

Rwanda

December 2022

12th Evacuation Convoy from Libya was received at the ETM in Rwanda. On 15th of December, UNHCR evacuated 174 refugees and asylum seekers to the Emergency Transit Mechanism Centre in Rwanda.

In December, UNHCR **voluntarily repatriated 142 Burundian refugees from Rwanda.** In 2022, UNHCR has supported the repatriation of 932 Burundians back to their country of origin, and 30,457 Burundians have repatriated since August 2020.

Between November and the end of December, **UNHCR received 987 Congolese asylum seekers fleeing the conflict in Eastern DRC.** These individuals were received at the Kijote Transit Centre and later transported to Mahama refugee camp.

KEY STATISTICS

126,967 individuals are registered with UNHCR in Rwanda as of 31 December 2022. Mainly including people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (59.86%) and Burundi (39.58%).

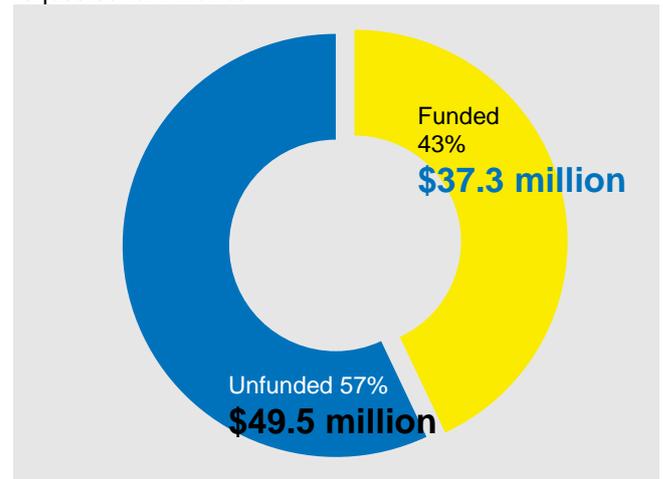
91% of refugees in Rwanda live in refugee camps

6,314 refugees have been submitted for resettlement in 2022.

FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER)

USD 86,8 million

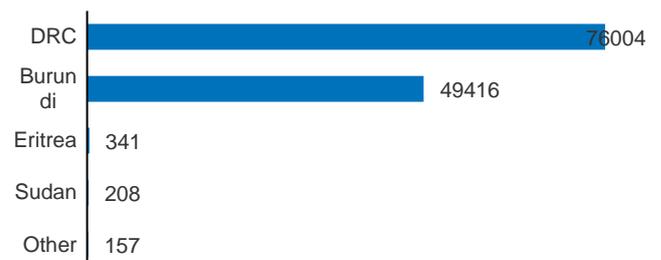
requested for Rwanda



Mutoni, a Congolese refugee and hairdresser, blow dries a customer's hair at her hair salon in Kiziba refugee camp.

CURRENT POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), leads the refugee response in Rwanda in coordination with UNHCR. In addition, a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners participate in sector working groups at both country and district levels. Currently, UNHCR works directly with 11 partners in implementing key activities to assist both the refugee population and Rwandan host communities. To further strengthen the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR maintains close collaboration with key government institutions and ministries.

Achievements



PROTECTION

- Due to fighting in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), since October, asylum seekers from the DRC began fleeing to Rwanda's eastern province. In December, UNHCR received 1,112 Congolese individuals at the Kijote Transit Centre (TC). The asylum seekers were subsequently transferred to the Mahama refugee camp. UNHCR continues to work with the Government of Rwanda and partners to provide food and non-food related items to all new asylum seekers. UNHCR also continues to identify gaps in the response and procure items not available in storage. In December, the new arrivals in Mahama are currently undergoing nationality assessments conducted by Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Directorate-General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) and the National Id Agency (NIDA).
- UNHCR operates protection desks in refugee camps and urban areas to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can express concerns and challenges relating to services, including matters relating to Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI), asylum applications, refugee ID's and other relevant protection concerns, to designated UNHCR protection staff. UNHCR also supports urban refugees through protection hotlines where refugees can seek information and assistance from UNHCR. In December, UNHCR supported 810 individuals through the hotline, out of which 35 required follow ups to address imminent protection needs. Most of the concerns raised were regarding refugee ID's.
- UNHCR works with psychosocial partner, Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to identify and manage refugee mental health conditions across all camps in Rwanda. UNHCR and HI work with mental health professionals (psychiatric nurses or psychiatrists) to address complex refugee mental health conditions, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Depression. In Mugombwa and Kigeme for example, psychosocial support and services were provided to 671 and 354 individuals with mental health and psychosocial issues respectively, during the month of December. UNHCR in cooperation with HI also supports refugees, asylum seekers, and members of the host communities who have specific needs and disabilities. In December, 121 children with disabilities (102 refugee children and 19 children from the host community) in Nyabiheke received appropriate assessments based on their needs and functional rehabilitation services were offered based on the outcomes of the assessments.
- As part of ongoing efforts to improve birth registration for refugee children and families, as well as prevention of statelessness, in December, UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda registered 171 new-born babies and conducted late-registration for 19 babies in refugee camps in Rwanda.

