

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Minister of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) and UNHCR Representative visited Mahama camp on 22 February to reassure Burundian refugees after the Government publicly announced that all Burundian refugees would be relocated from Rwanda. Following UNHCR's requests for clarifications from the Government, the Minister openly communicated to refugees that the Government will continue to respect its international obligations by keeping the borders open and will not expel any refugees. The Minister also stated that any plans for relocation would take considerable time, and that programs to protect and provide assistance to refugees will continue. She encouraged all humanitarian partners and donors to continue supporting Burundian refugees in Rwanda.
- The UNHCR Representative, Minister of MIDIMAR and District Officials visited Gihembe camp on 24 February to celebrate the completion of rehabilitation for the deadly ravine that has claimed the lives of both refugees and local residents since 2010. The project, titled "Environmental protection in and around refugee camps" launched in September 2015 and will prevent ravines and address environmental challenges in four Congolese refugee camps: Gihembe, Kiziba, Nyabiheke and Mugombwa camps. **Read**

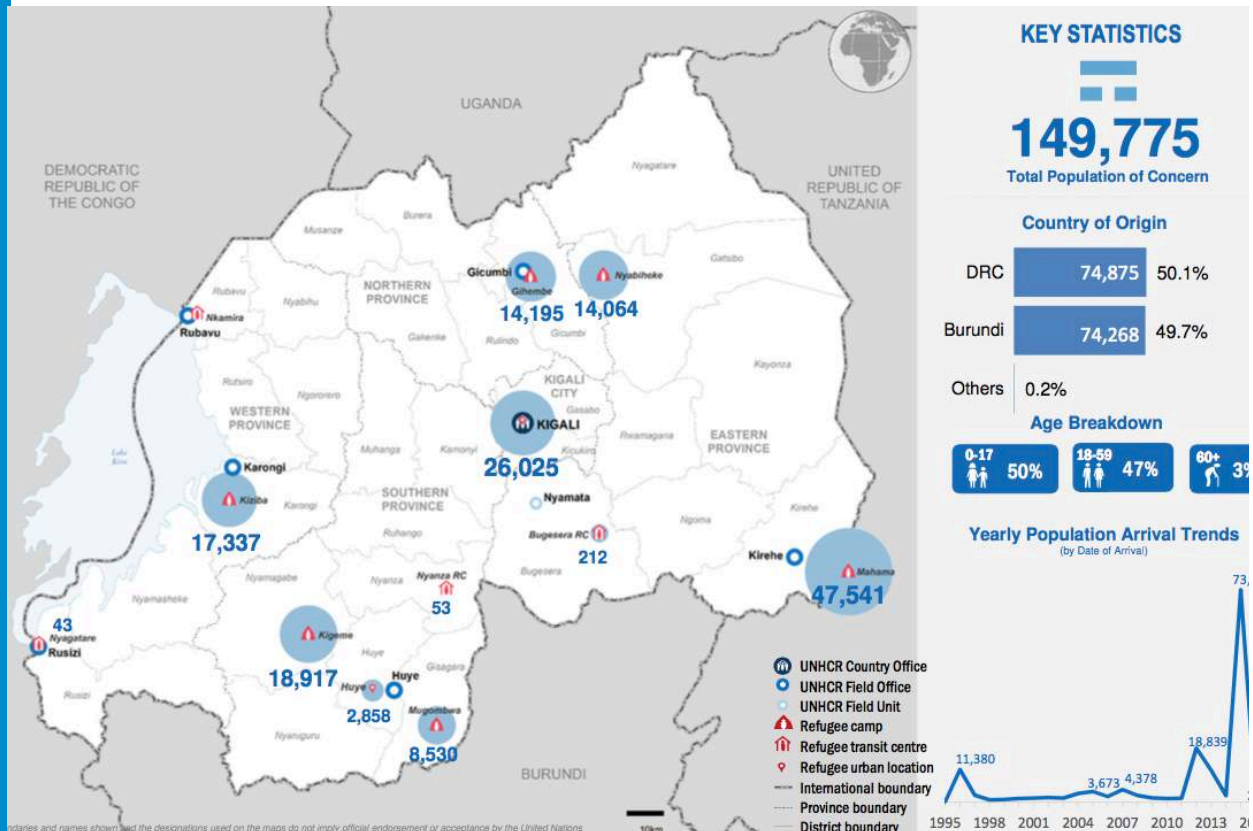


UNHCR Representative and Minister of MIDIMAR with refugee leaders in Mahama camp.



