

# Rwanda

February & March 2020

The total population of concern to UNHCR in Rwanda at the end of March 2020 was **148,268 individuals**, mainly from Burundi and DRC. **The Rwandan Government maintained open borders to enable refugees seeking asylum access the Rwanda territory.**

Following the Government of Rwanda's declaration of enhanced measures to prevent limit the spread of COVID-19, **new arrivals entering Rwanda will be put in isolation for 14-days.** No case of new arrival has been recorded since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed.

There is no confirmed case of COVID-19 involving a refugee in Rwanda although 2 **suspected cases** were reported in March 2020.

## KEY INDICATORS

### 431 Resettled

to third countries, including 375 Congolese, 14 Burundian and 42 from ETM Rwanda since the beginning of 2020.

### 405 Returnees

Have voluntarily returned from DRC to Rwanda since the beginning of 2020 (January 186, February 122 and March 97).

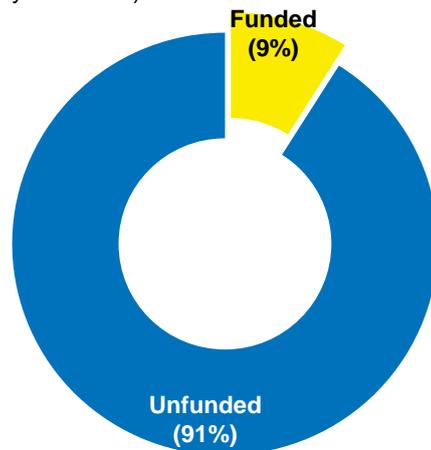
### 258 Evacuees

Are in Emergency Transit Mechanism Gashora Transit Centre.

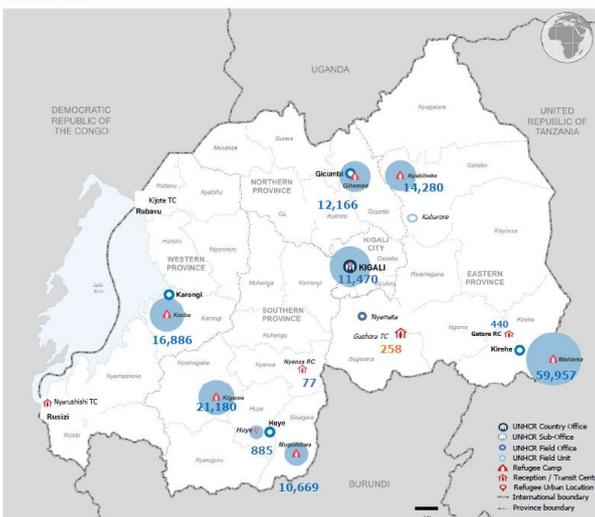
## FUNDING (AS OF 6 APRIL 2020)

### USD106.5M

requested for Rwanda (Burundi, DRC, ETM and Coronavirus Emergency situations)



Rwanda  
Population of Concern to UNHCR  
as of 31st March 2020



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### MONTHLY TREND OF NEW ARRIVALS



## MAIN COUNTRIES (REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS)



## Burundi Refugee Response

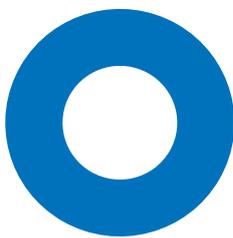


Mahama refugee camp in Kirehe District. © UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana

### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

# USD 46.96 M

FUNDING (AS OF 6 APRIL 2020)



- Funded - 0% (USD 0)
- Unfunded - 100% (USD 46.96M)

### Achievements & Highlights



#### PROTECTION

- 360 birth certificates were issued to Burundian refugees in February (240) and March (120) 2020.
- 4,258 children and youth were engaged in different programs, including sports and other recreational activities.



#### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 7 Burundian refugees departed on resettlement to Canada in March.



#### EDUCATION

- 27,350 refugee students were enrolled in schools in Mahama refugee camp and the host community at various levels of education.
- Schools were suspended mid-March as part of COVID-19 prevention measures announced mid-May.