- UNHCR Rwanda conducts best interest assessments for unaccompanied and separated children as part of a continuous process to ensure children are protected, have access to services, and that family reunification is conducted with the best interests of the child in mind. During December, UNHCR and child protection partners conducted 65 best interest assessments for refugee children in all the refugee camps and the Emergency Transit Centre.
- Gender based violence incidents among refugee populations continued to be reported to UNHCR in December. 14 new GBV incidents, including rape, sexual assault, physical assault, psychological and emotional abuse were reported and provided with appropriate multi-sectoral support. 58 previously opened GBV cases were also closed in December.
- On Monday December 12, 13 and 19, Congolese refugees in Kigeme, Mugombwa and Kiziba camps held peaceful demonstrations to denounce what they described as a 'silent genocide' targeting Congolese of Tutsi origin following a recent upsurge in ethnic killings in DRC. They called for the Government of DRC together with international communities to protect their relatives and communities in the DRC and to restore peace in the country to enable them to return home.
- UNHCR Rwanda received the 12th Evacuation Convoy from Libya on the 15th of December. This is the fifth evacuation flight to Rwanda in 2022, bringing the total number of evacuations for the year to 629 people (the highest number in one year since the inception of the ETM in 2019). The convoy in December consisted of 174 refugees and asylum seekers aged between one month old and 70 years and are from six different nationalities: Eritrea (82), Sudan (57), Ethiopia (23), Somalia (7), Guinea (4) and South Sudan (1). Since 2019, 1,453 refugees and asylum seekers have been evacuated from Libya. As of Beginning of December 2022, 809 refugees have departed for resettlement. There are currently 665 refugees and asylum seekers awaiting durable solutions in the ETM.



The one pharmacist working at the health centre in Kiziba camp distributes medicines and prescriptions to a refugee from DRC.

**EDUCATION**

- UNHCR Rwanda celebrated the 30th anniversary of the DAFI scholarship on December 15th. The event was attended by the Ambassador of Germany to Rwanda, UNHCR Representative, Permanent Secretary of MINEMA, Country Director of ADRA, Vice Chancellors of Academic institutions, NGOs, and private sector representatives, current and former DAFI students. Personal testimonies of DAFI beneficiaries including a medical doctor who runs his own clinic in Kigali, and an entrepreneur who manages hotel and runs his own business in the camp, were shared. On the morning of the event, the DAFI annual meeting was also conducted with over 150 current and former students participating.
- Basic education is accessible to refugee children through the support of the Government of Rwanda who have committed to refugee inclusion in primary and secondary schools. UNHCR supports refugee education by building classrooms, science laboratories, libraries and contributing to teachers' salaries in national schools which are attended by refugee children near the camps. As part of efforts to improve education provided to refugees in camps, UNHCR worked with the District Education Authorities in Rwankuba Sector to provide 66 teachers in Nyabiheke with a one-day Comprehensive Assessment Management Information System (CAMIS) training in December. In the same period and location, 37 teachers also received a two-day training on the role of Parent Teachers Association by World Vision International. UNHCR also provided Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training to the teachers.
- In December, refugees across all camp in Rwanda were enrolled in and attended Early Childhood Development (ECD), primary and secondary education. In Nyabiheke and Mahama camp respectively, 94.9% children and 96.3% attended ECD, 94.8% and 93.5% of school-aged refugee children attended primary school, and finally, 93.2% and 92.5% attended in secondary schools. 4,562 children from the host community attended primary and secondary education (94% and 93% respectively) alongside refugee children in Mahama. While in Kigeme and Mugombwa, 13 and 18 refugees with disabilities, respectively, continue to also benefit from specialized schools and education.

