

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

12-18 August 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES* (as of 17 August)

73,575

Burundian refugees are in Rwanda*

Further breakdown of the above figure:

36,105

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

23,049

Registered urban refugees

546

Urban refugees with registration appointments

13,200

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

106

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

569

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center

*statistics are according to the Government of Rwanda.

PRIORITIES

- Relocation for remaining refugees in the transit and reception centers;
- Ongoing treatment of surface water for Mahama Camp water supply;
- Step-up construction of semi-permanent shelters.

- UNHCR led an interagency meeting on relocation in which agencies agreed that all partners and services should be prepared to handle up to 1,000 new arrivals per day, 5 days per week, for the next 2 weeks. Between 10-18 August, 5,473 refugees have been relocated to Mahama.



Refugees pile off the bus with children and possessions in Mahama camp. UNHCR/J. Drumtra

Recent visits

- The newly arrived Netherlands Ambassador to Rwanda and a delegation consisting of members of the Dutch Parliament spanning five political parties, visited Mahama camp on Sunday 16 August. UNHCR and MIDIMAR gave a general briefing about the camp, while refugee representatives explained their reasons for fleeing from Burundi and the conditions of daily life of refugees in Mahama. The delegation went on a walking tour that included visiting refugees' tents, a stop at a nutrition feeding program for pre-school children, and a short tour of the health clinic.
- The German Ambassador and his government's Regional Director for Africa within the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Mahama camp on 15 August to observe the registration process and speak to refugees about their experiences inside Burundi and fleeing to Rwanda.
- ECHO's Technical Assistant visited Mahama camp for the second time in less than a month and again focused most of his attention on WASH and shelter issues, as well as protection priorities.
- A Rwandan organization, Community of Christian Life based in Kigali, visited the camp's registration center and donated clothes, plastic wash tubs, shoes, and soap.



Netherlands Ambassador with UNHCR Deputy Representative talking to a refugee. UNHCR/E. Fitzpatrick



German Ambassador and the Regional Director for Africa with UNHCR staff in Mahama. UNHCR/J. Drumtra

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- Refugees are reporting continuous violence and harassment by the Imbonerakure who are particularly targeting members of the opposition parties, individuals returning from asylum abroad, and youth.
- Checkpoints and roadblocks are restricting the movement of people from Burundi to neighbouring countries. New arrivals from Burundi report that individuals with luggage are often not allowed to cross these roadblocks.

Protection

Child protection (CP) & Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Achievements and Impact

- **2,750** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been registered, both in camps and urban areas. **560** have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- **96** SGBV cases (the majority being domestic violence and denial of resources) have been identified and assisted with response services by different actors through referral pathways established by UNHCR.
- **247** new born babies have been assisted with birth registration to date, of which **53** newborns were registered this week.

Education

- More than 90 teachers from Mahama camp school gathered in a workshop to learn active teaching methodology to better engage students in the learning process. The workshop is supported by UNICEF and the International Education Exchange. Teachers of young primary students practiced songs and chants to hold students' interest during lessons. The training is also meant to improve teachers' English proficiency. The workshop will continue all week.

Health

- The utilization rate at the camp's health facilities picked up this week, with the establishment of the new health post at the southeastern corner of the camp.
- 17 new deliveries were recorded at Mahama camp and 3 new deliveries at Bugesera during the reporting week.
- Common illnesses consist of: Respiratory diseases (33%), Malaria (6%) and watery diarrhea (5%) of the total beneficiary population. The diarrhea prevalence has been reducing with improvement of the WASH status of the camp.

Shelter and NFIs

- ARC is constructing a sample semi-permanent shelter with the hydraform brick machine in Mahama camp. The viability of this new system will be assessed and adopted if found to expedite the shelter strategy. In the meantime, construction of semi-permanent shelters is ongoing and already 360 shelters are underway: 33 semi-permanent shelter structures are ready for occupancy; 67 are fully framed and await mud plastering; 94 are ready except for installation of doors and windows; 166 are at various stages of construction.
- 54 emergency hangar shelters have plastic sheeting and are ready for occupancy of up to 10,800 persons.

Water and Sanitation

- Efforts to drill boreholes to ease Mahama camp's chronic water shortage have proved to be unsuccessful once again and will now cease. The most recent attempt drilled to 75 meters deep before discontinuing efforts. Five boreholes have been attempted since the camp opened in April.
- Additional expansion of the emergency water filtration system is underway.

Food Security and Nutrition

- An interagency meeting to assess the recently completed general food distribution in Mahama camp for August concluded on the positive side that the new crowd control measures instituted by WFP worked extremely well; unaccompanied minors received a 15-day ration as camp policy intended, and there were few litigation cases at

the end of the distribution. However, the interagency discussion also noted that many children missed school because of the distribution and unaccompanied minors needed more help carrying rations home. As the team works to strategize a solution, it was agreed that the September general food distribution will begin on the 7th of that month.

- *At the border entry points, arriving refugees receive ready-to-eat food (High Energy Biscuits). In the reception centres, all registered refugees are served with hot meal twice a day. Once transferred to Mahama refugee camp, refugees are enrolled in the ongoing General Food Distribution and other nutrition related programmes. Moderately malnourished children are assisted through on-site feeding with fortified blended food ("SuperCereal Plus") and ready-to-use supplementary food ("Plumpy'Sup"). During the month of July, a total of 690mts of food commodities have been distributed.*
- *A bi-weekly Food and Nutrition Coordination meeting, chaired by UNHCR and WFP, ensures adequate follow up and complementarity between all relevant actors (UNICEF, AHA, ARC, ADRA, Rwanda Red Cross).*

Thanks to our partners:



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