

## HIGHLIGHTS

First convoy relocating 1,100 refugees from Nyabiheke camp to the newest refugee camp, Mugombwa, dispatched:

On February 26<sup>th</sup> the first convoy comprising 249 refugees departed Nyabiheke camp to move to more suitable shelters in Mugombwa, Rwanda's newest camp. Since the 2012-13 emergency influx, 2,000 refugees have been living in hangars (temporary shelters) in Nyabiheke camp due to lack of space.

In February 2014, UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda opened the country's fifth camp, Mugombwa, to accommodate the 7,000+ refugees living in Nkamira transit centre, and other refugees from the influx living in overcrowded conditions in Nyabiheke. The convoys are being organized weekly and the relocation is expected to take one month. *(Highlights continued on p. 2)*



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**Top photo:** the first convoy (249 refugees) arriving at Mugombwa camp. **Bottom left:** a mother and her two children on the bus, departing Nyabiheke camp. **Bottom right:** refugees receiving their belongings in Mugombwa.

## KEY STATISTICS - 2015

**602**

Rwandan returnees received for 2015

**453**

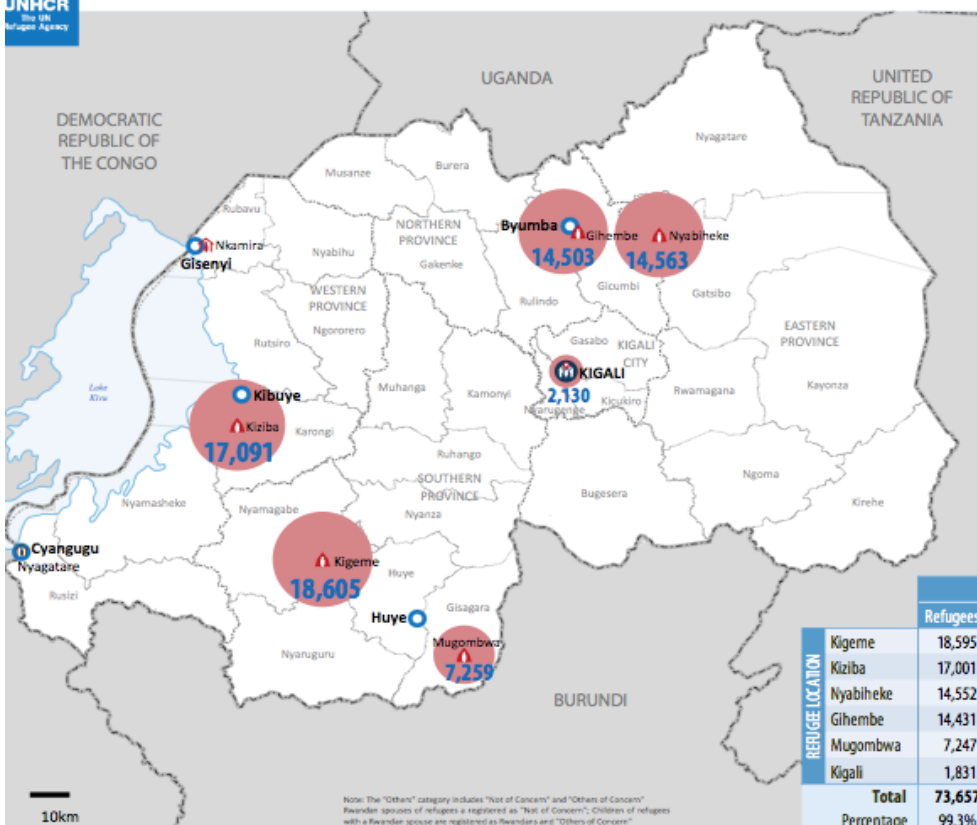
Submissions for resettlement in 2015

**113**

Resettlement departures in 2015



## RWANDA: Population of concern to UNHCR | As of 01 March 2015



### Key figures

**74,151** total population of concern

**99%** from Democratic Republic of the Congo

**1%** other nationalities

### Age breakdown

**60+** 4%

**18-59** 42%

**0-17** 54%

- LEGEND**
- UNHCR Country Office
  - UNHCR Field Office
  - Refugee camp
  - Refugee transit centre
  - Refugee urban location
  - International boundary
  - Province boundary
  - District boundary

REFUGEE LOCATION	PERSONS OF CONCERN				Percentage
	Refugees	Asylum-seekers	Others	Total	
Kigeme	18,595	1	9	18,605	25%
Kiziba	17,001	19	71	17,091	23%
Nyabiheke	14,552	1	10	14,563	20%
Gihembe	14,431	1	71	14,503	20%
Mugombwa	7,247	3	9	7,259	10%
Kigali	1,831	199	100	2,130	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,657</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>74,151</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>99.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>		