**HEALTH**

- UNHCR supports access to health care services for all refugees in Rwanda. In December, 20,008 primary consultations were conducted in all camp-based health facilities, averaging 30 consultations per day per clinician. The health centres in camps also supported the delivery of 286 new-born babies with 98% of the births attended by skilled health workers. The health facilities in camps support both refugees and the local Rwandan host communities. UNHCR also continued to refer refugees in need of emergency, life-saving care to district level hospitals. In total, 394 health cases were referred for secondary and tertiary level care and management in December.
- Primary health care, nutrition and referral services were also provided to Rwandan returnees and other asylum seekers in the Nyanza Transit Centre. In December, 42 individuals received general primary healthcare services, while seven individuals were referred to Nyanza district hospital for further treatment.

- Access to contraception is a human right and as UNHCR continues to work with health partners in camps to provide access to contraceptive services for refugees in camps in order to reduce the risk of teenage or adolescent pregnancies, and reduce the likelihood of maternal, new-born and child deaths. One such location is the Mahama refugee camp, where UNHCR through the health partners ALIGHT and Save the Children, provided 7,360 women of reproductive age with contraceptives in December.
- On the 1st of December, UNHCR, partners, refugees, and host community in Kigeme and Mugombwa observed World AIDS Day. The events organized included a weekly awareness campaign in both sites, with information sharing and peer-to-peer dialogues with youth regarding HIV prevention. During December, UNHCR and health partners provided support to 1,213 HIV/AIDS refugee patients on treatment with nutrition and follow-up.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Eligible refugees in all camps receive cash assistance for food from the World Food Program (WFP). As of the end of December 2022, 94% of the total refugees living in the camps are under targeted food assistance. As per agreed targeting criteria, 88% of refugees in Rwanda (99,599 refugees) are classified as Highly Vulnerable and receive full (100%) food assistance, while 6% refugees comprising of 6,839 refugees are currently classified as Moderately Vulnerable and receive 50% of the value of full food assistance. And 6% comprising 7,351 refugees are classified as Least Vulnerable and do not receive any cash for food assistance.
- To support the nutrition of refugees and prevent malnutrition, UNHCR and partners conduct regular nutrition screenings and provide support for vulnerable refugees especially infants, children under the age of six, mothers and refugees with chronic diseases. In December, UNHCR in Mahama camp through the health partner, supported 697 HIV/AIDS patients on treatment with nutritional feeding programmes, while in Kiziba camp supplementary feeding was provided to 527 children of 6 months of age, 134 pregnant women, 100 lactating mothers, 71 people living with HIV and three TB patients.



WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, provides water to refugees living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda. In December 2022, water supply averaged 20.8 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Camps such as Nyabiheke and Kigeme continue to provide less than 15 litres of water supply, which is below the minimum water supply of 20 litres per person per day. For Nyabiheke camp, the poor mechanical condition of the boreholes, alongside flooding at the treatments site, has significantly impacted the water supply. The pump is currently under repair to rectify the disruptions. In Kigeme, WASAC water supply continues to experience chronic production issues at the treatment plant. Investment is required to enhance production including water treatment.
- To curb the impact of poor hygiene related diseases and stave off COVID-19 in all refugee camps and transit locations, UNHCR through WASH partners provided a total of 2,318.5 litres of liquid soap, for handwashing and other cleaning practices across all camps in Rwanda. Furthermore, 1,942 cubic

meters of sludge from latrines' septic tanks and 1,075 m³ of garbage was collected from all refugee camps and disposed of to the respective waste dumpsites, in an effort to keep camp sites clean.