Minister of MIDIMAR (ctr left) and UNHCR Representative (ctr right) discuss strategies to address environmental challenges in Gihembe camp.

KEY STATISTICS



BURUNDI EMERGENCY UPDATE

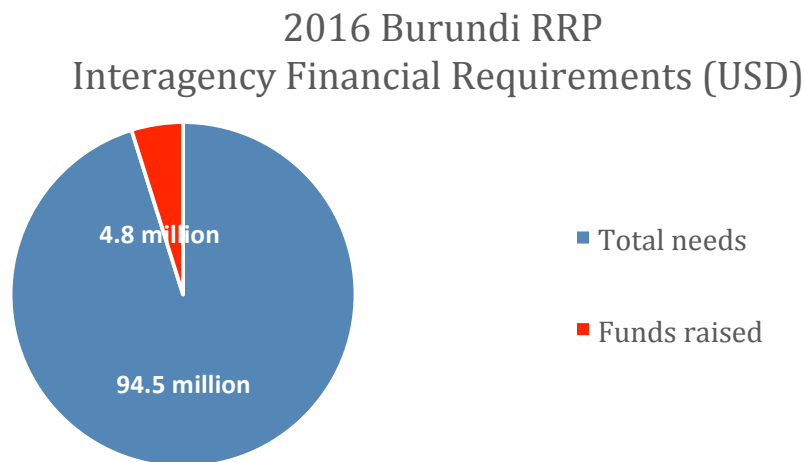
- A new small-scale transit center has been opened near Mahama camp as refugees have been finding new border crossings in the east of the country. UNHCR is collecting basic information of refugees through “Level I” registration at the new Gatore Transit Center before they are transferred to Mahama camp. In the meantime, water is currently being trucked to the new site, refugees are being provided with porridge and medical screenings are conducted.
- On 25 January, the UNHCR Representative accompanied the British High Commissioner, Mr. William Gelling, on his first official visit to Mahama camp to assess the response to the Burundian emergency.



UNHCR demonstrating the hydraform machine to the British HC in Mahama camp.

Financial Information

- The 2016 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Burundi refugee emergency response in Rwanda was launched on 11 January in a ceremony hosted by UNHCR and MIDIMAR, with all UN and NGO partners as well as representatives of the diplomatic community. The comprehensive needs for the 2016 interagency Burundi refugee response in Rwanda are estimated at over USD 94.5 million, however thus far only USD 4.8 million has been received – a gap of almost 95%. Many agencies are trying to manage with carry over funds from 2015, however support is urgently needed to ensure that we don’t slide backwards and regress in terms of the standards and results achieved in 2015.



- Thus far in 2016, the Government of Japan has contributed USD 2.5 million to UNHCR’s protection and multisectoral programs for Burundi refugees, and the Government of Korea has contributed USD 450,000 for UNFPA’s reproductive health interventions in Mahama.

Protection

- **Arrival trends:** UNHCR continues to register new arrivals from Burundi at an average of 40-50 per day. New arrivals are reporting that people who have their family members in Rwanda are the most wanted because they are considered as traitors. Many newly arrived women are reporting these days are being tortured, harassed in Burundi because their husbands fled to Rwanda and they are accused to be the promoters of the insecurity in

Burundi. UNHCR has also been informed by refugees that local authorities in Burundi are threatening to seize the property of persons who leave Burundi to seek asylum in other countries.

- **Spontaneous Departures to Burundi** (*Proof of Registration collected at Border Points by Immigration*): 998 individuals have spontaneously returned to Burundi. 77% of the refugees who departed to Burundi had previously been registered in urban areas of Kigali and Huye.

Child Protection:

