

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

16-28 July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES* (as of 30 July)

70,958

Burundian refugees are in Rwanda*

Further breakdown of the above figure:

30,838

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

21,540

Registered urban refugees

1,660

Urban refugees with appointments to be registered

14,981

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

1,172

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

767

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center

*statistics are according to the Government of Rwanda.

PRIORITIES

- Continue registration of urban refugees;
- Ongoing treatment of surface water in Mahama camp;
- Step up construction of semi-permanent shelters.

- During the weekly Refugee Coordination Meeting, in consultation with all UN and NGO partners, UNHCR and MIDIMAR made the decision to erect hangars and install temporary pit latrines in Mahama camp in order to accelerate relocation of over 15,000 refugees from the reception centers. In the meantime, UNHCR's partners continue to construct semi-permanent structures in the camp as a longer-term solution.

Recent visits

- The UNHCR Representative (*pictured top right*) visited Mahama camp to assess issues related to shelter, site planning, and water/sanitation as the camp begins to implement emergency contingency planning for thousands of new arrivals. Implementing partners World Vision and American Refugee Committee joined the assessment.
- ECHO's Technical Assistant for the DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania (*pictured bottom right*) visited Mahama camp with a special focus on water issues and the status of contingency plans for the possibility of 15,000 arrivals from the reception centers, and urged camp actors to fully engage in preparations for any potential influx. ECHO praised the activation of the river water filtration system and said plans should continue to push towards increasing the capacity of the water treatment system to meet the needs of the camp population.
- The new regional Humanitarian Adviser for DFID visited Mahama camp with a particular focus on WASH, health, and semi-permanent shelters. One of DFID's priorities is ensuring NGO capacity is expandable in the event a sizable new influx occurs, the Adviser indicated.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- Presidential elections took place amidst violence in Burundi on 26 July, with the ruling party securing nearly 70% of the winning votes. UNHCR has not seen a significant increase of new arrivals into Rwanda in the reporting period. However, newly arrived refugees are describing the situation at roadblocks in Burundi as tense, as well as continuous violence and harassment by the Imbonerakure who are particularly targeting the youth and members of the opposition parties to force them to join the CNDD-FDD political party. Refugees witnessed harassment and violence committed by the Imbonerakure against others in their village or while they were en route to Rwanda.

 Protection

Child protection (CP) & Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Achievements and Impact

- Thus far UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan International have identified and registered **2,067** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (677 separated children and 1,400 unaccompanied children), including urban refugees. Out of the UASC identified so far, **389** have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- Thus far **83** SGBV cases (the majority being domestic violence and denial of resources) have been identified and assisted with response services by different actors through referral pathways established by UNHCR.
- The Rwanda National Police has provided a new SGBV Officer, based at the One Stop Center near Mahama Camp, to assist in SGBV related cases.
- To date, 187 newborns have been assisted with birth registration.
- UNHCR conducted a two-day workshop on international protection in Mahama camp. The session focused on international and national laws relating to refugee protection, and the humanitarian character of a refugee camp. Participants included MIDIMAR representatives, local police, refugee leaders, and implementing partners.
- Preparations are underway to conduct a CP and SGBV baseline assessment in Mahama in July and August 2015. The first draft of the report is expected in September 2015.
- Three UNHCR technical experts visited the camp to look at community services, child protection, and services for persons with disabilities. The disabilities expert met with implementing partners as well as with disabled persons and their families, and conducted home visits. The end result was the development of an action plan that will be partially funded by UNHCR, alongside with the actions plans for the protracted camps and Kigali.

 Education


- A total of 12,180 pairs of shoes were distributed to students at Mahama Camp's school, courtesy of ADRA. The distribution event featured speeches by MIDIMAR, UNHCR, ADRA, and the president of the refugee committee, as well as a dance performance, an original song written and performed by a secondary school student, and a dramatic recitation of an original poem by a university student.
- 3,009 children ages 4-6 (1,502 boys and 1,507 girls) are registered for daily activities in the Early Childhood Development program operated by CARE. CARE will seek to register more children for the program by distributing shoes.
- The market has now been relocated closer to school, making it more accessible to students.

 Health

- A delegation of about a half-dozen medical personnel representing the East African Community worked in the camp's health clinic as part of a 3-day working visit to support medical services to camp refugees. UNHCR briefed the EAC team about the history of the camp and the refugee population's demographics.
- The rate of utilization of health facilities in Mahama has dropped; this could mainly be an indication that the health status of the community has stabilized. In any case it is recommended to expedite the expansion of the Mahama health center and establishment of the satellite health post through ARC.

 Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR's project partner, ARC, is significantly stepping up the pace of shelter construction in the coming week in order to facilitate the relocation of more refugees from the reception centres to Mahama camp.
- Four additional contractors have been hired to speed up shelter construction. ARC will provide soil and water to plaster the walls. Refugees will plaster their own shelters to increase accountability and accelerate construction.

 Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR’s WASH partner, World Vision, has received a certificate from the Rwanda Standards Board, approving treated Akagera River Water as suitable for human consumption. The water treatment plant installed will be expanded to cover the needs of the camp population and water trucking will eventually cease.



The UNHCR Representative and World Vision Country Director inspect 10,000-liter water tankers that filtrate river water for use by residents of Mahama camp.

Thanks to our partners:



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