SHELTER AND NFIS

- During the month of December, a total 110 shelters were rehabilitated across all the camps, this includes: 72 shelters in Kiziba, 14 shelters in Nyabiheke, 12 shelters in Kigeme, 10 shelters in Mahama, two shelters in Mugombwa. This brings the total number shelters rehabilitated across the camps for the year 2022 to 2,162 shelters.
- To prevent structural damage due to lightning and similar weather-related events, UNHCR installed lightning arrester in Nyanza transit centre in December. The installation will divert lightning to the ground where it will disperse harmlessly.
- In December, UNHCR ensured the construction of 22 terraces to protect shelters on high-risk areas in Mugombwa and Kigeme camps. This brings the total number of terraces constructed in 2022 to 246. UNHCR also supported the transformation of 56 refugee shelter roofs from old iron sheets to new iron sheets in Kiziba, bringing the total number shelter roofs upgraded this year to 454 shelters.
- As part of efforts to increase shelter adequacy and improve the living conditions of refugees in camps, UNHCR supported the reconstruction of 28 old shelters to new ones in Nyabiheke camp, while in Kigeme camp four new semi-permanent shelters were constructed. In total, UNHCR has constructed 98 new semi-permanent shelters in the camps for 2022.



ACCESS TO ENERGY

- UNHCR continued to provide gas for clean cooking for refugees in Mugombwa and Mahama refugee camps in the form of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). LPG cookers emit 50 times fewer pollutants than cooking stoves fuelled by biomass such as mud stoves, making them the ideal cooking energy for refugees in camps. Additionally, UNHCR also provides refugee hosting schools in the refugee camps with briquettes for school feeding programmes. In December 2022, approximately 18,239 cylinders of gas equalling 109,434 Kgs were distributed to refugees in Mahama camp.
- In 2018, UNHCR introduced the cash assistance programme to ensure refugees receive monthly cash payments that enable them to have the financial resources to purchase gas and cooking energy according to their energy needs. In December, UNHCR Rwanda supported refugees in Kiziba, Mugombwa and Kigeme camps with cash assistance / cash for energy.
- In December, UNHCR, alongside implementing partners, distributed and facilitated the planting of 10,554 tree seedlings of Jacaranda and Senna Spectabilis in Mahama. 1,635 planted trees were also sprayed with insecticide by refugee casual workers managed by World Vision International, to prevent flies that eat away at the plants. In the same period, 711 Alnus and 120 Eucalyptus plants were planted on degraded area around in Mugombwa camp. Finally, 128 grevilia trees were also planted at the Nyanza reception centre in collaboration with Red Cross.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- On the 5th of December, UNHCR, MINEMA and the World Bank held the Jya Mbere joint Discussion Series, the first of a series on development responses to forced displacement. The Discussion Series, which was introduced by the UNHCR Representative and the Minister of MINEMA, was attended by over 100 participants and featured presentations on the social and economic impacts of refugees on host communities. The event was followed by a weeklong mission with UNHCR, MINEMA and the World Bank team responsible for the Jya Mbere project to UNHCR Huye Field Office and Kigeme refugee camp to discuss the implementation and progress of the Jya Mbere project with the Government. During the mission, the delegation met with the Nyamagabe District authorities, who expressed appreciation for the Jya Mbere project's long-term investment in socio-economic infrastructures and environmental protection, as well as the capacity building of the local institutions to better serve both refugees and host communities.
- At the ETM, UNHCR, through the livelihoods partner, World Vision International, supported 334 refugees and 13 members of the host community in December. This included 78 individuals attending ICT courses, 146 individuals attended language classes for English, French and Kinyarwanda, 40 individuals in tailoring courses, 29 individuals in hair dressing, and 21 individuals in domestic electricity courses. Additionally, 20 refugees and 13 members of the host community were trained in entrepreneurship and business management.
- In Mahama refugee camp, UNHCR supported 130 refugees with financial education trainings to capacitate and empower them on financial literacy. Umutanguha Microfinance Limited, a multinational financial service provider based in Rwanda, in association with UNHCR, supported four refugee entrepreneurs with a loan of seven million Rwandan Francs (RwF). UNHCR and World Vision International additionally provided 251 refugees in Mahama their first instalment of cash grant of 400,000 RwF each, as through the Poverty Alleviation Coalition project (PAC).



