

## RWANDA

### EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

19-26 August 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The registered population of Mahama camp has surged passed the 40,000 mark. Additional growth is certain in coming days with continued convoys from Bugesera Reception Center. The camp population has increased by more than 8,900 during August – an increase of 28%.



L-R: UNHCR Deputy Representative and UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region at registration center in Mahama camp.

### Recent visits

- The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Said Djinnit, visited Mahama over the weekend, accompanied by UNHCR's Deputy Representative in Rwanda and a coordination specialist from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Rwanda. The two-hour visit provided an overview of each program sector, including WASH and the new site, and offered opportunities for the Envoy to discuss issues directly with refugees.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

- UNHCR, MIDIMAR, AHA, ADRA and Plan International conducted a participatory evaluation among Burundian urban refugees to understand why urban refugees are returning to their country of origin and how many. It was determined among the sample population that 40% of urban refugees went back to Burundi but then later returned to Rwanda. Reason for leaving Rwanda include: high cost of living in the city; fear of losing employment back home; high cost of medical treatment; students returning home to take exams; and others returning to take care of family members. Reasons for returning back to Rwanda include: fear and intimidation, especially towards young men, by Imbonerakure. UNHCR and partners are working to finalize an agreement of how to assist urban refugees with regards to health and education.

### Protection

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

- **2,736** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been identified, both in camps and urban areas. **662** have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- **100** 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.
- **284** new born babies have been assisted with birth registration to date, of which **37** newborns were registered this week.
- The first full day of a child protection baseline assessment interviewed adolescents and guardians in 35 households located in 4 villages within Mahama camp. Each interview lasted approximately 1 hour. The baseline assessment survey will continue throughout the first week of September. 21 refugees are assisting to conduct the survey after receiving a week of special training by UNHCR earlier this month.

### KEY FIGURES\* (as of 25 August)

**75,395**

Burundian refugees are in Rwanda\*

Further breakdown of the above figure:

**42,403**

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

**23,049**

Registered urban refugees

**1,101**

Urban refugees with registration appointments

**8,111**

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

**152**

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

**579**

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center

\*statistics are according to the Government of Rwanda.

### PRIORITIES

- Finalize Standard Operating Procedure for assisting urban refugees;
- Conduct school rapid assessment exercise to understand reasons of low attendance rate in Mahama camp.

## Education

- UNHCR and WFP conducted a flash monitoring exercise of all primary and secondary school classrooms to seek accurate attendance data before launching a school feeding program. It was discovered that there is a low attendance rate for the ongoing orientation classes; 50% or fewer of the camp's school-age children are attending school. UNHCR will be leading a rapid assessment this week to understand the reasons behind the low attendance rate in Mahama.

## Health

- Two additional rub halls were erected at the health center in Mahama to extend HIV care and treatment.
- The new health post in the southeastern corner of the camp, managed by Save the Children and ARC, is now equipped with 2 medical doctors and 4 nurses.
- The UNHCR site planner has identified the location for constructing an isolation center. ARC site manager confirmed the availability of materials to construct the center and UNHCR will coordinate the process to ensure there is a strong isolation facility with cholera management capacity before mid-September (beginning of the rainy season).
- UNHCR and WHO have procured 3 kits to address diarrhea through the CERF emergency funding.
- This week, 38 women have agreed to new methods of contraception, provided by UNFPA. Among them, 31 women have opted for Depo-Provera and 7 women for pills bringing the cumulative number to 89 women who accessed Family Planning methods so far.

### Thanks to our partners:



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