November and December 2021. 21 cases of 90 individuals were submitted since January 2021.



EDUCATION

- 21,581 refugee students in the Mahama camp were enrolled in schools in the Mahama camp, 15,203 (70%) are school-aged (4,255 in ECD, 7,830 in primary, and 3,118 in secondary) and 6,378 (30%) are 18 years and above. 68% of the school-aged students are females. 161 students have disabilities.
- On 23 November, UNHCR Deputy Representative, together with officials from the Rwanda Education Board and Kirehe District, launched the Connected Learning Project in the district supporting the education of refugees and their hosts with ICT room and access to IT gadgets and tools, including laptops, and tablets.

- Ejo Youth Echo (EYE), a group of students and teachers at Paysannat L School (a school of integration of refugees in Mahama camp), launched the school newsletter on 25 November. The launch marked the completion of 10 days of training on Conflict Sensitive Journalism.
- 18,079 refugee students in the camp were provided with scholastic materials (school uniforms, notebooks, pens, pencils, and facemasks).
- 10 ECD caregivers, 75 children with hearing and speech impairment, were trained on sign language to support the children's education.
- 829 girls at the refugees' integration schools around the Mahama camp received sanitary items.



HEALTH

- The crude and under-5 mortality rates were 0.14 and 0.08 deaths/1,000/month, respectively, in the Mahama camp.
- 12,530 (average per month) refugees and the host community accessed primary health care services.
- 665 refugees and the host community members were referred for secondary and tertiary health services.
- 606 refugees with HIV/AIDS received antiretroviral treatment, nutritional and psychosocial support.
- 92,704 male condoms were distributed to prevent new HIV/AIDS, STIs, and unwanted pregnancies cases.
- 353 newborn babies were delivered in the camp and assisted by trainer medical staff.
- 3,714 women of reproductive age (average per month) attended family planning services.
- 19,515 refugees in the camp were vaccinated against COVID-19 (first dose). 15,334 received the second dose.
- 756 refugees in the camp were tested for COVID-19, and nine tested positive.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Refugee families in the Mahama camp received food assistance through monthly support in cash by the WFP following their eligibility criteria.

- 204 refugees in the camp, including 161 pending enrolments into Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) and 2,527 with different specific needs, received in-kind food assistance.
- School feeding program supported 20,563 refugee and host community students in ECD, primary and secondary schools around the Mahama camp.
- 2,544 children aged 6-23 months and 6,000 with nutrition needs in the Mahama camp were supported through a supplementary feeding program to reduce their exposure to malnutrition issues and improve their health conditions.



WATER AND SANITATION

- Potable water supply was above standards with 21.4 liters/person/day in the Mahama camp and 154 m³/day in the host community.
- 20,844 liters of liquid soap were distributed in all public handwashing stations to enhance good sanitation practices in the camp.
- The construction of public handwashing facilities (8x12 basins) at marketplaces and public areas was at a 90% completion rate.
- The Global Toilet Day was celebrated in Mahama camp on 19 November 2021. The theme of the year was "Valuing Toilets" to promote sanitation and community engagement.



SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURES, AND NFI

- 434 semi-permanent shelters were repaired in the Mahama camp.
- Construction of 10 ECD classrooms, kitchen, and office was at a 99% completion rate. 24 regular classrooms were also under construction at Paysannat L with the support of the World Bank and MINEMA Jya Mbere Project.
- Construction of a football ground at Paysannat L School was at a 40% completion rate.
- Refugees in the Mahama camps received cash assistance for non-food items in the fourth quarter.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 15,586 refugee families in the Mahama camp were provided with domestic cooking gas.
- 27,655 trees were planted in the camp.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

- With great thanks to the European Union funding, UNHCR Rwanda and the Indego Africa sponsored the participation of four refugees, representing four separate cooperatives, in the 24th Annual Rwandan International Trade fair, which took place in the Gikondo Expo Grounds in Kigali, 9-30 December 2021.
- 3,129 refugees in the Mahama camp received support, i.e., loans, to expand or formalize their businesses.
- 464 refugee youths in the camp were involved in vocational training, including tailoring leather craft at the camp Elite Center and others in TVET schools around the country.
- 13,986 refugees from the camp were employed or self-employed in income-generating activities.
- 2,461 refugees from the camp were trained in entrepreneurship and business skills.
- GIZ supports 163 refugees from Mahama and 137 from the host community to study in different TVET schools.

Needs & Gaps

- 38 Burundian asylum seekers in the Mahama camp were waiting for their Refugee Status Determination (RSD).
- 12 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 76 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were admitted to the nutrition program.
- Family planning prevalence was at 28% in the Mahama camp.