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In 2022, UNHCR Rwanda submitted 6,314 individuals for resettlement, as part of the durable solutions sought for refugees in Rwanda. By the end of December 2022, 3,677 refugees have successfully departed for resettlement, while 131 departed through complementary pathways.
- On the 14th of December, the United States Citizenship, and Immigration Services (USCIS) successfully concluded their mission to process the resettlement cases of refugees in Rwanda. Between 4 November and 15 December, USCIS interviewed 1,200 individuals for resettlement.
- On the 15th of December 2022, UNHCR and Save the Children successfully introduced the Canada Economic Labor Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) to refugees in Mahama refugee camp. This project aims to provide refugees with access to existing economic immigration opportunities in Canada. The project will be rolled out in the other refugee camps and other urban refugee hosting locations in 2023.

- In December, UNHCR continued to support Burundian refugees to return home as part of the durable solutions sought for Burundian refugees in Rwanda. On the 14th of December, the 13th return convoy successfully repatriated 76 Burundian refugees. As of the end of 2022, UNHCR has repatriated a total of 932 Burundians, and 30,457 Burundians have been repatriated since August 2020.
- UNHCR supported the reception of 26 Rwandan returnees from Mozambique. The individuals were assisted with a three-month food package, one year health insurance, and 20% of cash assistance so they can reintegrate back into the community. The individuals were also safely transported to their respective areas of origin.



Odette (right), Innocent (left) and their youngest son, Armel (1), board the bus before traveling from Kiziba camp where they live to do a resettlement interview for Norway in Kigali



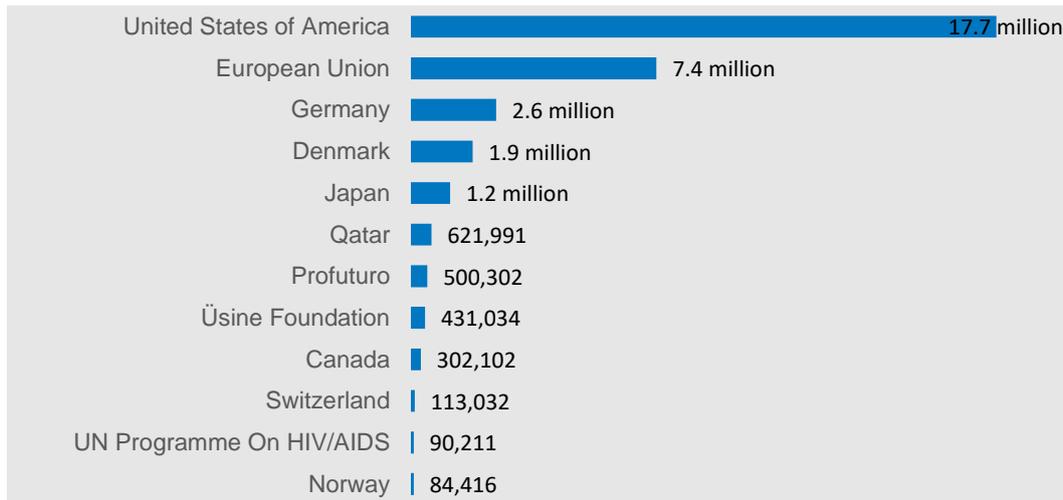
MISSIONS, DELEGATIONS AND EVENTS

- Between 19 and 21 December, UNHCR supported the cross-border mission of Burundian government officials to Rwanda, led by the Rwanda Government. The aim of the mission was for the Burundian Government to better understand the interests on return of Burundian refugees in Rwanda. The delegation was led by the Burundian Permanent Secretary of Internal affairs together with the governors from Kirundo, Kayanza and Bururi, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry in charge of refugees, the Director General in charge of repatriation, as well as the First Secretary and Military attaché from the Burundian Embassy in Rwanda. The delegation met with Burundian urban refugees in Kigali and camp-based refugees in Mahama refugee camp.

Financial Information

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

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Rwanda in 2022 | USD



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions which contribute to the response in Rwanda and the region

United States of America 29.3 million | Private donors Germany 19 million | Private donors Australia 12.2 million | Canada 7.8 million | Private donors USA 7.4 million | Private donors Spain 2.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million
 France | Japan | Malta | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 72.1 million | Private donors Japan 59.1 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 31.4 million | Private donors USA 29.9 million | Germany 24.4 million | Japan 21.7 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Canada 13.6 million | Private donors Sweden 13.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

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