

# Rwanda

As of 15 October, 2019

## UNHCR Rwanda Population

As of 14 October 2019, there are **149,519 refugees** and **285 Congolese and Burundian asylum seekers** registered in Rwanda mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

## Key Locations

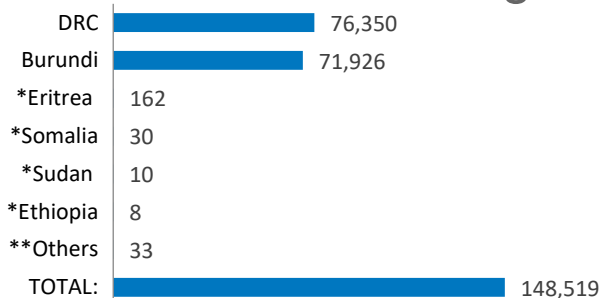
Almost **92% of refugees** in Rwanda are in camp based settings while urban refugees live in Kigali City and Huye District.

## Emergency Transit Mechanism

The second group of **123 evacuees from Libya** arrived in Rwanda on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The total population number is 189 persons from Eritrea (153), Somalia (21), Sudan (10) and Ethiopia (5).

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Main Countries of Origin

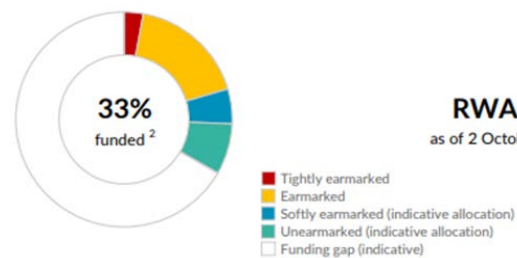


\*Including non-ETM population: Eritrea – 9, Somalia – 9 and Ethiopia – 3.  
\*\*Others: South Sudan – 11, Angola – 8, Chad – 5, Tanzania – 3 Guinea – 1, Haiti – 1, and Uganda – 1.

## FUNDING (AS OF 2 OCTOBER 2019)

# USD 102.8 million

requested for the Rwanda situation



Figures only include recorded contributions

## UNHCR PRESENCE

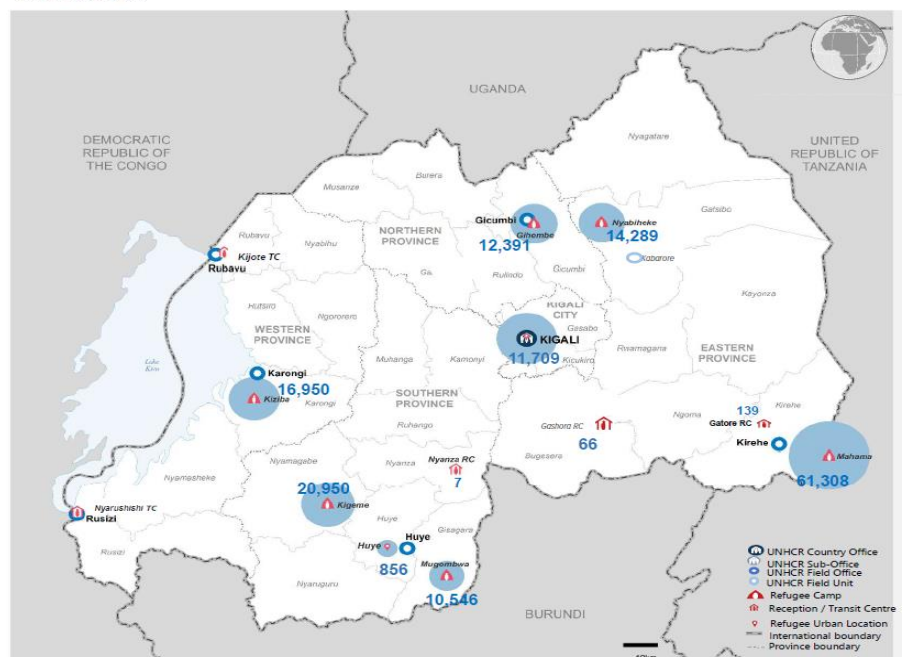
### Staff:

- 121 National Staff
- 37 International Staff
- 78 Affiliate (UNV, UNOPS, Deployees) Staff

### Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Kigali
- 7 Field Offices in Huye, Karongi, Gicumbi, Rusizi, Rubavu, Kabarore and Bugesera Districts.
- 1 Sub Office in Kirehe District