#### HEALTH

- Hepatitis screening program was launched in Mahama camp.
- 11,269 refugees and persons from the refugee-hosting communities accessed primary health care services from the two health posts in Mahama camp.
- 754 persons accessed HIV prevention services, including antiretroviral treatment, nutritional and psychosocial support.
- 5,389 women of reproductive health age attended family planning services.
- 201 babies were born in Mahama camp, and trained health professionals attended all the deliveries.
- The health partner staffs, and Community Health Workers were oriented on COVID-19 prevention and infection control. The health screenings are conducted at the entrance of the camp, and isolation rooms were identified in the two health centers.
- Awareness-raising activities on prevention and response to COVID-19 are ongoing in Mahama camp. A Rapid Response Team was nominated in the camp, and it is in close coordination with the Kirehe District.



#### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- 58,620 refugees (93.5%) received food assistance through monthly hybrid assistance of cash transfers and in-kind food.

- An average of 3,388 children aged 6-23 months were supported through the Supplementary Feeding Program.
- 2,157 persons with specific needs, such as elderly, persons with disability, persons with chronic illness were given supplementary feeding.



### WATER AND SANITATION

- Minimum monthly average of clean water supply was maintained at 20.16 liters/person/day in Mahama camp and 23 liters/persons/day in Gatore reception center.
- 13 permanent handwashing stands were constructed in village 1 in Mahama camp, and 61 handwashing equipment with potable water and soaps were installed in Mahama camp and in Gatore reception center to foster proper hygiene and for the prevention of COVID-19.



### SHELTER AND NFIS

- 61 semi-permanent shelters were repaired in Mahama Camp to provide adequate dwellings.
- Sanitary pads were distributed to 11,380 refugee women in reproductive age.
- 273 new households were registered by the bank and issued bank cards in February 2020 for their enrolment in the Cash-Based Interventions (CBI).



### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 17,226 households used gas refilling services equivalent to 111,648 kgs for their cooking fuel.
- 5,336 trees were planted as part of environmental protection in Mahama camp and the host community.



### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

- 16,722 individuals are employed or engage in income-generating activities in February - Mid March 2020.

- 1,226 refugees have been provided with financial support through loans from Voluntary Savings and Lending Groups to start or expand their businesses in February 2020. 819 refugees were trained on business entrepreneurship to enhance their livelihood skills.

### Needs & Gaps

- Countrywide shortage of supplies of micronutrient powder, plumpy nut and children growth monitoring equipment at the nutrition center.
- Environmental degradation (soil erosion resulting from lack of appropriate drainage systems) is impacting shelters. Created ravines and gullies have become life hazards to the population in Mahama camp.
- Congestion / need for additional space (at least 26 hectares) in Mahama to accommodate an expected increase in the population and to allow for the expansion of existing camp infrastructures.
- Financial resources are insufficient to procure gas cylinders for all households in Mahama camp.
- Need for more resources to increase vocational and technical training for out-of-school youth, provide special education for children with disabilities, as well as increase access to higher education.



Refugees in Mahama camp are respecting the physical distancing requirement during distribution of assistance. @UNHCR/Justin Ngabonziza

# Congolese Refugee Response



Water distribution point in a refugee camp @Eugene Sibomana

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

# USD 41.81 M

FUNDING (AS OF 6 APRIL 2020)



- Funded - 0% (USD 0)
- Unfunded - 100% (USD 41.81 M)

## Achievements & Highlights



### PROTECTION

- A total of 306 birth certificates were issued to in February (78) and March (228) 2020 in all the Congolese camps.
- 3,706 refugee ID were distributed to refugees in camps (399 in Nyabiheke and 3,307 in Gihembe) since the beginning of 2020.
- The community-based rehabilitation of children with disabilities were conducted at household level by parents and caregivers and 170 children were assisted in Nyabiheke (135) and Kiziba (35) camp.
- 38 cases of SGBV were reported, and appropriate legal, psychosocial, health support provided. The cases included those reported in Mugombwa (1), Kiziba (2), Gihembe (12) and Nyabiheke camps (24). The operation mounted awareness-raising campaigns in all camps to combat a culture of silence.

- There are ongoing construction projects for child, and youth-friendly spaces in all the Congolese camps.



### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 329 refugees from Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kiziba camps as well as Kigali urban settings were resettled in the month of February (114) and March (215) 2020 to USA and Sweden.



### EDUCATION

- 22,652 refugee students attended school at various levels of education and routine education activities continued until schools were suspended due to COVID-19.
- 46 students (25 females and 21 males) from Gihembe camp and host community completed the ITIME program, an 8 to 16 weeks instructional program designed to support refugees and vulnerable host community students to transition from secondary to tertiary education. The program focuses on improving the students' English, basic computer technology, mathematics, professional competencies, while also increasing their knowledge on right to work, laws and livelihoods opportunities.
- 26 refugee students from Nyabiheke (7) and Gihembe (19) camps met the application requirement and were enrolled with the Africa Leadership University (ALU) on full-ride scholarships offered by Mastercard's Foundation.



### HEALTH

- A total of 10,024 refugees and host community accessed primary health care through health centers in Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kiziba camps.
- 359 refugees were referred to secondary and tertiary health care through the established referral system in Kigeme, Mugombwa, Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kiziba camps.
- Awareness-raising sessions are organized by community health workers and community-based protection volunteers in all the camps for prevention and response to COVID-19.

- Holding rooms for suspected cases of COVID-19 were identified and equipped in camp health centers.
- Each camp had a task force constituted to support the coordination of prevention and response activities related to COVID-19 with the district authorities.



### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- 75,181 refugees in the Congolese camps received cash for food assistance.
- Pregnant and lactating mothers, and persons with chronic illness are enrolled in the supplementary feeding program.



### WATER AND SANITATION

- The average monthly clean water supply in Kiziba and Mugombwa camps was 23 liters and 20.0 liters per person per day.
- The construction of shower blocks was ongoing; 22 in Gihembe, 25 in Kiziba and 25 in Nyabiheke camps which will improve the privacy and hygiene conditions of the refugees in the camp.
- The rehabilitation water distribution system, including replacing the old materials is ongoing in Kiziba camp which will mitigate the issue of regular and costly repairs.



### SHELTER AND NFIS

- 8,100 mosquito nets were distributed to households in Kigeme camp for the prevention of malaria in February 2020.
- The rehabilitation and extension activities of the MINEMA office in Nyabiheke camp was completed.
- 20 semi-permanent shelters were rehabilitated in Kiziba camp to improve the dwelling conditions of the refugees in the camp.
- The constructions of ECD and a Community Center are ongoing in Kiziba camp.

- 50 households are at the second stage of the shelters' pavement with the support of the Earth Enable.



### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 75,181 refugees in camps received monthly cash assistance for cooking energy.
- The World Bank visited Nyabiheke, Kigeme and Mugombwa camps to raise awareness of the JYAMBERE project, a project to support livelihood project of refugees and host community.



### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

- 2 hectares of farming land is being used by 60 individuals from Nyabiheke camp and the host community for vegetable farming with the support of the Food for Hungry Rwanda. The benefits of the project include enhancing the livelihoods and nutrition status of the individuals, families and communities.
- 378 youth from Kigeme, Mugombwa and host communities supported by GIZ under the social and economic inclusion with technical and vocational education and training program at the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College (IPRC) - Huye completed the industrial attachment (internship).
- A Training and Mediation Center was inaugurated in Mugombwa camp. The center will be used for peacebuilding activities, workshops as well as meetings of communities, both the refugees in Mugombwa and host community.

### Needs & Gaps

- Need to improve camp health facilities to meet Government accreditation requirements for health centers.
- A high number of costly referrals, including conducting diagnostic test procedures (CT scan and MRI) to tertiary level health cares.
- Existence of 11 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 87 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases in the camps.