- **2,115** Burundian unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are currently registered. The total number of UASC has decreased by over 260, which can be explained by the fact that many UASC have turned 18 years old in January 2016, classifying them as adults. To prepare them for their new adult responsibilities, these UASC will continue to receive support for a transition period of three months, or longer for particularly vulnerable cases (e.g. youth caring for younger siblings, young mothers, etc.). UNHCR, Plan International, Save the Children and UNICEF organized individual interviews with the new 18 year olds to better understand their situation. *Out of the UASC identified and assisted by UNHCR and partners since the beginning of the emergency, there have been 908 known cases of UASC reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.*
- Two Child-Friendly Spaces and one Youth-Friendly Space were inaugurated by Save the Children in Mahama II. Plan International supported the creation of 46 football clubs in Mahama I with the aim to bring together children and avoid isolation and moves outside the community.
- Last week, child protection committees, which will help to promote child protection in Mahama, started to be established in each village. A similar committee has been put in place in Nyanza reception centre.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- **186** SGBV cases have been identified and assisted to date by UNHCR and partners. 3,036 community members (including 1,028 women, 652 men, 510 boys and 846 girls) were reached on the topics of denial of resources, opportunities and services as well as sexual assault through community mobilization activities.
- Using a men-engagement approach, 108 men and boys from several villages throughout Mahama were trained on positive masculinity. This training was facilitated by other men from the same villages who had been trained by RWAMREC, a Rwandan NGO having expertise in that approach.
- Further to recent reporting of an increase of SGBV incidents in Burundi as a weapon of threat and repression, UNHCR and partners are organizing focus group discussions (FGDs) with several refugee groups, including community leaders, community mobilisers and new arrivals, with the aim to get a better overview on the situation to develop response and prevention activities as appropriate. Main findings will be shared in due course.
- In partnership with Rwanda Women Network (RWN), UNHCR and Plan International organized 4-day training on socio-therapy approach to be used in relation to SGBV cases and gender equality. 70 community members, including men, women, boys and girls, participated in the training.

Education

- UNHCR and ADRA have constructed 112 classrooms at the local school near Mahama camp, so that some 12,500 Burundian refugee students can be integrated into the national curriculum. These classrooms will also absorb thousands of students from the host community. The UNHCR Representative, the Minister of MIDIMAR, the Minister of Education and the Country Director of ADRA inaugurated the school in mid-January ahead of the 2016 school year (which opened on 7 February).
- In total, UNHCR and ADRA are facilitating access to education for over 17,100 refugee students (both urban and camp-based).
- UNICEF has donated 18,000 school bags complete with scholastic materials to both refugee and local students.
- UNHCR and ADRA have also trained and deployed Burundian refugee teachers, who are now qualified to teach in Rwanda. They could be recruited by any Rwandan school in the future, which is a positive livelihoods initiative.



Minister of MIDIMAR and Minister of Education inaugurating the 112 new classrooms.

- WFP has constructed two kitchens and funds the school-feeding programme in Mahama, which is expected to impact positively on enrolment/attendance rates and will enhance the cohesion between host community and refugee population.



Food Security and Nutrition

- WFP and partners have been rolling out the school feeding programme in the schools attended by Burundian refugee children around Mahama camp.
- Grinding mills are being installed in various areas in Mahama Camp; refugee cooperatives are expected to start milling food commodities as from January.
- Giving the improvement in nutritional status, as well as the recent introduction of school feeding, nutrition partners are considering to review the target population of other supplementary feeding programmes for children under five, downwards to children under 2 years of age. If implemented, it will be accompanied by targeted stunting prevention activities.



Shelter

- Shelter remains one of the key challenges for the UNHCR operation. There is a need to construct a total of 4,700 “duplex” shelters for the current population of around 47,000 refugees in Mahama. Although 1,151 were constructed last year, there is only an available budget to construct 300 shelters for 2016.
- UNHCR partner PAJER will continue using the hydraform machine to construct WASH and other infrastructures around the camp, while partner ARC will use mud bricks to construct the semi-permanent shelters.
- Heavy rainstorms have recently caused extensive damage to more than 600 tents in Mahama. In addition, 76 latrines, 35 bathrooms and 47 kitchens, 5 UNICEF tents and 40 hangers were damaged. The field office worked closely with partners to repair the damage and to restore the shelters. However, the most of the tents in Mahama are old and vulnerable to the impact of strong weather. The Field Office has less than 150 stock of family tents which are being reserved for expected new arrivals.
- In relation to the shelter constraints, some urban refugees are running out of resources in urban settings. They express the willing to be relocated to Mahama camp but availability of shelter is an issue.



Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- World Vision has officially made a handover to UNHCR’s new WASH partner in Mahama, Oxfam, which is working on WASH alongside UNHCR’s existing WASH partner, PAJER.
- UNHCR with PAJER and Oxfam have been constructing 191 blocks of dischargeable latrines (4 doors each) and 6 blocks of 12 doors. Currently an additional 80 (4 doors) are being constructed for a total of 289 dischargeable latrine blocks. However, there is a need of additional 298 latrine blocks (4 doors each) that need to be constructed in order to meet the standard, given the current population of about 47,000 refugees in Mahama camp. Currently there are 22 persons per drop-hole, considering dischargeable and pit latrines and 56 persons per drop-hole if only dischargeable latrines are considered, against the standard is 20 persons per drop hole.