Rwanda  
Population of Concern to UNHCR  
as of 30th September 2019



## 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.
- 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 multi-sectoral assistance for all refugees and also leads the One UN programme for return and reintegration of Rwandan returnees.
- The Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and the African Union have signed the MoU to establish the transit mechanism for evacuated UNHCR persons of concerns (PoCs) from Libya in Rwanda. The 189 PoCs in the country are accommodated in Gashora Transit Centre, located in Bugesera District. The concepts considered under the ETM are not limited to resettlement but include:
  - Voluntary return and reintegration to the country of origin;
  - Return to a previous country of admission, where agreed by the authorities of that country;
  - Resettlement in a third country;
  - Family reunification in a third country or in country of origin (e.g. for an unaccompanied or separated child following best interest determination);
  - Longer term stay in Rwanda, subject to the agreement of the competent authorities;
  - Access to other solutions in third countries, including through humanitarian admission programmes, community or private sponsorship, scholarships or labour mobility schemes, and etc.
- The Rwandan context offers an enabling environment for innovative responses and approaches for refugees based on its national systems and structures, for instance the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). In this regards, the Government of Rwanda has made four commitments toward the social and economic inclusion and integration of refugees in national system. The results towards the Government of Rwanda commitments are:
  - In regards to economic inclusion of refugees, a joint Government of Rwanda and UNHCR strategy on Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion of refugees is ongoing. The strategy is focusing on refugee graduation from humanitarian assistance, increasing refugees' access to employment and financial services. The strategy is complementing the existing longer term socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods projects, including the GIZ supported Economic Inclusion Project with USD 9.6

million for 5 years targeting 2,000 beneficiaries (50% are refugees), UNCDF's Financial Inclusion Project with initial support of USD 1.3 million for 3 years, World Bank's Socio-Economic Inclusion Project under IDA 18 RSW with USD 9 million for access to finances and USD 39 million for infrastructural investments in the districts hosting refugee camps in Rwanda.

- In regards to access to identity documents and travel documents, the Government of Rwanda through the DGIE is issuing Machine Readable Conventional Travel Documents (MRCTDs) to refugees since October 2018 and with the ongoing refugee verification exercise, approximately 65% of refugees in camps and urban settings have new refugee identity cards issued by the NIDA.
- In regards to access to national health insurance, all the refugees in urban settings and students in boarding schools have access to the national health insurance. UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda are distributing the individual health cards for those under 16 years-old, while those above 16 will access the health institution using the refugee identity cards.
- In regards to education integration of refugee students in national education system, the rate is at approximately 87%.

## 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 and the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry in Charge of Emergency (MINEMA), the Rwanda Directorate General in Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) and the National Identification Agency (NIDA) are conducting the verification exercise of all refugees and asylum seekers living in Rwanda with the purpose of updating their information and verifying their physical presence in the country through biometric data. The exercise was completed in the five Congolese camps. In Mahama camp, the exercise started on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 and a rapid solutions assessment survey will be conducted in parallel to the intentions of the refugees in the camp to return to their country of origin.
- 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 for persons with specific needs.

### Education

- As part of its international mandate, 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/AIDS prevention and treatment and nutritional well-being through the national Community-Based Health Insurance and camp-based health facilities.
- Following the signed MoU between UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda to give access to 12,045 urban refugees to national Community-Based Health Insurance, 6,231 (51.7% of the total population) were enrolled in the health system while the remaining 5,814 are not currently eligible due to issues related to lack of ID cards and other registration issues with NIDA.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- Refugees in all camps receive cash for food from the World Food Program (WFP). However, due to scarcity of funding, WFP has considered substitution of the cash assistance with in-kind food in 5 Congolese camps starting October 2019. The change came as solution proposed by the GoR to avoid food ration reduction to refugees in Rwanda and the distributed in-kind food (beans) is a loan from the GoR to WFP pending resource mobilization.
- Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS-2019) was conducted in all refugee camps targeting children aged 6-59 months old. Overall unweighted Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence was 2.7%, the lowest of any SENS since 2012 and within the WHO acceptable threshold of 5% in five of the six camps. Unweighted stunting prevalence was 22%, almost equal to the 2018 figure (23%). Total anaemia prevalence was 28% of medium public health significance (20-39%). This is the first time in which no camp exceeded the critical 40% anaemia threshold. Enrolment of Stunting Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases among children aged 6-59 months in the selective feeding program was 45% (ranging 28.6% and 100% in the six camps) and below the expected > 90% SPHERE standards. This is 10% lower than 2018 (55%). Measles vaccination in all the camps exceeded the 95% SPHERE standard. Vitamin A coverage was above the 90% SPHERE standard in all camps except Mahama, which fell to 85% compared to 99% in 2018.

