

BURUNDI EMERGENCY UPDATE

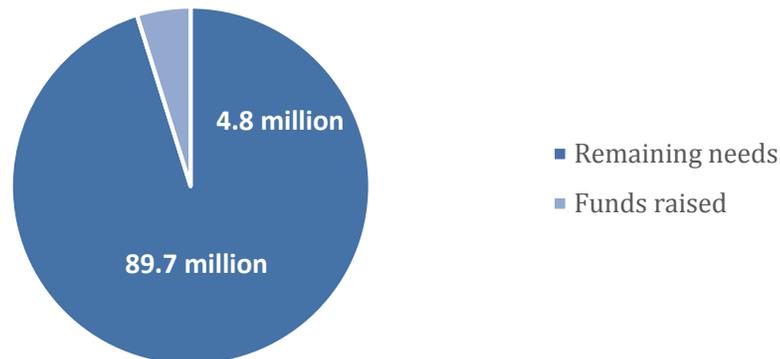
- UNHCR and partners jointly supported MIDIMAR with the election of 231 refugee representatives. Leaders were elected to cover 24 villages in Mahama, 8 quarters and 7 members of the Executive Committee.
- The Representatives of UNHCR and WFP accompanied the Head for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in Rwanda, to Mahama refugee camp (pictured right). The purpose of the visit was to mark International Women's Day in the camp and to oversee progress in the Burundi refugee response to which DFID has made very significant contributions.



Ms. Laure Beaufigli (Head of DFID in Rwanda) inspects some handicrafts made by Burundian refugee women in Mahama camp.

Financial Information

The comprehensive needs for the 2016 interagency Burundi refugee response in Rwanda are estimated at over **USD 94.5 million**, however thus far only USD 4.8 million has been received – representing a gap of almost 95%.



Protection

Child Protection:

- **2,107** Burundian unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are currently registered. From 31 March onwards, UAC who have turned 18 at the beginning of the year will be removed from the list of UAC since the 3-month transition period has come to an end. For the past three months, they have received support to transition to adulthood and receive case management services from Plan International and Save the Children. Most vulnerable cases identified through individual interviews will continue receiving support as appropriate. *Out of the UASC identified and assisted by UNHCR and partners since the beginning of the emergency, there have been 961 known cases of UASC reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.*
- Since the beginning of the emergency, **1,197** new born babies in Mahama camp have been registered and issued with birth certificates. As for late registration, **345** cases have been submitted to court since April 2015, out of whom **218** received birth certificates.
- UNHCR and UNICEF facilitated a 2-day training in Mahama on Best Interests procedure to 30 staff working on child protection issues, including MIDIMAR, Plan International and Save the Children as well as two members of the National Commission for Children (NCC). Key topics covered included general child protection concepts, case management system, practical case studies and drafting Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) and Best Interests Determination (BID) reports, etc. The need for adequate interagency coordination and child-centred approach to address risks surrounding UAC in the camp was also highlighted during this training.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- 214 SGBV cases have been identified and assisted to date by UNHCR and partners. These cases include sexual assault, psychological/emotional abuse and denial of resources, opportunities and services. On 8 March, the International Women's Day was celebrated in Mahama camp and offered the opportunity to sensitize the community on SGBV and gender equality.
- UNHCR's protection partner, Plan International, has officially handed over their urban protection activities to one of UNHCR's new protection partners, Legal Aid Forum (LAF), to assist in cases of SGBV, child protection and exceptional assistance activities.
- 186 men and 198 male youth from all villages in Mahama I were trained on positive masculinity by Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC) in partnership with Plan International. This training was conducted with the objective to strengthen the engagement of men and boys in fighting against SGBV in their villages.
- The number of early pregnancies is high in Mahama. Focus group discussions have therefore been conducted by child protection and SGBV partners in collaboration with health partners to better understand the phenomenon by discussing reproductive health, root causes behind early pregnancy, consequences and strategies to prevent early pregnancy.
- UNFPA handed over to ARC an additional 30,000 male condoms and 5,000 female condoms to be distributed to the community through the Community Health Workers for HIV prevention and Family Planning services.



