

Rwanda

May 2024

Over **4,550 asylum seekers** were registered at Nkamira Transit Centre in May and provided with Proof of Registration documents.

In May, the maize mill at Misizi marshland commenced operations, producing, and selling over **4 tons of maize flour to third parties** marking a significant advancement in supporting the self-reliance of refugee and Rwandan farmers.

UNHCR has observed an increase of Sudanese asylum seekers fleeing to Rwanda in May. **72 new Sudanese asylum seekers** were provided with assistance to submit their asylum applications during the month.

KEY STATISTICS

135,809 refugees and asylum seekers are in Rwanda as of 31 May 2024. Mainly including people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (62%) and Burundi (37%).

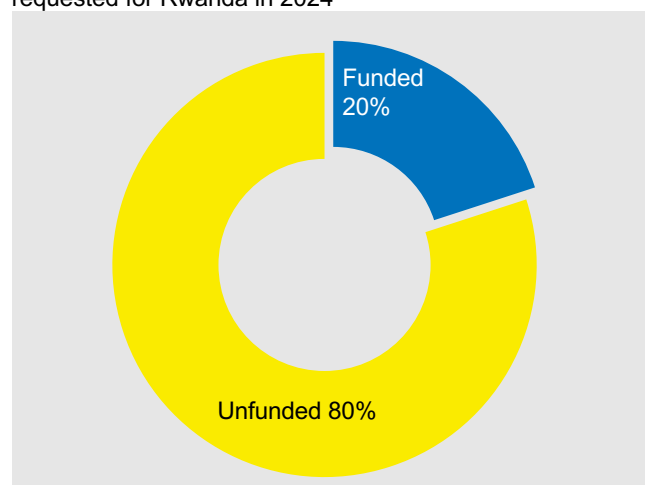
157 asylum seekers from DRC arrived in Rwanda in May 2024.

2,562 refugees were submitted for resettlement so far in 2024

FUNDING NEEDS

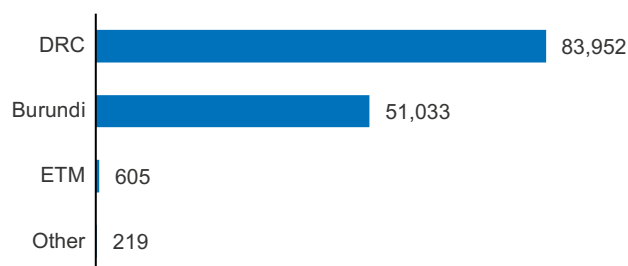
USD 91.7 million

requested for Rwanda in 2024



UNHCR conducts registration for asylum seekers from DRC in Nkamira Transit Centre

CURRENT POPULATION



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through the 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. In 2024, UNHCR works directly with eight NGO partners in implementing key activities to assist both the refugee population and Rwandan host communities. To further strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR maintains close collaboration with key government institutions, ministries, operational partners, and the private sector working with refugees in Rwanda.



PROTECTION

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Rwanda, specifically Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, to issue refugee ID cards to refugees over 16 years old. Currently the Refugee ID coverage stands at 86 percent.
- UNHCR works in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) to provide legal counselling and assistance. In May, 45 criminal cases and civil cases were assisted before the courts. In addition, 102 asylum seekers from Sudan, Burundi and Eritrea were provided counselling about asylum procedures and supported to submit their asylum application to the Rwandan Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE).
- In May, UNHCR noted a rise in the number of newly arrived asylum seekers in Rwanda who are being received at UNHCR's community centre in Gikondo, Kigali, but lack accommodation in the city. In response, UNHCR has initiated meetings with the District Executive Administration and government authorities to address this homelessness issue. Collaborating with local entities such as MINEMA, DGIE, and PFR, a streamlined process has been implemented to promptly issue temporary residence permits to new asylum seekers and assist them in relocating to Mahama refugee camp if they cannot sustain themselves in Rwanda.
- In May, 157 new asylum seekers fled from DRC to Rwanda and were initially accommodated at Nkamira Transit centre. As of the end of the month, Nkamira hosted 6,819 individuals.
- Following approval from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR commenced the official registration of asylum seekers at Nkamira transit centre in May. Over 4,550 individuals were registered during the month and provided with Proof of Registration documents.
- 34 percent of the refugee population were born in Rwanda. The birth registration rate among persons of concern born in Rwanda irrespective of age stands at 95.6%, for children below 5 years of age the coverage stands at 99.5%. UNHCR continues to work with the Government of Rwanda and associated ministries to improve the birth registration rates as refugees are included within the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system. In May, UNHCR assisted in the processing of 474 birth certificates for refugees in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda.
- To continue to fulfil its mandate, UNHCR has established various channels to facilitate communication with refugees such as help lines, SMS, WhatsApp, email, face-to-face counselling, and community meetings. In May, 188 displaced persons made inquiries in Kigali and Nyamata with 30 percent of requests concerning health care and community-based health insurance (CBHI) enrolment.
- In May, UNHCR's protection team conducted a mobile outreach mission to Nyamata. During the community meeting several issues were raised by refugees including enrolment in community-based health care (CBHI), documentation and education.