- Below are findings of types of malnutrition prevalence among children 6-59 months in 2019 by location in percentages from highest to the lowest:

Camps	Stunting (%) (A)	Wasting (%) (B)	Anaemia (%) (C)	Sum (A)+(B)+(C)	Rank (1 Low to 6 High)
Gihembe	17.1	2.8	22.0	41.9	1
Mugombwa	18.7	1.2	28.6	48.5	2
Kiziba	22.3	5.3	27.0	54.6	3
Nyabiheke	22.9	3.1	30.9	56.9	4
Kigeme	28.0	1.5	28.2	57.7	5
Mahama	25.5	2.3	30.8	58.6	6

Low Public Health Significance

Medium Public Health Significance

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNHCR activities in providing WASH services are focused on sourcing and distribution of water from boreholes, natural spring catchments and treatment of surface water (rivers) and construction of communal latrines, solid waste management, vector control and hygiene promotion activities. The infrastructures for water supply systems in the refugee camps have evolved from temporary facilities to semi-permanent structures. Kigeme, Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps are the camps where the standard of water supply per person per day (20 litres) is not met; 9.5 litres, 10 litres and 15.4 litres respectively. This is due to reduction of the national water grid supply in Kigeme and Gihembe camps, and the limited capacity of the water treatment in Nyabiheke camp.
- UNHCR and its partners have developed a comprehensive WASH strategy that provides clear overview of the WASH situation and strategic planning considering the UNHCR principles of refugee protection and durable solutions over the next 3 years (2020-2023).

### Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR 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.
- The UNHCR provides all the non-food items (soaps, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and mattresses) through the cash assistance program except sanitary pads. The plan is to have all the non-food items converted into cash by end of 2020.

### 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

- UNHCR ensures that refugees have access to cooking energy through cash assistance program in Congolese camps, while UNHCR is distributing LPG to Burundian refugees in Mahama camp.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR and partners are working on the activation of the community centres in all the locations, camps and urban settings, with the purpose of strengthening the community engagement, including effective communication of UNHCR and partners with the PoCs. The focus of the community engagement is current on youth in taking the lead to initiate activities for the wider refugee and host communities.

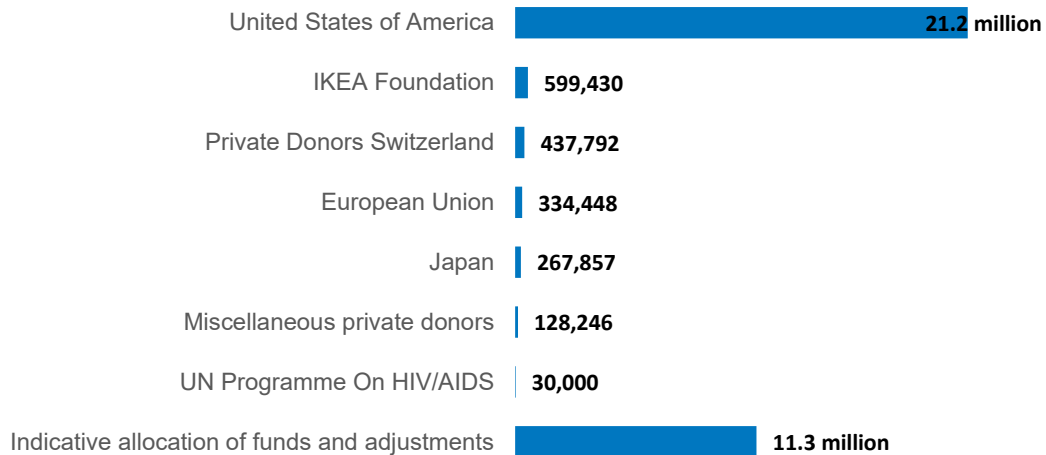
### Durable Solutions

- In Rwanda, land scarcity remains a challenge to promote agri-business 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 the 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. As of 30 September, UNHCR counts 2,705 individuals departed for resettlement in the third countries in 2019.
- UNHCR is supporting the voluntary return of Rwandan. In September 2019, 103 returnees were received in the country. Since 2017, 21,350 Rwandans (17,097 in 2017, 3,059 in 2018 and 1,194 in 2019), majority from the DRC, were received in Rwanda and were provided cash assistance for their reintegration.

## Financial Information

**Thanks to donors for their support to UNHCR Rwanda and their unrestricted and regional funds in 2019:**

UNHCR Rwanda's financial requirements 2019 **USD 102.8 million**



### **BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS AND UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS |**

United States of America | Germany | Azerbaijan | Luxembourg | Sweden | Private donors | Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Germany | Denmark | Private donors Spain | Switzerland | Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Indonesia | Kuwait | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay

For more information: <http://reporting.unhcr.org>

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