Health

- Social mobilization on key family practices regarding child care were intensified throughout the camp. UNICEF trained health and hygiene promoters who are now actively sensitizing communities on key family practices including messages. A total of 310 trained community health workers visited 3,800 households, reaching 13,875 refugees with promotion of key family practices. Three cultural sessions on key family practices were organized on a football pitch attracting more than 1,000 refugees per session. In addition, approximately 500 refugees were reached through hand washing demonstrations, community theatre and health talk shows.
- UNHCR, ARC and SCI continued to provide primary health care at camp health centres which treated 21,699 refugee patients at the outpatient departments in the months of February and March.



Shelter/Infrastructure

- Shelter remains one of the key challenges for the UNHCR operation. ARC has finalized agreements with contractors and they are set to construct 470 semi-permanent shelters before May.
- ARC is working on constructing bridges over drainage channels to improve accessibility of vehicles/trucks in the camp.
- The main road to the newly opened Gatore reception center is under construction to improve access of large trucks. Security light comprising of 30 solar lanterns have also been installed in Gatore. Solar lanterns have been distributed to 2,548 households in Mahama camp, and distribution is still ongoing.



Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- Water supply standards (20 L per person per day) have been achieved in the Mahama refugee camp.
- OXFAM continues to construct dischargeable latrines: 15 latrine blocks out of the 50 funded by UNICEF are completed.
- PAJER is continuing the construction of 20 blocks of dischargeable latrines.

CONGOLESE REFUGEE PROGRAM UPDATE

A delegation of Rwandan Parliamentarians (MPs) visited all refugee camps in the country to see how the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR are coping with protection of and assistance to the refugee population, particularly in light of the difficult funding situation. The MPs pledged to advocate on behalf of the refugee community in order to improve the quality of asylum. They called upon the refugee community to take advantage of the opportunities in the camps to prepare themselves for a dignified return home in the future and finally to respect the law of the land.



Protection

- In preparation for the rollout of intentions monitoring survey in the Congolese camps, on 15-21 March, UNHCR conducted a number of focus group discussion (FGD) in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps. UNHCR is currently analysing the intention monitoring data of Burundians and at the same time finalising the outcome of the FGD of the two Congolese camps. The next mission should be to Gihembe and Nyabiheke for the individual interviews. Ideally it should be in June depending on the finalisation of the Burundians data.

Resettlement to a third country:

- Total submissions in March 2016: 49 cases with 153 individuals
- Total submissions in 2016: 129 cases with 413 individuals

- Total departures in March 2016: 37 cases with 176 individuals
- Total departures in 2016: 61 cases with 304 individuals



Education/Vocational training

- UNHCR and ADRA have extended the local Kageyo Secondary School by constructing 7 additional classrooms (and 6 latrines) to the existing 10 classrooms. Now, 540 refugee students from Gihembe camp are attending grades 8 and 9 with the local Rwandan population. 18 refugee teachers have also been hired to teach at the school. Funds are still needed to help pay for uniforms, school lunches, administrative costs, furniture for a teachers' lounge, and rehabilitating 4 classrooms.
- Kepler University in Kiziba camp conducted an entry exam for 90 refugees. Successful candidates will be awarded with university scholarships to the camp-based campus.



Health

- The Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) has donated 14 wheelchairs made locally in Rwanda. The wheelchairs will go to the health centers in each camp to assist sick and vulnerable refugees.



Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR is concerned that water supply per capita has been at a low in most camps, except Kiziba and Mugombwa camps that meet the standard of 20L/person/day. UNHCR depends on the public networks and can only distribute what is available from the national service provider. UNHCR and partners continue to advocate for the Government of Rwanda's assistance.
- 8 dischargeable latrines under construction in Mugombwa refugee camp. Retaining walls need to be constructed to protect 5 of the newly constructed latrines.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

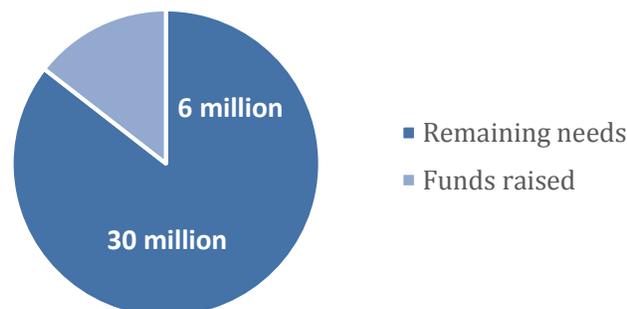
- ARC is UNHCR's new implementing partner for Livelihoods. In close collaboration with UNHCR, ARC will support the implementation of the forthcoming UNHCR Livelihoods Strategy (2016-2019), which has as an overall objective to ensure that all refugees are able to fulfil their productive potential as self-reliant members of Rwandan society who contribute to economic development of their host communities. A high priority is given to create a more enabling environment for refugees and Rwandans to engage in commercial activities, particularly in the private sector of Rwanda, including social enterprises.

Food Security and Nutrition

- WFP organized a workshop in Kiziba camp for partners involved in food distribution. 8 electronic scales were introduced with the aim of enabling more accurate distribution of food.
- TANGO International, external evaluators of WFP, did an assessment of the cash transfer programmes (in lieu of food distribution) in the 3 pilot camps. The aim of the evaluation is to assess the design, implementation and impact of cash transfers and nutrition programs, understand their effects, and potentially improve on the service.

Financial Information – CONGOLESE REFUGEE PROGRAM

The comprehensive needs for the 2016 Congolese program is **USD 35,955,380**. Just over USD 6 million has been raised by WFP.



RWANDAN RETURNEES

- 1,407** former Rwandan refugees have returned to their country of origin in 2016.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), invited Rwandan refugees in neighboring countries to a Go-and-See visit to Rwanda during 21-23 March. This event gave the opportunity for 6 participants from Uganda, DRC and Cameroon to visit Kigali as well as their respective areas of origin, freely interact with families and relatives and to better understand the socioeconomic progress and security situation in Rwanda. The participants were encouraged to thereafter inform the refugee community back in the asylum countries.

They appreciated the warm way they were received by their compatriots, the socio-economic development in Rwanda and the overall security situation. *Many of the participants had the*

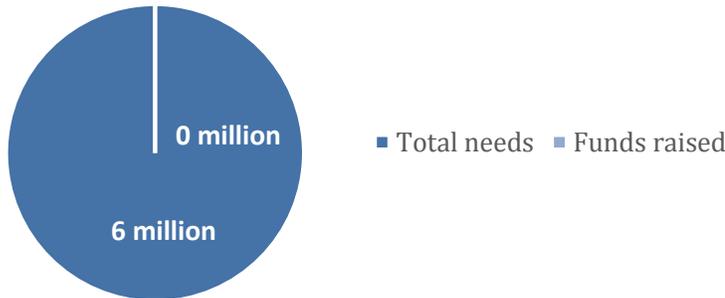


Fidela (in the orange dress) meets her family-in-law in Rwanda for the first time since fleeing to Cameroon 22 years ago.

opportunity to meet with family members that they hadn't seen for over 21 years. The participants expressed their appreciation of the visit and discussions with the Minister of MIDIMAR, and some of them expressed their interest to voluntarily repatriate.

Financial Information – REINTEGRATION

The comprehensive needs for reintegration for 2016 is **USD 6,031,085**. Unfortunately no funds have been received thus far.



UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donor countries who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation in 2015-2016:

United States of America | UN Central Emergency Response Fund | EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) | UK Department for International Development (DFID) | Japan | Belgium | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | The Howard G. Buffett Foundation | Sweden (via One UN) | USA for UNHCR

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