

# Rwanda

As of 31 December 2018

## UNHCR Rwanda population

As of December 2018, there are almost **145,800 refugees** and **3,742 asylum seekers** registered in Rwanda mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

## Key locations

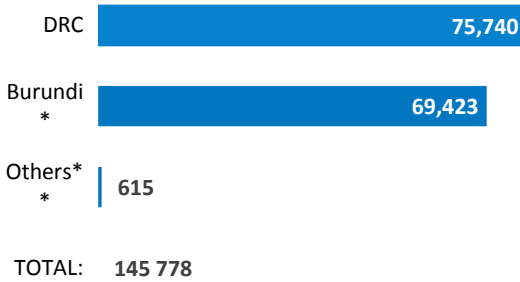
Almost **91% of refugees** in Rwanda are camp based, urban refugees live in Kigali and Huye.

## Refugee empowerment

Rwanda officially initiated the CRRF in February 2018. The joint Government- UNHCR Economic Inclusion Strategy, is the key instrument to focus more on refugees market-based livelihoods.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Main Countries of Origin

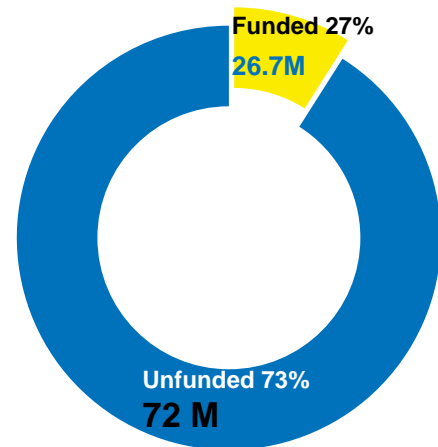


\* Total number of Burundian refugees is the individually registered plus the group registered (69127 + 296 = 69423).  
 \*\* Others represents the majority of Rwandan spouses of registered refugees (566) and refugees from different countries (Angola: 8, Chad: 5, Eritrea: 8, Ethiopia: 3, Guinea: 1, Haiti: 1, Somalia: 9, South Sudan: 10, Tanzania: 2, Uganda: 2)

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018)

### USD 98.7 million

requested for the Rwanda situation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

165 National Staff  
56 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Kigali  
6 Field Offices in Huye, Karongi, Gicumbi, Rusizi, Rubavu and Kabarore  
1 Sub Office in Kirehe



RWANDA  
Reference and administrative map  
as of 19 Sep 2018



## Working with Partners

- The Government, through the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), leads the refugee response in Rwanda with UNHCR providing direct operational support, capacity development and technical advice to the local authorities. UNHCR programmes in Rwanda are implemented through various partnerships, including supporting public institutions at the national and local levels, and working with international and national NGOs, UN sister agencies but also directly using private service providers to ensure a coordinated, holistic approach to meeting the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and Rwandan returnees.
- In addition to its primary Government counterpart, MINEMA, UNHCR collaborates closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of Immigration/Emigration, the National Identification Agency and the National Refugee Committee.
- Rwanda is among eight countries that have piloted the UN Delivering As One approach, in which UN system agencies work to capitalize on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different members of the UN family. UNHCR coordinates the refugee response, ensuring overall protection and multisectoral assistance for all refugees and also leads the One UN programme for return and reintegration of Rwandan returnees.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR in Rwanda protects and safeguards refugees' rights so that they could rise again and rebuild their lives. The protection strategy for UNHCR Rwanda is to prioritize legal protection to build and strengthen Government capacity in Refugee Status Determination (RSD), to ensure all refugees living in Rwanda have Refugee ID cards, birth registration is systematic and MRCTDs are provided to those who wish to travel for legitimate reasons
- UNHCR Rwanda continues also to strengthen interventions in prevention and response mechanisms for Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Protection in both camp and urban settings and prioritizes resettlement persons with specific needs.

### Education

- As part of its international mandate, UNHCR is responsible for ensuring that refugees can access education while they are living in a country of asylum. In Rwanda, UNHCR is committed to ensuring that all refugee children and youth access their fundamental right to basic education, whether they are living in one of six refugee camps, or in urban areas.
- As the Government of Rwanda has adopted a policy of integration into its national education system to refugees, UNHCR is supporting the Government to build more classrooms, labs and libraries in national schools so refugee children and youth can be integrated into the national education system.