### MAJOR NATIONAL & REGIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **LAUNCH OF OFFENSIVE AGAINST FDLR:** “The army of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) launched an assault against Rwandan Hutu rebels (FDLR) in the volatile east of the country. Villagers have fled Mulenge and taken shelter in Katala and Mushegereza. FARDC claims to have killed three FDLR fighters, and captured eight rebels. MONUSCO is not involved in the offensive after DRC rejected the UN’s ultimatum for two tainted generals to be replaced.” (*News24.com*)
- **M23 EX-COMBATANTS:** “Rwanda and DRC are inching closer to reaching a deal that will seal the fate of over 400 ex-combatants of M23 rebel group who have been grounded in internment camps in Rwanda’s Eastern and Western Provinces”. (*The East African*)
- **ELECTIONS IN THE REGION:**
  - “An alleged plan by President Pierre Nkurunziza’s allies to hand him a third term in office has met fresh opposition after 23 civil society organisations — including that of eminent persons and the national council of elders — signed a petition against it.” (*The East African*)
  - “Rwanda’s dominant ruling party, Rwanda Patriotic Front, has started laying the groundwork to mobilise citizens countrywide to demand a third term for President Paul Kagame; his term in office expires in 2017.” (*The East African*)
  - “Two opposition officials of the Democratic Republic of Congo are calling on President Joseph Kabila to step down at the end of his term next year, saying the constitution bars him from seeking a third term. [...]DRC will hold presidential elections for 27 November 2016.” (*VOA News*)
- **PROTEST IN BURUNDI:** “Thousands of people have taken to the streets of Burundi’s capital Bujumbura to celebrate the release of a prominent journalist controversially charged with the murder of three Italian nuns. Such huge demonstrations in defiance of the government are rare in Burundi.” (*BBC News*)

### HIGHLIGHTS *CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

- Within the first month of her appointment, the new United States Ambassador in Rwanda, H.E. Erica Barks-Ruggles, undertook her first visit to a refugee camp in the country by visiting Gihembe camp, in the company of the Honorable Minister of MIDIMAR, the UNHCR Representative, and the Country Director of ARC (top right photo). The Ambassador was particularly interested in the resettlement program, in which up to 10,000 Congolese refugees in Rwanda may be considered for resettlement to the U.S. In addition, the delegation visited ARC livelihoods activities following a town hall discussion in which refugees voiced challenges they face in the camp. Refugees requested the U.S. to play a greater role in the efforts to stabilize the eastern DRC, their area of origin, so as to enable their safe and dignified return home.
- UNHCR hosted a working lunch session with MIDIMAR, Ambassadors, partners and representatives of humanitarian agencies for an update on the refugee situation in Rwanda, and notably on emergency preparedness in case of a mass influx. Significant challenges were highlighted in the areas of health, education, access to water and shelter, among others, which can be found in a documentary produced by UNHCR Rwanda, viewable at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWjwAhVvTEQ>.
- A one-day workshop on the use of Geographic Information System (GIS/GPS) devices was conducted near Kigeme camp by Professor Brian Tomaszewski and his colleagues from the Department of Information Sciences and Technology of Rochester’s Institute of Technology. UNHCR, ADRA and PAJER field staff actively participated in this training to promote spatial thinking through community mapping in the camps. These tools will enable maps to be updated often, as static maps do not accurately reflect the dynamic nature of refugee camps. Pinpointing exact locations of structures and services will contribute to improving the existing humanitarian response and applying those ideas to other camps.



## Protection

### Resettlement (to a third country):

- The target for 2015 is to submit 2,400 individuals for resettlement and manage 2,000 individual departures:
  - As of February 28, 2015: UNHCR has submitted 453 individuals for resettlement to the USA (19% of the 2015 target)
  - 113 individuals have departed for resettlement
- Multi-year strategy (2012-2015): To date, UNHCR has submitted 8,053 individuals and thus has achieved 80% of the multiyear target of submitting 10,000 refugees for resettlement between 2012-2015.

### Advocacy for sexual & gender based violence (SGBV) and child abuse:

- A key part of our work is supporting our protection partner, Plan International, in preventing and responding to SGBV and child abuse in the camps and in Kigali. View the short video produced by Plan International, highlighting our new community engagement approach to partnering with motivated community-based groups and community mobilizers in the camps: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=BTAXPRtYMw>

## Education/Vocational training

- On 15th February, 76 refugee youth from Kigeme camp celebrated their graduation from vocational training sponsored by Gikongoro Catholic Diocese. Another 60 refugee youth have been selected to start their training in mechanics, hairdressing and tailoring.
- Ms. Tina Anderson, International Programs Director of the U.S.-based charity organization These Numbers, undertook an education mission in Kigeme camp. The objective of her visit was to explore ways of supporting refugee children with scholarships.

## Access to Energy

- Distribution of Save80 Stoves continued in Mugombwa Camp, whereby 147 families received their energy-saving stoves. This translates into a cumulative figure of 1,237 out of 1,747 refugees targeted for the program as part of UNHCR's strategy to ensure refugees have more sustainable access to energy.