- In Rwanda, UNHCR partners with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to support people with specific needs. In May, a range of mental health and psychosocial support services continued to be provided to refugees with specific needs across all camp location. In addition, 523 people with disabilities received rehabilitation services and 38 refugees were referred to Kabgayi Hospital for specialized services.
- UNHCR in Rwanda provides urgent financial assistance to refugees living in urban areas in exceptional cases to help them meet their basic needs such as paying rent and buying food. In 2024, this assistance is directly provided by Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) as part of UNHCR's partnership agreement with them. During the month, seven Burundian refugee families were provided with such financial assistance to help them buy food and pay their rent.
- In Mahama refugee camp, in collaboration with Save the Children, UNHCR conducted training for 60 new foster parents. This initiative aimed to ensure adequate support for unaccompanied children who had previously been relocated from Nkamira transit centre.



EDUCATION

- For the 2023/24 academic year, the gross enrolment rate for refugee students currently stands at 91 percent. Among these students, on average 95 percent of students were attending school regularly in May.
- In May, Mastercard Foundation awarded scholarships to 10 refugees in Rwanda to start their studies in August 2024 at different universities in Kenya.
- The Ingazi digital learning platform was launched in May 2024 as a Rwandan national initiative to bridge the skills and opportunities gap for youth. UNHCR supported the attendance of 9 refugee youth from different refugee camps to participate in the launch.
- Education sector meetings took place in Mugombwa and Kigeme refugee camps at the end of May attended by a range of education partners, Government authorities and school administration. Discussions focused on how to improve the quality of education in the 15 refugee hosting schools throughout Rwanda.
- Between 7 and 10 May, World Vision in collaboration with UNHCR, conducted a training for 24 ECD teachers in Nkamira transit centre to strengthen the informal education programme. In addition, 33 primary and secondary teachers received a training between 28 and 30 May to increase their knowledge about the informal education curriculum.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children (SCI) and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM. The health centres and posts offer a broad range of primary health care services, including laboratory tests and vaccinations. In addition, some services including the provision of TB and HIV medications are provided in cooperation with district government health centres. In May, 26,374 primary health care consultations took place at the camp-based facilities making the ratio 48 consultations per day, per clinician. The local Rwandan host community also have access to these health facilities free of charge.
- Due to funding challenges, UNHCR is currently only able to support the referrals of refugees to secondary and tertiary healthcare in emergency or lifesaving cases. Other refugees in need of elective healthcare including routine or minor surgeries are having to be put on a waiting list. In May, 462 cases were referred to hospitals for further treatment.

- At the ETM, 737 primary health consultations took place at the clinic in May, an average of 25 persons per clinician day. In addition, 27 refugees were referred to hospitals for treatment.
- 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 May 15 severely acute malnutrition and 38 moderately acute malnutrition refugee children were newly admitted into nutrition programmes for treatment. In addition, 472 pregnant and lactating women were newly enrolled in blanket and supplementary feeding programmes during the month.
- UNHCR Rwanda's health team attended two workshops in May, one on finalizing the national cholera elimination strategy and another in the Rwandan hygiene and environmental health strategic plan. The participation of UNHCR was crucial to ensuring that refugee camps and health clinics are included in such strategies as part of the journey towards greater inclusion of refugee health care in national systems.
- From 6th May 2024, Save the Children in collaboration with Rwanda Biomedical Centre and the Ministry of Health, conducted a screening of cervical and breast cancer among girls and women aged 30-49 years in Kiziba refugee camp. Out of 777 women screened, 17 cases were referred for further medical follow-up.



