

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

1 - 11 August 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES* (as of 11 August)

72,907

Burundian refugees are in Rwanda*

Further breakdown of the above figure:

32,599

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

23,049

Registered urban refugees

546

Urban refugees with registration appointments

15,855

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

87

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

771

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.

- Relocation of new arrivals to Mahama camp resumed on 10 August and will continue until the Nyagatare transit center and both reception centers (Bugesera and Nyanza) are emptied; there are currently 17,500 refugees waiting to move to Mahama. The first convoy departed from the overcrowded Nyanza reception center, with 1,033 passengers traveling on Monday (pictured top right). In preparation for the relocation, UNHCR Kigali staff visited Mahama over the weekend to conduct protection monitoring and to prepare the registration center for the new caseload.



- UNHCR has noted an increase in the rate of new arrivals from an average of 100 people a day to an average of 300 in the last couple of days.
- In order to facilitate information sharing of refugees and returnees in Rwanda, UNHCR Rwanda has launched a website, specific to the Rwanda Operation: www.unhcr.rw**

Recent visits

- The EU Ambassador, Michael Ryan, visited Mahama camp a second time (pictured right). The Ambassador commended the camp's growth and services, and visited newly-constructed semi-permanent shelters as well as preparations for emergency hangars to accommodate new arrivals from transit sites.
- A delegation of the Salvation Army from Kigali visited Mahama to distribute buckets to unaccompanied and separated children. The Salvation Army has donated 8,000 buckets to refugees in the camp since the start of the influx. The delegation also visited the nutrition center and education facilities, and inquired about further support the Salvation Army could provide to help meet refugees' basic needs.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- UNHCR in recent days has received reports of some Burundian refugees returning to Burundi, however no refugee has approached UNHCR to inform that s/he is returning so UNHCR is unable to confirm the reports. UNHCR is observing closely the situation, including border monitoring and contact with local authorities to ascertain the status of the returning Burundians and confirm whether registered refugees are included. Burundians continue to arrive and register with UNHCR as refugees on a daily basis.
- New arrivals from Burundi are reporting that Burundians who return home from Rwanda are accused of betraying their country are targeted and/or arrested.
- 86% of urban refugees originate from Bujumbura. In camp settings, 65% of the population is from Kirundo and 10% from Bujumbura.

 Protection

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

- **1,953** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been registered, including both camps and urban areas. **535** have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- **85** 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.
- Children make up 45% of the urban population, as compared to 51% in the camps.
- UNHCR, MIDIMAR, Plan International, and Immigration registered and conducted individual assessments for 38 children from a Burundian orphanage who are currently staying in a rented house in Nyamata with their 7 caregivers. The next step will be for UNHCR to convene a meeting between MIDIMAR, MIGEPROF, the National Commission for Children (NCC), UNICEF and Plan International to discuss the way forward.
- A five-day workshop to prepare for a child protection baseline assessment in the camp concluded by practicing how to obtain informed consent and how to conduct a survey of caregivers. The 21 refugee participants in the workshop will now begin testing the methodology in actual interviews. Full data collection will begin August 17 for a ten-day period. Preliminary results from the baseline survey are expected in mid-September, with final findings available by the end of September.

 Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with ARC and Save the Children, established a second health post in Mahama camp to maintain accessibility to health care services as new refugees are being relocated to the camp.
- 17 women gave birth at Mahama camp during the reporting week.
- UNFPA mobilized some extra external funds for Family Planning and expect to include additional options, including contraceptive pills, injectables and insertion of IUDs, in addition to the condoms that are being provided.

 Shelter and NFIs

- 30 hangars have been erected in Mahama and more are under construction to receive new refugees.
- 151 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed at Mahama.
- Construction of 27 hangars to receive and house refugees at Bugesera is ongoing.

 Water and Sanitation

- For the first time in a month, the camp's water supply reached the minimum emergency standard of 15 liters per person, thanks to strong output by the filtration system that treats water from the Akagera River. The filtration system provided 252 cubic meters of water, equivalent to 252,000 liters – more than half of the camp's current need. The search for additional water by drilling boreholes suffered a disappointment when drilling operations at a promising location about 1 kilometer from the camp were unsuccessful in finding water despite reaching a depth of 75 meters. It was the 4th borehole failure since the camp opened more than 3 months ago. Drilling at a new location will begin almost immediately.

Thanks to our partners:



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Daily Statistics: <http://data.unhcr.org/burundi> Twitter: @RefugeesRwanda