

RWANDA

UNHCR UPDATE ON BURUNDI SITUATION

31 March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR in Rwanda honored International Women’s Day (IWD) with two events in March: the first event was held on 7th March at the Kigali Convention Centre to launch the report of the comprehensive interagency gender assessment in all refugee camps in Rwanda. Last year UNHCR, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) and UN Women initiated the inter-agency assessment. The purpose of the event was to enable a multistakeholder dialogue on the findings and recommendations and to launch the report to the public.

On 9th March, the UNHCR Representative, the Minister of MIDIMAR, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion and members of the diplomatic community including the Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Egypt celebrated IWD with refugees by inaugurating the Women’s and Girl’s Opportunity Centre in Mahama camp. The *Opportunity Centre* will host different activities promoting women’s self-reliance such as soap manufacturing, weaving and tailoring, it will offer a computer room to connect to other women around the world, and it will also provide counselling rooms and offices for the committee members. **Read More:** <http://www.unhcr.org/rw/>



Burundian women take advantage of the Women’s and Girl’s Opportunity Centre in Mahama camp.

- The National Leadership Retreat held in late February, in which top leaders from central and local government including members of the private sector and civil society convened, has come up with recommendations for hosting refugees in Rwanda. These recommendations include no more use of firewood and plastic sheeting in the camps in order to comply with environmental laws, and, due to land scarcity, public structures (schools, hospitals, etc.) must consider multi-storey complexes.
- UNHCR also held its annual Country Operations Plans (COPs) workshop with external stakeholders and presented long-term visions based on the alternatives to camps policy; boosting self-reliance; and inclusion of refugees in the national development agenda, including SDGs, so that refugees may become contributing members of Rwandan society.

KEY FIGURES

84,898

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in Rwanda

595

Burundian new arrivals were received in Rwanda in the month of March

1,882

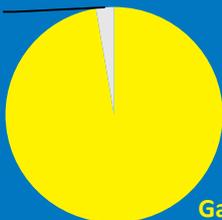
Burundian unaccompanied and separated children registered

FUNDING

USD 83.1 M

Requested for the comprehensive needs for the 2017 interagency Burundi refugee response in Rwanda

Funded
2.6%



Gap
97.4%

PRIORITIES

- Implement recommendations from the interagency gender assessment;
- Advocate for inclusion of refugees in national development plans including domestication of SDGs;
- Continue to fundraise to ensure food rations are not cut for refugees in the month of May;
- Continue the construction of semi-permanent shelters in Mahama

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- **595 new arrivals** were received in March, which is a 25% decrease from the 791 new arrivals received in February.
- Despite the fact that Government of Tanzania has revoked prima facie recognition of Burundians, this has so far not resulted in an increase of Burundians fleeing to Rwanda.
- Many Burundians are opting to settle in urban areas instead of going to the camps (49% of the new arrivals in March have settled in Kigali). These are mostly the individuals coming from Bujumbura.

Food Security and Nutrition

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP has communicated to UNHCR, the Government of Rwanda and partners that full food assistance (in-kind and cash transfer) is secured only until the end of April. A possible drastic cut in food rations is foreseen in the month of May (51%) and onwards, if no further contributions are received from donors. UNHCR is working on a contingency plan in case WFP does not manage to secure additional funding.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has secured a USD 2.1 million grant from the 'Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria' (GFATM). The fund will support strengthening the response to HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis for Burundian refugees residing in camp, reception centres and urban areas in Rwanda.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- To date, a total of 4,940 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama camp, which currently houses 33,422 Burundian refugees. An additional 278 shelters are in the final stages of construction.
- During the month of March, 20 communal plastic hangars were demolished to create space for the construction of an additional 280 semi-permanent shelters.
- Rehabilitation work was carried out to repair 20 communal plastic hangars, 30 Early Childhood Development classrooms, the registration site was repaired and 3km out of the 8.26km of drainage channels was maintained by ARC through community participation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 19,872 refugees continue to live in 126 communal plastic shelters in the camp. Despite continued advocacy, 30 hectares of land has still not been provided to complete the construction of all semi-permanent shelters.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR, sister UN agencies and partners are grateful for the generous contributions of donors in support of the Burundian refugees in 2015-2016. Partners involved in the 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Burundi Situation in Rwanda include: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), African Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Council (ARC), CARE, CONCERN, FAO, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio (FSDS), Global Humanitarian and Development Fund (GHDF), Handicap International, IOM, Legal Aid Forum (LAF), OXFAM, PLAN International, Save the Children International, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR co-leads and coordinates with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) the interagency response to the Burundi refugee emergency in Rwanda. The RCM is intended to provide an inclusive platform for planning and coordinating refugee response in order to ensure that refugees and other persons of concern receive the protection and assistance they require through the collective efforts and capacities of all partners involved.

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Daily Statistics: <http://data2.unhcr.org/burundi> **UNHCR Rwanda:** www.unhcr.org/rw **Twitter:** @RefugeesRwanda