FOOD SECURITY

- In support of the World Food Programme (WFP) cash assistance for food programme in refugee camps across Rwanda, UNHCR provides lists of refugees in the highly vulnerable and moderately vulnerable categories who are eligible to receive assistance. In total, 90 percent of refugees are classified as highly vulnerable, while 5 percent of refugees are moderately vulnerable. As part of the cash transfers for food assistance distributed by WFP refugees in the highly vulnerable category receive 8,500 RWF a month while moderately vulnerable receive 4,250 RWF. In addition, asylum seekers in Nkamira Transit Centre receive two meals a day from WFP.
- In support of school feeding programmes, UNHCR provides briquettes to Early Childhood Development (nursery) centres in refugee camps. For primary and secondary schools, the Government has the responsibility for school feeding and WFP also supports by contributing 90 percent of the cost of refugee school feeding directly to the Government of Rwanda.
- In May, UNHCR continued to provide three hot meals a day to refugees and asylum seekers accommodated at the ETM in Rwanda.



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 May, water supply averaged 20.6 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Despite this, water supply remains a challenge in Nyabiheke and Kigeme.
- In May, UNHCR in partnership with World Vision, distributed 2,572 litres of liquid soap for handwashing and other cleaning practices to stave off diarrheal diseases in all sites. Throughout the month, UNHCR also worked to remove sludge from septic tanks across the camps and dispose of garbage.

- In Nkamira transit centre, UNHCR ensured the provision of basic WASH services to 6,819 asylum seekers in Nkamira with access to average of 21.0 litres of clean water person per day. Currently there are also 44 persons per latrine drop hole and 48 persons per shower stance.

**SHELTER AND NFIS**

- During May 2024, UNHCR rehabilitated a total of 269 shelters across the camps, this includes: 100 shelters in Kigeme camp, 77 shelters in Nyabiheke camp, 53 shelters in Mahama camp, 24 shelters in Mugombwa camp and 15 shelters in Kiziba camp. This brings the total number of shelters rehabilitated across the camps for the year 2024 to 523 shelters.
- In May, UNHCR constructed 20 shelters in Nyabiheke, bringing the total number of new semi-permanent shelters constructed for the year to 34 shelters.
- Construction work is also ongoing to improve various communal infrastructures across refugee camps in Rwanda, this includes UNHCR and MINEMA office block and police post in Kigeme refugee camp, one stop centre and police post in Mugombwa camp, office block in Nyabiheke camp and rehabilitation of a community centre in Mahama camp.
- In May, UNHCR distributed the monthly cash assistance of \$50 per person to refugees and asylum seekers at the ETM in Rwanda. UNHCR, in partnership with Equity Bank, also supported refugees and asylum seekers who were evacuated in the flights in March 2024 to open bank accounts so that they can receive cash assistance in future months.
- In Mahama refugee camp, UNHCR distributed 84 kitchen sets, 145 sleeping mats, 145 blankets and clothing to newly arrived asylum seekers.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

- UNHCR provides gas for clean cooking / energy in kind for refugees in Mahama and Mugombwa 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. In total, over 100,000 kg of LPG was distributed in May across both camps.
- UNHCR distributes cash assistance for energy to refugees in Kiziba, Nyabiheke and Kigeme refugee camps to ensure refugees have the financial resources to purchase gas for cooking and other energy needs. This cash assistance is currently on hold due to a lack of funds.

**LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE**

- Agriculture plays a pivotal role in fostering refugee self-reliance in Rwanda. Currently, UNHCR is overseeing three projects aimed at enhancing livelihoods and self-reliance for both refugees and Rwandan host communities through the Misizi project (covering Mugombwa camp), Nyabicwamba project (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), and Mushishito project (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. On May 31st, a general assembly for the Nyabicwamba farming cooperative was convened. Discussions centred around the initiation of irrigation to support the current soybean crop season and an agreement on fair compensation for casual laborers employed in marshland operations.

