



## DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 14

18 May 2023

### KEY STATISTICS

**7,144** new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 18 May 2023

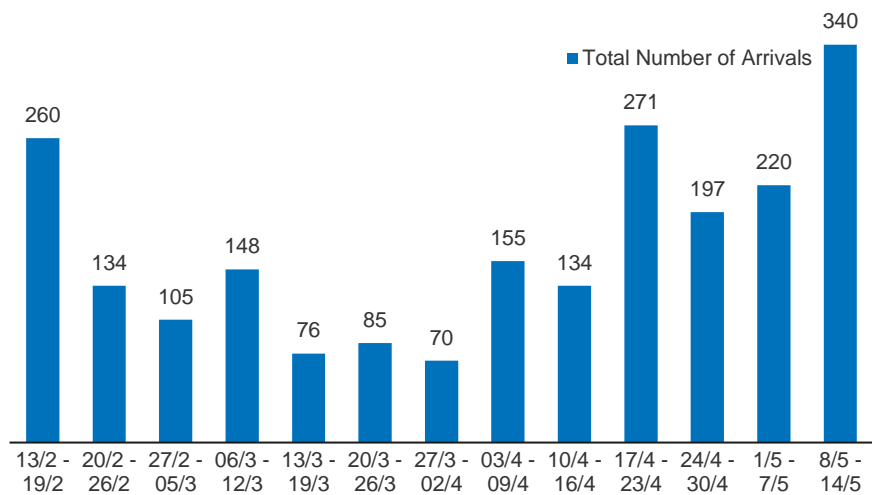
**1,775** asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

**5,369** asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

**58%** of the new arrivals in Rwanda are children below 18

**Most** of the new arrivals originate from North Kivu (Masisi and Rutshuru)

### Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

### OVERVIEW

The continuous instability within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of mid-May, over 7,144 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.

On 8 February, Kijote Transit Centre was emptied, and all new arrivals are now directly transferred to Nkamira Transit Site. Although the numbers of new arrivals decreased in late February and March, UNHCR has observed an increase in the flow of new arrivals since April. Working alongside partners, UNHCR continues to build the capacity of Nkamira Transit Site and provide basic services to support the new arrivals.



## Nkamira Site

Nkamira is located around 127 kilometres from Kigali, on the main high-way connecting Kigali-Rubavu and just five kilometres from Kijote Transit Centre 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 centre for Congolese refugees.

## Sector Response

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. Other UN agencies such as UNFPA and IOM have also supported with technical expertise and in-kind materials. Weekly coordination meetings are happening at the field level and three high-level coordination meetings have also taken place in Kigali.

## Protection

UNHCR protection staff continued to be present providing fundamental protection and assistance, alongside partners in Nkamira and Mahama departure centre. Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through Plan International Rwanda (PIR) in Nkamira and Save the Children International (SCI) in Mahama, while legal assistance and community-based protection services, including assistance to people with specific needs, are provided by Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR). GBV response services are provided to survivors who experienced GBV incidents during flight and during their asylum.

Best Interest Assessments are being carried out for 408 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk in both locations. Child protection activities are ongoing with 14 UASC placed in foster care arrangements, and tracing has been done for 17 UASC. Partners have conducted sessions to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health and prevention of GBV in both locations. Community-based protection mechanisms continue to be strengthened at Nkamira and Mahama, and executive committees from among the community have been put in place to represent their concerns. Over the previous week, more than 1,386 children attended various activities at the child friendly space (CFS) in Nkamira and 589 adolescents participated in targeted programs such as karate, football, knitting, painting, modern and traditional dances. Awareness raising on child protection and GBV prevention reached 328 individuals. There is, however, a gap in provision of psychosocial counselling as well as a communal spaces for the population especially women at risk and children. UNHCR is working with partners to address the gap.

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) is leading the process of recording the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments. Formal registration of the population has yet to take place with discussions ongoing as to how to register

the status of the new arrivals if the population decides to remain in Rwanda. So far, 39 new births have been recorded in Nkamira with all issued with a birth certificate.

## Health

Primary health services for the new arrivals are provided at Nkamira and Mahama refugee camp in partnership with Save the Children. Over the previous week, a total of 1,166 consultations were conducted for asylum seekers hosted in Nkamira, including 379 (32.5%) for children under 5 years of age. 21 individuals were subsequently referred to a higher level of care for more investigation and treatment. The main cause of consultation remains respiratory tract infections. There are currently 198 pregnant women in Nkamira and Mahama camps who UNHCR and partners are supporting. During the reporting period five new babies were born.

Measles vaccination coverage among the new arrivals has now reached 98.5%. No suspect measles cases were identified among new arrivals or the existing AS in Nkamira or Mahama departure site over the past weeks. This is a result of a measles vaccination campaign conducted by Rwanda Biomedical Center, the district health authorities of Kirehe/Rubavu and Save The Children. In Mahama refugee camp, the number of children vaccinated during the campaign remains at 20,126 and includes both new arrivals and the existing refugee population. Routine vaccination including measles for under 5 years is also ongoing.

## Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in 39 hangars which have been constructed by UNHCR and ADRA since the site's opening. Men, women, and children are currently assigned separate living areas. Separate accommodation for older persons and women at risk has also been allocated. Within the reporting period, the construction of 4 hangars was completed and 6 hangars are under-construction. UNHCR has also procured and distributed solar lamps to families to provide a source of light in the hangars during the night. The construction of two education blocks consisting of 10 temporary classrooms is complete and in use.

## Food and Nutrition

WFP through its cooperating partner ADRA continued to distribute two hot meals per day to all asylum seekers. Since 1 May, nutritious morning porridge is only prepared for vulnerable groups due to lack of funding. The hot lunches and dinners include fresh vegetables and alternate maize meal with rice. Nutrition screening also continues for newly arrived children, as well as for 18 children with identified cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and two with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at the Nkamira transit site, and six with MAM among children of asylum seekers accommodated at the Mahama refugee camp.

Given the recent floods and landslides in the wider Rubavu district, food is also being prepared at Nkamira site for distribution to affected Rwandan communities. This has put further strain on the already severely limited resources, requiring an additional USD 1.6 million for in-kind food assistance to IDPs for 4 months and USD 500,000 for a total of 25 tents (known as Mobile Storage Units) for shelter.



Mutesi Mammi, 12, her mother and five siblings arrived in Rwanda early January 2023 after fleeing violence in eastern DRC. At Nkamira transit centre, she joined her friends to learn crocheting. She has been able to make scarves and bath gloves with thread since she joined the group two weeks ago.

For Mutesi, who was in primary five when they decided to seek safety in Rwanda early this year following the increased violence in eastern DRC, crocheting is more than just producing the items.

“It helps me forget what I went through back home in DRC,” Mutesi says. “I could hear gun fighting on the way to school until we decided to flee. It was terrifying.”

After reaching safety at the transit center, Mutesi is grateful that she and other children are provided with activities that keep them busy. However, life is still very far from ideal.

“I wish to go back to school,” she says.

## URGENT NEEDS



Supply and provision of non-food items, including mattresses and mats



Construction of additional communal kitchens (at least 4) and provision of LPG



Construction communal hangars, including need for plastic sheeting



Construction of latrines



School equipment

## Education

The ongoing education in emergency program at Nkamira has been serving over 1,400 students where a total of 792 are enrolled at primary, 315 at secondary and some 383 in early childhood education (ECD). A total of 56 education facilitators are teaching students to get familiarized with the national education system. Similar education activities have also been introduced for the asylum-seekers from DRC hosted at the departure center Mahama camp. Children are being enrolled in the existing schools and getting orientation as preparation for placement examination for the expected integration into formal schools at the beginning of the new academic year starting in September 2023. In Mahama there are a total of 680 students are enrolled in school: 155 in ECD, 341 in primary and 184 in secondary respectively.

## WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services for asylum seekers at Nkamira Site is ensured through the provision of a range of basic services and facilities. Currently 44 latrine stances are operational serving 122 persons per drop hole (over UNHCR's emergency standards of 50 persons per drop hole). Reconstruction of collapsed latrine block with 10 drop holes is complete and is expected to be

operational from 22<sup>nd</sup> May to reduce number of users per drop hole. Increasing the number of facilities and maintaining the existing WASH facilities at operational level is a priority for UNHCR to reach sanitation coverage thresholds, where construction of additional 130 latrine drop holes and 60 shower facilities is planned and initiated.

Currently, there are 80 shower rooms serving 67 individuals per shower stance and 39 usable water taps serving 137 individuals per water tap. An average of 17.8 litres of potable water is provided per person per day, above the minimum emergency standards of 15 litres of water per person per day. Water trucking is also serving as a backup to cover any interruptions in water services and access to enough water. Provision of additional water storage tanks and their accessories is in progress to mitigate against challenges. Regular disinfection at sanitation locations is conducted to maintain appropriate standards. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision continue providing hygiene items at the site and have put emphasis on redesigning increasing sanitation coverage and upgrading water connection to Nkamira Site with increase of water storage capacity to cater with at least two days supply volume.

## Interagency Budget Needs

\$16.1 million is required to respond to the needs of the asylum seekers at Nkamira Transit Site and Mahama refugee camp over the next six months. The budget is calculated based on an estimate of 10,000 new arrivals and considers the needs of implementing NGO partners working with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and FAO.

UNHCR has currently only received \$1.5 million from the USA and \$500,000 from Japan to support the response. As a result, UN agencies are currently repurposing funds from the existing refugee response to support the new arrivals.

	UNHCR	UNICEF	WFP	FAO	Total
Protection	300,000	200,000			500,000
Health	655,000	500,000			1,155,000
Shelter	1,074,000				1,074,000
WASH	320,000	1,000,000			1,320,000
Food Security and Nutrition		500,000	8,777,208	220,000	9,497,208
Education	400,000	340,000			740,000
NFIs & Energy	375,000				375,000
Energy	350,000				350,000
Camp Management	44,000				44,000
Refugee Coordination	635,000	388,500			1,023,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,153,000</b>	<b>2,928,500</b>	<b>8,598,815</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>\$ 16,078,708</b>