## Shelter

- The construction and extension of the new camp, Mugombwa, is still ongoing (pictured right). During the last couple of weeks, 202 out of 288 shelters in the new area have been plastered. The next step will be to install stairs to facilitate access between terraces and towards the WASH facilities.
- Rehabilitation of the road from the closest town, Rango (Butare), to Mugombwa camp, funded by the Gisagara District, is now 70% complete. Once finished, the road will open up Mugombwa sector and the camp to better services within the host community.



## Community Empowerment

### Umuganda:

- Kigeme and Mugombwa: In addition to refugees and partners, authorities from Nyamagabe District, such as the Vice-Mayor in charge of Social Affairs, the Army's Representative and the Immigration Officer, were also present in Kigeme for the launch of monthly *umuganda* (community service) in the refugee camps. The activities included cleaning Kigeme B school premises and, in Mugombwa, cleaning the drainage system, clearing bushes, and protecting soils near the school. After finalizing these activities, meetings with the refugee

community were held to mobilize them towards maintaining safety of the camp in Kigeme and for a fumigation process to be carried out by Gisagara District authorities in Mugombwa. On the last Saturday of each month, communities come together to do a variety of public works, known as Umuganda. Learn more: <http://www.rwandapedia.rw/explore/umuganda>.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 2015 Financial situation:

2015 comprehensive needs:

**US\$ 43.2 million**

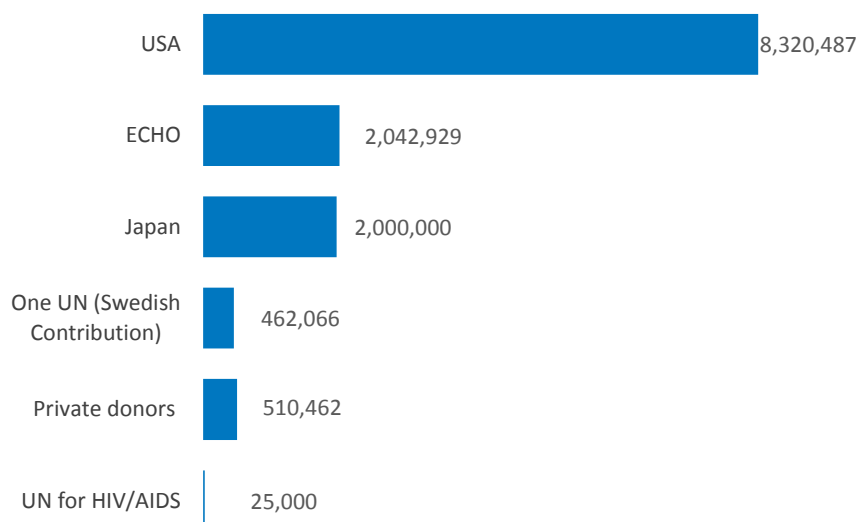
Contributions and pledges received thus far for 2015:

**US\$ 2.6 million**

### Thank you to our donors for 2014:

Funding received from donors for 2014:

**US\$ 13.4 million**



**Important funding update:** Due to currency fluctuations which have had a significant impact on UNHCR's global resource management, the High Commissioner announced that operations will have to make a 7% reduction in their Operating Level budget and a 5% reduction in staffing for 2015. This has significant consequences for UNHCR Rwanda which is being compelled to scale back its operation in providing protection and key services to refugees and others of concern to UNHCR.

### 2015 UNHCR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Partners	Sectors	Sites
 <p>Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs, Immigration and Rwanda National Police  <a href="http://www.gov.rw/">http://www.gov.rw/</a></p>	Security, Camp Management and Coordination	<b>All Refugee Camps</b>
 <p><b>Plan</b>  <a href="https://plan-international.org/">https://plan-international.org/</a></p>	Protection, including Children, GBV and persons with special needs	
 <p><b>ADRA</b>          ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY          RWANDA  <a href="http://www.adra.org.rw/">http://www.adra.org.rw/</a></p>	Logistics, Warehousing, Distribution, Fleet Management, and Education	
 <p><b>ARC</b>          American Refugee Committee  <a href="http://www.arcrelief.org/">http://www.arcrelief.org/</a></p>	Shelter	
	Infrastructures	
	Livelihood and Economic Recovery (complementary support from BPRM)	
	WASH	Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kiziba Refugee Camps
 <p><b>Africa Humanitarian Action</b>  <a href="http://www.africahumanitarian.org/">http://www.africahumanitarian.org/</a></p>	Health care services, Nutrition, Reproductive Health (HIV/ADIS prevention and care)	Kiziba, Kigeme and Mugombwa Refugee Camps, and Nkamira and Nyagatare Transit Centres
 <p><b>PAJER</b>  <a href="http://pajer.org.rw/">http://pajer.org.rw/</a></p>	WASH	Kigeme
 <p><b>World Vision</b>  <a href="http://www.wvi.org/rwanda">http://www.wvi.org/rwanda</a></p>	WASH	Mugombwa

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**Links:** <http://data.unhcr.org/drc>

**Twitter:** @RefugeesRwanda