- In May, the maize mill at Misizi marshland commenced operations, producing, and selling over 4 tons of maize flour to third parties. This milestone in maize flour production marks a significant advancement in supporting the self-reliance of refugees and Rwandans who are part of the Misizi marshland cooperative.
- In May, exhibitions were organized in Kigeme and Mugombwa refugee camps in coordination with World Vision. These events provided refugee entrepreneurs supported by the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) livelihoods project with a platform to showcase and sell their products. The exhibitions aimed to establish market linkages between refugee and Rwandan communities, fostering economic integration and sustainability.
- In May, 422 refugees and asylum seekers and 72 members of the host community benefitted in various vocational and skills training activities such as hairdressing, tailoring and ICT/computer literacy. This included 154 refugees who attended language classes (English, Kinyarwanda, and French) to facilitate their integration in the country of asylum and future places of residence. In addition, 136 refugees and 4 members of the host community participated in driving lessons at the ETM during the month.
- On 13 May, a Private Sector forum jointly organized by MINEMA, UNHCR, GIZ and the Private Sector Federation took place in the Eastern province. The forum brought together more than 70 participants including from the private sector industries to discuss how to further refugee employment and inclusion in private sector economic opportunities.
- On 23 May 2024, Practical Action organized an event during which the new constructed Business Centre in Kiziba refugee camp was officially opened to the public and 26 shops were allocated to refugee entrepreneurs.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In 2024, UNHCR Rwanda received submission resettlement quota of 7,037 individuals. By the end of May 2024, 2,562 refugees are submitted to resettlement countries. 2,907 refugees have departed for resettlement and 29 refugees departed through complementary pathways.
- From 27 May, UNHCR supported Finland in conducting their resettlement selection mission in Rwanda. 199 refugees, including 37 individuals from the ETM, were interviewed for resettlement during this mission.
- So far in 2024, UNHCR has supported 95 Burundian refugees to repatriate home from Rwanda. This brings the total to 30,877 Burundian refugees who have returned home from Rwanda since 2020. An additional 199 Burundian refugees have expressed their intention to repatriate over the coming months.
- In May, UNHCR supported the return of 3 Rwandan refugees from Togo and provided cash assistance to assist their reintegration. In total, UNHCR has supported 273 Rwandan refugees to return home in 2024.



MISSIONS, DELEGATIONS AND EVENTS

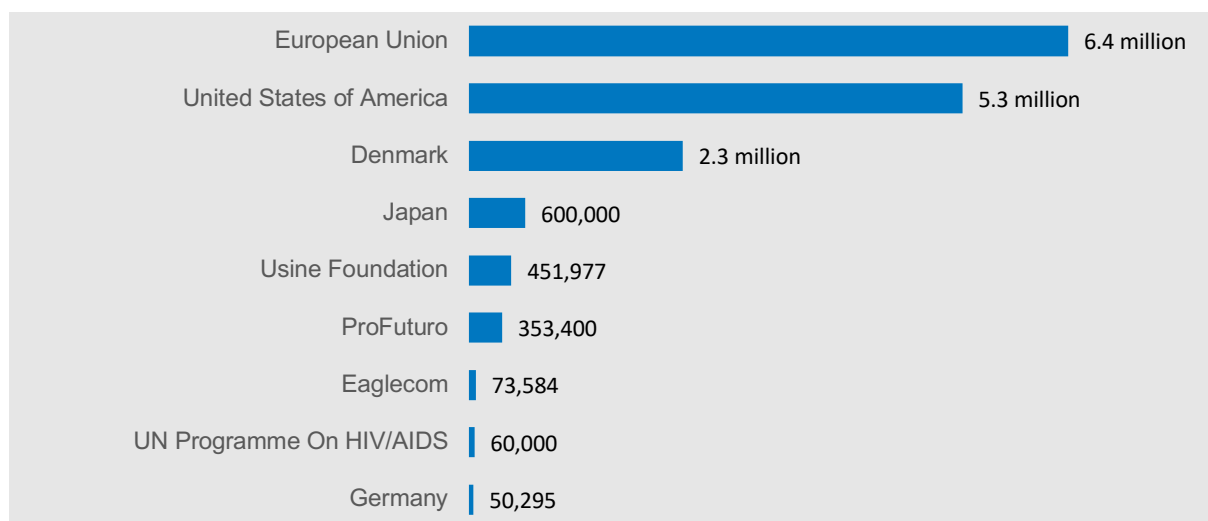
- Between 6 and 8 May UNHCR Rwanda hosted the Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG) mission represented by 13 delegates who play a role in the resettlement process from Norway, Ireland, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada and the USA. The mission visited Nyabiheke camp on 7 May and later went to the ETM on the 8 May. During both camp visits, the delegates interacted with refugees to gain a deeper understanding of the resettlement process and needs of refugees in Rwanda.

- Between 21 and 24 May, ECHO conducted a monitoring mission to assess the impact of their funding on refugees in Rwanda. During the mission, they visited Mahama refugee camp and Nkamira transit centre where they engaged with the refugee executive committees, observed child protection and GBV case management, and learned more about livelihood opportunities and solutions available to refugees in Rwanda.

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 2024 | USD



UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of other softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

SOFTLY EARMARKED

United States of America 8.6 million | Norway 2.8 million

UNEARMARKED

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Belgium 11 million | Australia 10.7 million

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