



DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 3

02 February 2023

KEY STATISTICS

4,176 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 to 01 February 2023

1,774 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

814 asylum seekers accommodated at Kijote Transit Centre (capacity of 250)

1,588 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

Average of **73 new arrivals per day**

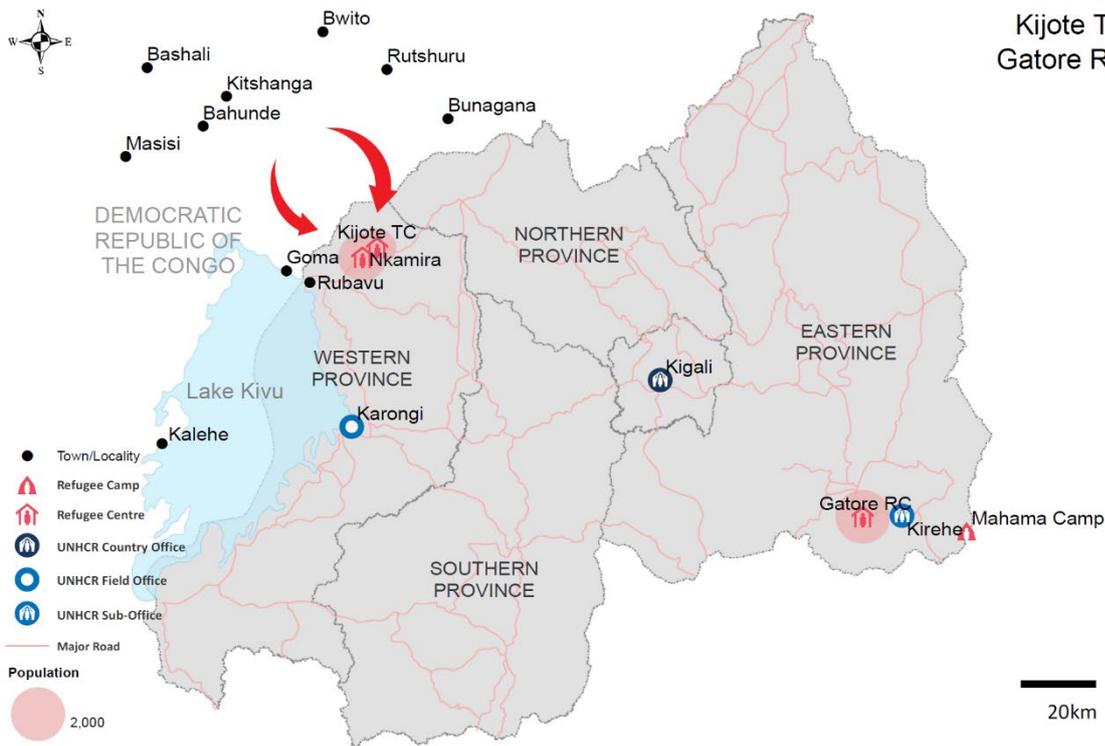
99% of arrivals originate from **North Kivu** specifically Masisi and Rutshuru

OVERVIEW

The escalation in fighting within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of the beginning of February, over 4,000 individuals have arrived in Rwanda, since mid November 2022.

Between the end of November and beginning of January, new arrivals were initially received at Kijote Transit Centre before being transferred to Mahama refugee camp. Due to the increasing numbers, however, and the fact that Mahama Camp has reached capacity, on 12 January 2023, the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) informed UNHCR of the decision of the Government of Rwanda to host asylum seekers close to the border at a new site - Nkamira.

Since 15 January, asylum seekers have continued to be transferred from Kijote Transit Centre to Nkamira Transit Site depending on the accommodation available at Nkamira. As of 31 January, the daily number of new arrivals from DRC to Rwanda has increased significantly resulting in both Nkamira and Kijote Transit Centre experiencing serious overcrowding in relation to the shelter which is currently available.



Nkamira is located around 127 kilometres from Kigali, on the main high-way connecting Kigali-Rubavu and just five kilometres from Kijote Transit Center and approximately 20km from the border. The site is a private property obtained by MINEMA covering **five hectares of land**. The same site was previously used in 2012-2013 as reception center for Congolese refugees. The capacity of the site is **10,000 persons**. There were eight existing accommodations available in the site (each comprising a living room, two bedrooms, a washroom and kitchen) which could be used for accommodation / offices / stores.

SECTOR RESPONSE

Following an assessment mission in mid-January, MINEMA and UNHCR are co-leading the response at Nkamira alongside ADRA, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, Prison Fellowship, Red Cross, WFP, and UNICEF. Weekly coordination meetings are happening at the field level and two high-level coordination meetings have also taken place in Kigali.

Protection

UNHCR protection staff are on the ground providing support and counselling to the new arrivals alongside Plan International, Save the Children, and Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR). Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through Plan International and legal assistance through PFR. Best interest assessments are being carried out for unaccompanied and separated children. Community mobilizers have been identified among the new arrivals by PFR to support the dissemination of information and a refugee committee has been chosen to represent the voices of the community. Recreational activities are also available for children and psychosocial support is being provided as needed. The Government of Rwanda is leading the process of registering the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments in coordination with UNHCR registration staff.