Health

- There is a serious need of HIV treatment for Burundian refugees as they are not covered in the country’s HIV program. Currently HIV care is provided through UNHCR however the sustainable solution is for refugees to be mainstreamed into the Government’s program, pursuant to the policy of integration for refugees into the national health system. UNHCR has approached the Global Fund to cover the immediate needs of HIV patients while the integration approach is being explored.
- The Kirehe District Hospital is in need of capacity building to respond to the number of refugee referrals and to ensure that women can deliver their pregnancies in safety, with regards to C-sections. As it stands now, the number of C-section deliveries is considerably low at 7% among refugees, in relation to the normal average of 15%.
- The Government of Rwanda, UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF have made several joint visits to Mahama camp to conduct typhoid and malaria assessments and to monitor the implementation of recommendations made.

For the typhoid assessment, the team visited the two Health Centres, two community markets and several water points in the camp. They supervised water quality testing at various water points and household levels. Several recommendations were made to improve the surveillance, awareness and treatment of water and sanitation. The team members are impressed with the significant improvement in the general situation in the camp.

CONGOLESE CASELOAD UPDATE

Protection

- UNHCR Rwanda has exceeded its 2012-2015 target for U.S. resettlement of 10,000 Congolese refugees from the protracted situation, as part of the U.S.-UNHCR regional comprehensive durable solutions strategy for Congolese refugees in Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. Rwanda will now increase its target to submit an additional 20,000+ individuals between 2016-2021, mainly from Kiziba, Nyabiheke and Gihembe camps.
- Besides the 20,000+ Congolese refugees who will benefit from the generous U.S. resettlement program, there will remain thousands of Congolese refugees who have lived in Rwanda for 20 years. This group of refugees has no hope of returning to their country of origin in the foreseeable future, and UNHCR and WFP are facing dwindling resources to support them with humanitarian assistance. UNHCR will thus prioritize advocacy with development actors such as the One UN to begin taking refugees into account in their support to national development programs, in line with the Government policy to integrate refugees into national systems. This approach is also in line with the One UN Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP). Although humanitarian response by its nature is not part of the long-term development plans such as the UNDAP, which was drafted in 2013, protracted refugee situations have a place in development planning, which is why the Rwanda UNDAP 2013-2018 contains an outcome for self-reliance for these Congolese refugees.
- UNHCR, MIDIMAR, and the Rwanda National Identification Agency (NIDA) are closely liaising to find a lasting solution for some 9,000 Congolese asylum seekers who all reside in the camps. The decision has been taking to register them as refugees after NIDA's clearance.
- On 31 January, 4 members of Parliament and a Legal Advisor - all members of the Rwanda Human Rights Commission - visited Gihembe camp to review the 2014-2015 Human Rights report on the situation of refugees there. Topics discussed included food/cash, health and education.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR is concerned that water supply per capita has been at a low in most camps, except Kiziba and Mugombwa camps that meet the standard of 20L/person/day:
 - **Nyabiheke -- 10L/person/day:** boreholes are yielding little water and there is an issue of a reoccurring pump failure.
 - **Kigeme -- 13L/person/day:** As is the case with Gihembe camp, UNHCR depends on the public networks and can only distribute what is available from the national service provider.
 - **Gihembe -- 12L/person/day:** On 18 February, a joint field mission was conducted in Byumba town and in Gihembe camp by UNHCR, UNICEF, ARC and the Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC). The objective was to monitor the construction of water supply system and assesses the needs for work on distribution network within the camp plus assessing the need for and agree on the number/location of water meters to be installed in the camp.
- Deseret International Charities began site preparation for construction of 8 dischargeable latrines for Mugombwa camp.

Education/Vocational training

- UNHCR's education program for Congolese refugees until now has only been able to support them with access to education through lower secondary school until 2015, however thanks to a generous contribution from the Howard G Buffett Foundation, UNHCR was able for the first time to provide access to upper secondary education for over 200 refugee students admitted to "Schools of Excellence" in Rwanda. Given the very difficult conditions Congolese refugees face, having spent years or even their entire lives in refugee camps, it is

a remarkable achievement that so many refugee students performed so well on their exams as to be admitted to these schools alongside Rwandan children. UNHCR and ADRA are thrilled that thanks to HGBF, these strong performers are being rewarded for their hard work with a chance to finish high school, which will open the doors to tertiary education or jobs – and ultimately self-reliance.