UNHCR DHC Ms. Kelly T. Clement (central) met with the UN Country Team and discussed the UN's inclusion of refugees. Left – UNHCR Representative, and Right UN Resident Coordinator in Rwanda @UNHCR_Eric Didier Karingamire

Congolese Refugee Response



Street lights in Kigeme camp improved the security and wellbeing of the refugees and their host sl. Rwanda @UNHCR/Eric Didier Karingamire

Achievements & Highlights



PROTECTION

- 765 refugees in the Nyabiheke camp were provided identity cards.
- 82 refugee children in the Nyabiheke (69) and Kigeme (13) camps received birth certificates from authorities.
- 168 refugees and host communities, in Kiziba (64), Mugombwa (13), Kigeme (57), and Nyabiheke (34) camps accessed legal services, including legal representation, advocacy, counseling, and detention monitoring.
- 42 new cases of child protection, including neglect, and psychological abuse, were identified in Mugombwa (09), Kigeme (13), Nyabiheke (1), and Kiziba (19) camps. The assistance to the children includes case management, psychosocial counseling, material support, medical services, and others.
- 59 new cases of GBV, including rape, child defilement, sexual assault, psychological/emotional abuse, denial of resources, and physical assault, were reported in Kigeme (31), Mugombwa (6), Kiziba (6), and Nyabiheke (16) camps. The survivors were assisted accordingly.
- 1,805 refugees and host communities (monthly average) with specific needs, i.e., disability, older persons at risk, and persons with medical conditions in Kiziba (569), Kigeme (350), Mugombwa (300), and Nyabiheke (517) camps, and 24 in Huye urban setting, 45 people from the host communities were assisted with assistive devices for people with disabilities, rehabilitation services for children, palliative cares, psychotherapy sessions, supplementary

feeding, material assistance and specialized medical assistance.

- 52 youth in clubs (15 girls and 37 boys) in Kigeme camp participated in a 2-day workshop on fighting against gender-based violence and for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 415 refugees departed for resettlement in November and December 2021 and 2,258 since January 2021.
- 348 cases of 1,416 individuals were submitted to resettlement countries in November and December 2021 and 885 cases of 3,250 individuals since January 2021.



EDUCATION

- 16,546 refugee students (5,314 in Mugombwa, 5,587 in Kiziba, and 5,645 in Kigeme) were registered and integrated into national schools.
- 359 students (120 from Mugombwa and 239 from Kigeme) were integrated into schools of excellence, while 33 children with disability (12 from Mugombwa, 21 from Kigeme) are in specialized schools around the country.
- 1,628 refugee children were enrolled in Early Childhood Development (ECD) (910 in Mugombwa and 718 in Kigeme).
- Over 100 Primary teachers from three integration schools around the Nyabiheke camp, in Kiziba camp-based school, and Kigeme integration schools participated in training on the digital application in education through the Connected Learning project.
- 16 teachers of ECD in the Nyabiheke camp participated in a 4-day training organized by WVI on the competence-based curriculum for ECD's, teaching methodologies appropriate for pre-primary schools, using local and child-friendly teaching materials, introduction to the holistic child development, assessment in preschools, classroom management and schemes of work, and lesson planning among others.
- 86 refugee teachers in both ECD and Secondary schools in the Kiziba camp participated in a 3-day training organized by WVI to improve teaching methodology and examination bloom taxonomy based.
- 33 teachers from the Kiziba camp-based school attended Digital Literacy Training. The training is organized by the GIGA Connect project and REB in partnership with UNICEF.
- 1,120 refugee students, 741 in Nyabiheke, 379 in Kiziba were provided with school uniforms, including all absentees during the last distribution. The students have also received scholastic materials.
- 18 girls under impact hope scholarship left Kiziba camp for Kirehe Adventist school for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program.
- The construction of 12 classrooms, ICT Room, laboratory, and latrines in the Kiziba camp was completed.



HEALTH

- Crude and under 5 mortality rates were 0.2 and 0.4 deaths/1,000/month, respectively.
- Anemia prevalence among children from 06 to 59 months and women of reproductive age was 24.28% and 09.75%, respectively.
- 13,465 Congolese refugees (monthly average) in camps and their host communities accessed health services at the camp-based health posts.
- 812 refugees and the host community were referred for secondary and tertiary health services.
- 233 newborn babies were delivered in the camps, 98% assisted by trained health professionals.
- 533 refugees with HIV/AIDS received antiretroviral treatment, nutritional and psychosocial support.
- 62,959 male condoms (monthly average) were distributed to prevent new cases of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and unwanted pregnancies.
- 14,243 adolescents and young people aged 10-24 were targeted with HIV/SRH information.
- 5,112 (39%) women of reproductive age attended family planning services.
- From 22 - 26 November 2021, Kigeme District Hospital, in collaboration with AHA, conducted outreach activities in eye care and Hepatitis, hypertension, and diabetes screening. For eye care, 563 individuals were reached, while 268 individuals were reached for Hepatitis, hypertension, and diabetes.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Refugee families in camps received monthly cash assistance for food, according to the eligibility criteria.
- 92.3% of children aged 06-23 months (2,222) accessed Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP).