Health

UNHCR and Save the Children have moved health activities from Kijote Transit Site to Nkamira utilizing the existing villa on site as the health post. Currently there are five nurses working on site to provide basic primary health care including medical and nutritional screenings of new arrivals, primary curative care, reproductive health, and care for persons with chronic conditions. Approximately 60-80 primary health care consultations are being undertaken every day. Children under the age of five have also been provided with vaccinations, including vaccinations against Polio and Measels through coordination of UNICEF and the Rwandan Biomedical Centre. The Bigogwe medicalized health center is a 5-minute drive away from the site which is being utilized if additional health care is needed. COVID-19 vaccination is being conducted by the health team from Bigogwe.

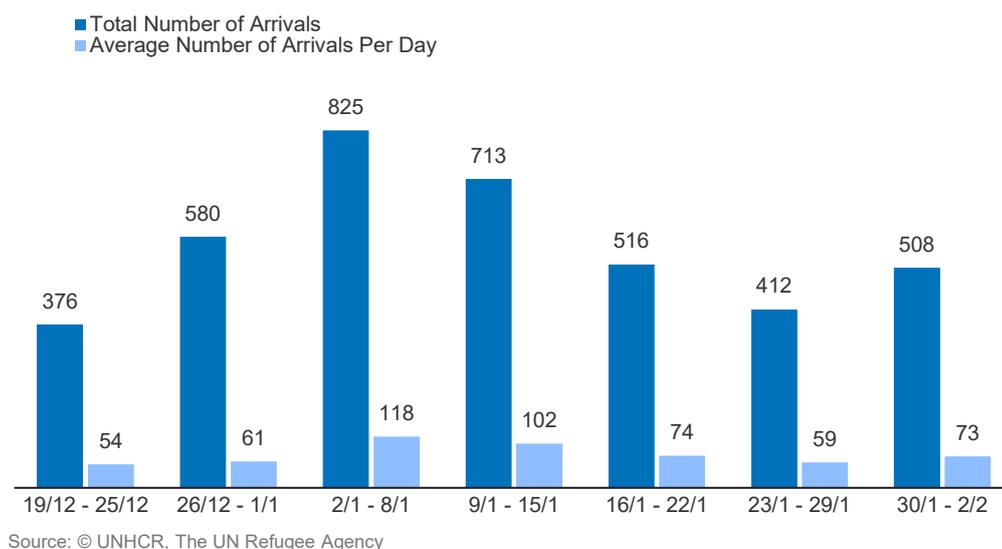
Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in ten large tents and six hangars which have been constructed since the site's opening, the construction of 3 additional hangars is ongoing. Men and women and children are currently assigned separate living areas. Separate accommodation for older persons and women at risk has also been allocated utilizing existing structures. UNHCR and ADRA also began the construction of a communal kitchen, which is now at the stage of 97% completion. There is a significant lack of mattresses at Nkamira with most people sleeping on the floor, the limited supplies have been allocated to the elderly and pregnant women. There is a need to begin the construction of 11 more hangars to accommodate increasing numbers of people and relocate people to Nkamira from the overcrowded Kijote Transit Centre.

WASH

Currently there are 24 functional latrines, resulting in a ratio of 53 persons per latrine. To meet, UNHCR's standard during first phase of an emergency of 50 persons per latrine, additional 20 latrines are under construction, with 50% completion as of this week. 40 shower rooms have also been completed and are in use, accommodating 32 individuals per shower room. UNICEF and World Vision are providing hygiene items at the site as well as constructing infrastructure connected to the national water system. Works to install a laundry slab with 18 basins has been completed, while the construction of a 20 cubic meter water container is at the start-up phase.

Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda



Food

WFP has mobilized existing stocks of in-kind food to provide hot meals consisting of 410 grams of maize, 120 grams of beans, 30 ml of vegetable oil, and 5 grams of salt per individual per day to the new arrivals. Despite this, the provision of food had to be reduced from three to two meals a day this week due to lack of supplies. ADRA is currently working on the construction of a kitchen to support cooking food on site. WFP is also currently conducting a market assessment in the markets surrounding Nkamira Transit Site, with the aim of gathering data that will inform decisions on the cash-based transfer modality options to support asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. WFP received an internal emergency loan, which aids the rapid response to the needs of asylum seekers from DRC until May 2023, however, additional funding is needed to repay the loan, especially as the number of new arrivals continues.

URGENT NEEDS



Construction communal hangars, including sufficient lighting



Construction of latrines and laundry slabs



Procurement of essential medicines



Food assistance, prevention, and management of malnutrition



Supply and provision of non-food items, including mattresses



“Back home I had a small business selling clothes. I would go house to house trying to sell clothes. I made a little money, enough to buy food for me and my son. But with the fighting that stopped. We were frightened. We couldn’t sleep without hearing bullets. It took three days to get to Rwanda because of the checkpoints. I came with some of my neighbors. My parents are dead, and I am just on my own with my son, so it is difficult some times. It was a hard decision to make to leave but we are safe here. I am making friends with the other women in this tent, but we need mattresses and food.”

Asifiwe and her son Sangwa aged 5 arrived in Rwanda at the end of January