- Average monthly clean water supply in Congolese camp was below minimum standards at 13 liters per person/day. Water shortage in Gihembe camp (15 liters/person/day), Nyabiheke camp (13.6 liters/person/day) and Kigeme camp (16.29 liters/person/day) was due to a reduction of water supply from the public water grid.
- Insufficient recreational materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities and limited support for children with special education needs.
- During the COVID-19 lockdown, students are encouraged to opt for online learning and follow the courses provided by the Rwanda Education Board through tv and radio station, but this is not feasible for most of the refugees due to lack of basic equipment, for instance radio.
- The topography of the land and soil erosion in the Congolese camps are putting refugees in the camps and host communities at risks of natural hazards.
- Congestions in camps and lack of proper site planning/design at the inception of the camps impacting on some operational activities such as, expansion of WASH facilities, livelihoods activities, etc.
- 1,700 shelters are in dire conditions and need for urgent generation rehabilitation and 2,000 shelters need roof rehabilitation with iron sheets in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps.
- Refugees are receiving cash and in-kind assistance. However, a quick survey conducted in the market inside the camp showed that some commodities' price increased from 14 to 75% following the COVID-19.



Proper hygiene is being respected in Mugombwa camp.  
©UNHCR/Vlora Shemsedini

## Emergency Transit Mechanism

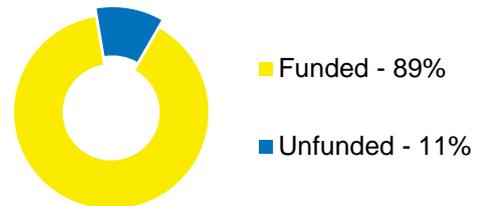


Arrival of Eritreans, Somalis, Sudanese and Ethiopians from Libya to Rwanda. ©UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana

### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

**USD 14.5 M**

FUNDING (AS OF 6 APRIL 2020)



### Achievements & Highlights



#### PROTECTION

- Sensitization discussions were held with the communities about the importance of physical distancing.
- No new SGBV cases were reported, while the nine (9) existing SGBV cases received psychosocial support and counselling by Alight and of which five (5) were closed.
- The community members were mobilized on roles and responsibilities of the Community-Based Protection Mechanism (CBPM) in the community.
- Awareness-raising sessions were conducted on women's rights and the role of women in economic development as well as sensitizing them to participate in the celebration of International Women's day.

- Parents' Meeting with children who participate in Child-Friendly Space was conducted to increase awareness on children's rights and positive discipline in their day to day parenting.
- A two-month-old infant born has been registered and a birth certificate has been issued.
- A 14 years old unaccompanied boy is on Psychiatric medication. Follow-ups and daily visits are made to check on his improvement and provided the necessary support.
- Five PoCs received general legal assistance including advice, advocacy, mediation, accompaniment, etc.



### EDUCATION

- 44 learners were enrolled in language classes of English and Kinyarwanda (beginner and intermediate levels) with 12.5% being girls in the month of February 2020. The average number for each class was 28 students.
- The classes were suspended after the 15 March due to the required physical and social distancing to limit the spread of the pandemic.



### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- All PoCs living in the ETM Gashora Transit Center have been screened for Hepatitis through the initiative of the Government of Rwanda.
- 312 PoCs received primary healthcare services, and 17 on them were referred to the secondary and tertiary health care during March 2020.
- 464 screenings have been done through screening stations set at the entrance of the center and at the clinic.
- PoCs have been sensitized on physical distancing and on proper hygiene practices.
- Four children aged of 6-23 months and 39 PoCs were supported with Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP).



### FOOD SECURITY AND COOKING ENERGY

- All PoCs were provided with three meals daily and supplementary feeding to individuals with special dietary requirements.
- Through the CBI, RWF 3,500,000 has been paid to 27 PoCs during the month of March. At present, 72 out of 258 individuals are enrolled in the CBI. Most Eritreans are not enrolled. During the reporting period work was ongoing to develop a plan to enable the remote enrolment of anyone who may now wish to benefit from CBI. Back-end processing of payments (March instalment) to the group of Eritreans and Ethiopians (7 individuals) who recently enrolled was ongoing.



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- The average of potable water supply per person per day was 67.1 Liters.
- Daily hygiene promotion and cleaning activities are conducted in the center, including increasing of handwashing facilities as an effective measure against COVID-19 and use of potable water and clean storage materials for households use.



### SHELTER AND NFIS

- Core Relief Items (CRIs), including 774 pieces of soaps, 516 powder soaps, 258 toothpastes and toothbrushes and 21 communal hand sanitizers were distributed to all the PoCs in the center.



### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

#### Achievements and Impact

- The activities involving community gathering, including learning activities were stopped following the physical and social distancing requirement for limiting the spread of COVID-19.
- International Women' Day was celebrated on 10 March in the ETM Gashora Transit Centre. Activities including, awareness sessions,

meetings with community leaders of different nationalities, organized a walk (procession) from ETM to the host community business center, and a meeting with families were implemented as part of the celebration.



### CASE PROCESSING FOR SOLUTIONS

- The Resettlement Unit submitted a total of resettlement 46 cases involving 54 individuals.
- The teams also started developing remote case processing procedures and tools in preparedness to possible extension of the lockdown.
- 42 refugees departed for resettlement in February (32) and March (10) 2020 to Canada and Sweden.
- Resettlement departures have been delayed due to temporary travel restrictions imposed as part of COVID-19 prevention.
- Case processing continued although no new evacuation flights were received. The office is finalizing some pending cases (approximately 60 cases) at either regular RSD or merged RSD stage, including cases awaiting feedback from first countries of asylum where PoC may have been previously registered.

### Needs & Gaps

- The movement restriction and stopping of non-essential activities have put on halt the construction activities to limit the spread of the COVID-19 in the centre like in other places around the country. This will delay the completion of the construction activities of new accommodations and of other facilities to increase the absorption capacity of the centre.
- Access roads, ring roads around the center, wire fence and drainage systems need to be constructed to ensure better accessibility, service delivery and minimize environmental degradation.



Protection case processing in ETM Gashora Transit center. @UNHCR/Rediet Harpaye

## Return & Reintegration



Rwandan returnee arriving at the Nyarushishi Reception Center. ©UNHCR/Marc Singirankabo

### Achievements & Highlights

- 219 returnees were received in the Kijote transit center during February and March 2020. Of these, 76 were facilitated to join their districts of origin while others are still waiting in the center due to the movement restrictions.

### Needs & Gaps

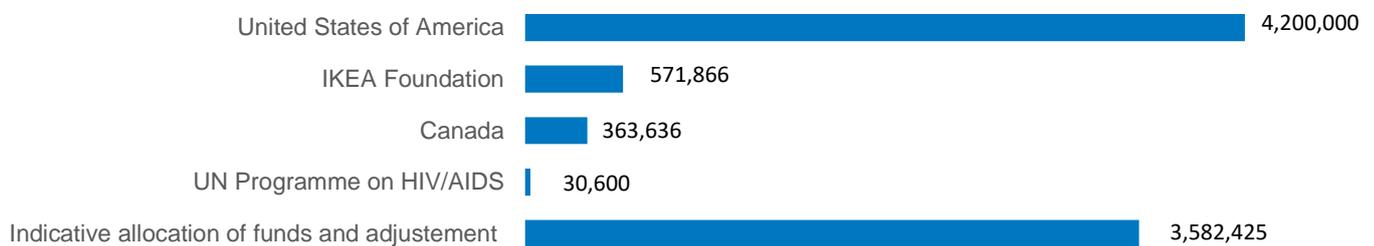
- Delays in the provision of the return and reintegration cash grant to returnees which was pending since September 2019 has now been resolved, and payments are in process. This was due to the continued API Integration/interface with the financial service provider.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

UNHCR Rwanda launched an urgent appeal for funding to the prevention and response activities to COVID-19 to persons of concern in Rwanda. By the end of March 2020, no contribution has been recorded yet.

### Funding received in million USD 9,252,313



### Other softly earmarked contributions | USD

**United States of America** 13.9 million | **Germany** 8.4 million | **Canada** 3.7 million | **Finland** 3.3 million | **Private donors Australia** 2.1 million

Luxembourg | Morocco | Slovakia | Sweden | Private donors

### Unearmarked contributions | USD

**Sweden** 76.4 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Private donors Spain** 20 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 10.5 million

Australia | Belgium | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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

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**Statistics:** <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi> **UNHCR Rwanda:** [www.unhcr.org/rw](http://www.unhcr.org/rw) **Twitter:** @RefugeesRwanda