WATER AND SANITATION

- Supply of potable water was maintained within the standards in Kiziba, and Mugombwa camps at 25, and 24 liters per person per day, respectively.
- The construction of 39 new handwashing facilities at the camp-based school and different communal latrines was completed.
- 1,175 liters of soaps were distributed in all public handwashing stations in Kiziba (360 liters) and Nyabiheke (815 liters) camps with clean water to improve proper hygiene habits.



SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURES, AND NFIS

- 477 families in Kigeme (295), Nyabiheke (165), and Mugombwa (17) camps were assisted in rehabilitating their shelters with materials for doors, walls, and corrugated iron sheets for roofing.
- The construction of a Health Center in the Mugombwa camp was completed.
- 11,214 refugee families in the camps received the fourth quarter cash assistance for non-food items.
- 14,820 refugees in Kigeme camp and 648 in Huye urban were provided clothes.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- MINEMA, Gicumbi District, and UNHCR organized a large-scale tree planting gala in the space that used to be Gihembe camp. 4,000 agroforestry trees were planted by the staff of the organizations, their partners – I&M Bank, SP Group, ICRAF, VSF-Belgium, FAO, PA, WVI, and the host community. 28,000 more trees were planted in December.
- 77 host community members participated in a training of trainers organized by UNHCR, WVI, and Gicumbi District on land conservation, forest, and wetland management.
- Additional 79,401 trees of agroforestry, fruits, and others were planted, 40,000 in Nyabiheke camp and 39,401 in the host communities.

- 11,214 refugee families in the camps received monthly cooking energy assistance, cooking gas in Mugombwa, and cash for the rest of the camps.
- 187 new Solar Home Systems were installed for refugee families in the Kigeme camp.
- 151 Solar Home Systems were installed in shelters of vulnerable families identified in the Nyabiheke camp. The beneficiaries appreciated the systems.
- 56 streetlights were installed in the Nyabiheke camp.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

- Community-Based Activities Exhibition was held at Gikondo Community Center in Kigali. To enhance community-based protection, many refugees, especially youths, were encouraged to join the Community Centers to learn new skills to develop their talents and support their communities. During the exhibition, 10 groups of youths from around the country made presentations on their activities and introduced their products. Following the visit by the UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner (DHC), the exhibition was open for refugees and the host community to visit freely.
- Eight youths who are pursuing their dreams through tertiary education programs, sports activities, various training activities aiming for digital inclusion, and engaging their peers and the community were invited for a discussion with the DHC and UNHCR staff to share their experience and the needs of refugee youths and suggest practical ways to help them thrive.

Needs & Gaps

- Water shortages remained a challenge in Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps (12.3 and 15 liters/person/day, respectively) due to the limited capacity of the water boreholes and the low capacity of the national supply grid.
- 12 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 31 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were admitted to the nutrition program in the camps.
- Lack of refugee IDs to support their property registrations and acquiring a driving license.

- The refugees in urban settings with chronic illnesses under monthly medicines still face delay issues in accessing public health facilities (centers/hospitals) with the Community-based health insurance (CBHI).
- Several refugee students in Kigeme and Mugombwa camps studying in boarding schools still do not have access to health care due to lack of enrolment into the CBHI.
- Family planning prevalence was at 39% in the Congolese camps.



Public infrastructures and the population around the refugee camps are at risk of environmental degradation. Mugombwa @UNHCR

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)



UNHCR DHC Ms. Kelly T Clements (second from the left) visited ETM Rwanda and interacted with refugees and asylum seekers. Bugesera. @UNHCR/Eric Didier Karinganire

- On 2 November, the European Union Parliamentarian Delegation headed by the EU HRVP visited the ETM Transit Centre in Gashora. They were briefed on the humanitarian assistance and different activities in the Center. They had the opportunity to visit the various interventions being done at the ETM, including livelihoods and education, as well as interaction with the refugee community.



PROTECTION

- ETM Gashora Transit Center hosted 371 refugees and asylum seekers evacuated from Libya on 10 December: 212 Eritreans, 130 Sudanese, 15 Somalis, 7 Ethiopians, 1 Chadian, 5 South Sudanese, and 1 Cameroonian. 20% were females, 17% children, and 52% unaccompanied and separated children.
- The ETM in Rwanda received the 7th evacuation convoy from Libya after several months of suspended humanitarian flights. The evacuation flight landed on Friday, 10 December, with 176 refugees and asylum seekers from Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. Out of the 176 persons, 142 are males and 34 females. There were also 24 Unaccompanied and Separated Children, one elderly/frail person, two persons with disabilities, and three lactating mothers.

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