### Health

- UNHCR Rwanda works to ensure that all refugees have access to life-saving and essential health care, reproductive health care, HIV prevention and treatment and nutritional well-being. The Government of Rwanda has generously adopted a policy of integration into the national health system for urban refugees. As such, wherever possible UNHCR builds capacity of national institutions to enable refugees to make use of existing facilities. Where this is not feasible, UNHCR establishes health services for refugees, which can also be accessed by surrounding host communities.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- In order to treat and combat malnutrition, UNHCR Rwanda established systematic nutrition screening in all refugee camps, in close coordination with partners ARC, WFP and UNICEF. As nutritional outcomes of refugees are key to UNHCR's mandate, well-structured severe and moderate acute malnutrition management programmes are in place at all six refugee camps.

### Water and Sanitation

- In Rwanda, UNHCR collaborates with sister UN agency UNICEF and project partners, to provide refugees with water through various means including the sourcing and trucking of water into refugee camps, the drilling of boreholes and the design, construction and maintenance of water systems and infrastructure which also benefit host communities surrounding the camps.

### Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR Rwanda provides shelter and communal infrastructures as a core life-saving activity to all refugees living in camps in Rwanda. UNHCR's shelter and infrastructure strategy in Rwanda consists of providing semi-permanent houses. UNHCR also ensures that camps are well-planned with access roads, drainage systems, and communal spaces such as markets and community halls, to support protection and basic needs services.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- The Government of Rwanda, through MINEMA, and UNHCR co-lead the Camp Coordination and Camp Management mechanisms in Rwanda and ensure that services are delivered efficiently and that refugees are properly protected in the different camps.

### Access to Energy

- Refugees in camps receive dry food rations from the World Food Program that must be cooked to be edible. UNHCR ensures that refugees have access to firewood so that families can cook their own meals.
- UNHCR's longer-term energy strategy involves the procurement and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves in order to reduce the consumption of firewood by the refugee population and reduce the impact on the environment and refugee health condition.

### **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- In Rwanda a key priority is strengthening livelihoods and self-reliance by scaling up interventions that are more sustainable and cost effective. To achieve this, the joint Government- UNHCR Economic Inclusion Strategy, currently under review, is the key instrument to focus more on market-based livelihood interventions for both farming and business. RRP partners will explore opportunities to support entrepreneurial development, particularly for women and youth.

### **Durable Solutions**

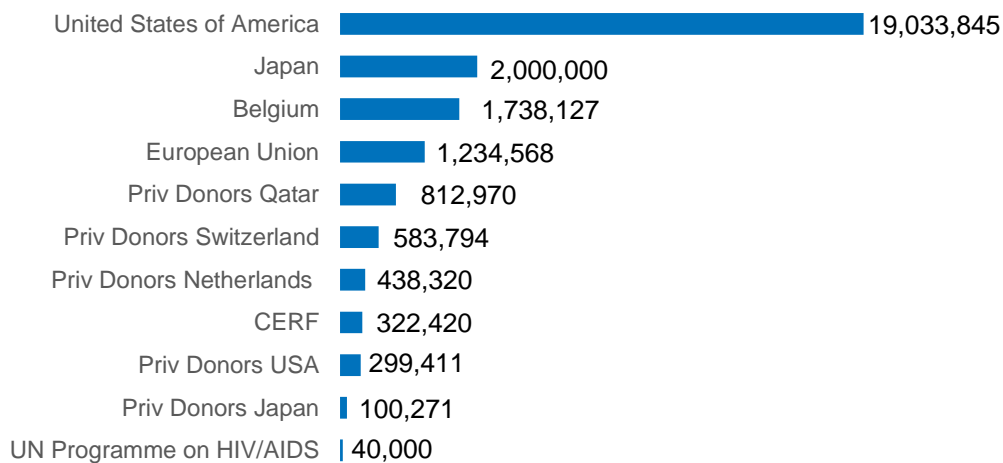
- In Rwanda, land scarcity remains a challenge to promote livelihood activities. While refugees enjoy a generally favourable protection environment, the poor situation of the refugee camps and lack of livelihood opportunities mean that most refugees are still highly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs like shelter, WASH, food, health, education, nutrition and energy for cooking.
- For UNHCR, resettlement to third countries for those refugees who have been in Rwanda for many years is seen as the most protective and pragmatic step through which to bring an end to the protracted situation of Congolese refugees in Rwanda, over 90% of whom originate from conflict zones in the DRC.

# Financial Information

Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Rwanda and their unrestricted and regional funds in 2018:

## EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 26.7 million**.



## BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS AND UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS |

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