- Kepler University has conducted information sessions throughout the Congolese refugee camps, as they will be admitting 150 students across the country and a full scholarship will be given to refugees who pass the meet the admission requirements for the 2016/2017 academic year. During the sessions, refugee students expressed their concerns with the admission process which requires high English proficiency and a good high school background. Kepler felt that this disadvantaged them as Congolese refugee students since most of them speak English as their fourth language, preceded by Kinyarwanda, Kiswahili and French. Kepler University has initiated an English class in Gihembe camp to prepare those who want to continue their University studies.
- UNHCR has received authorization from the Ministry of Education to introduce upper secondary education in Kiziba camp. As of 2 February, 174 refugee students have enrolled in Senior 4 classes studying either a combination of LFK: literature, French and Kinyarwanda; or MEG: Mathematics, Economics and Geography. On 23rd February 2016, International Teams Rwanda an Operational Partner in Education and Youth support, handed over donation of scholastic materials as contribution to education in Kiziba camp, specifically for the support of the upper secondary education, with the occasion of presence of Refugee representatives, ITRW Project Coordinator and Administrator, ADRA Education Coordinator and UNHCR Senior Programme Assistant.
- During the reporting period, ADRA selected 50 refugee students from Kiziba camp who have completed secondary education in the local schools to be assisted to continue higher education outside the camp in so-called “boarding academies” under the sponsorship of “Impact Hope”.
- On 14 January, a second graduation ceremony for youth that attended Gikongoro Diocese vocational training centre was held at Gasaka School. The following refugee youth graduated:
 - 26 trained in construction
 - 13 trained in tailoring
 - 16 trained in hairdressing



Health

- The UNHCR Public Health Officer from Kigali was on mission to Nyabiheke camp to monitor the health center’s activities to address malaria. Nyabiheke camp has recently moved from an average of 60 malaria cases per month to a high of 241 as of January 2016. Main recommendations were to,
 - organise a general distribution of mosquito nets,
 - conduct a spraying campaign,
 - introduce “balanced score cards”, a health services monitoring tool and,
 - assess the possibility of having an MoU with the Rwamagana Provincial Hospital in an effort to decrease the high rate of costly tertiary referrals to Kigali hospitals.



Access to Energy/ Environmental Protection

- ARC has handed over environmental protection to UNHCR’s new environment partner, FSDS (Foundation St Dominique Savio). FSDS is expected to take over activities including the maintenance of tree nurseries, planting, drainage, camp beautification, among others.
- In Gihembe camp, a tree nursery was created (outside the camp) towards the end of 2015 and is now ready to be planted. A training of the Environment cooperative members (50 from refugee community and 50 from the host community) took place in Gihembe on 10-11 of February.
- Inyenyeri, a Rwandan social benefit group, UNHCR’s Associate Livelihoods Officer and Butare field staff visited different households in Kigeme camp to understand their cooking methods/means. All the visited households mentioned that they were using Save80 stoves, charcoal stoves or traditional firewood stoves. The families and a group of women who participated in a FGD, complained about the limited quantity of distributed firewood.

Later on, Inyenyeri group introduced the “Inyenyeri cheaper stoves” to a group of refugee women. They also explained that this stove was cost-efficient and would reduce the number of deaths resulting from smoke inhalation. They further explained their intention to distribute their cooking stoves to refugees under a pilot project to assess how useful and effective these stoves would be. Inyenyeri group clarified that refugees would have to give their firewood in exchange for Inyenyeri stove and pallets (fuel for those stoves). Inyenyeri would also employ some refugees to sell pallets. The modalities of working with refugees will be further discussed with UNHCR.

Financial Information – UNHCR CONGOLESE PROGRAM

UNHCR Total needs for Congolese Program:	USD 35,955,380
Contributions received in 2016:	USD 0

Thanks to our partners:



UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donor countries who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation in 2015-2016:

United States of America | UN Central Emergency Response Fund | EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) | UK Department for International Development (DFID) | Japan | Belgium | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | The Howard G. Buffett Foundation | Sweden (via One UN) | USA for UNHCR

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