



HIGHLIGHTS

70,711

Refugees in emergency situation

74,283

Refugees in protracted situation

1,151

Refugees departed for resettlement in 2015

62,191

Rwandans returned since 2009

Population of concern

A total of **148 thousand** persons of concern

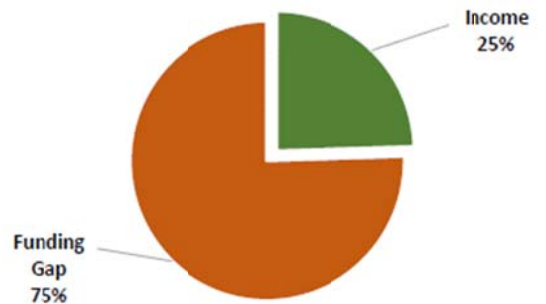
By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Burundi (2015 emergency)	70,711*
Democratic Republic of Congo	74,283
Other countries	311
Rwandan returnees (2015)	3,065
Total	148,109

**Approximately 6,000 Burundian refugee were inactivated in 2015 following a verification exercise pursuant to UNHCR policy*

Funding

USD 148.2 million requested



USD 32.5 million received

UNHCR Presence

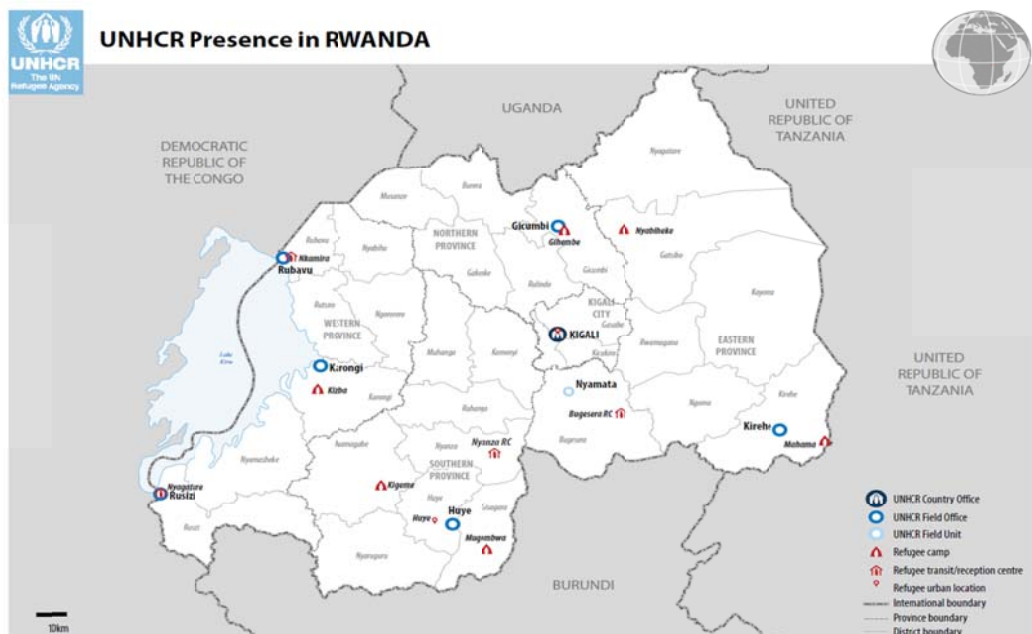
21 International Staff

8 Offices

88 National Staff

35 Affiliate Workforce

Located in: Kigali, Huye, Karongi, Rubavu, Rusizi, Byumba, Kirehe, Nyamata



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Creation date: 23 August 2015 Sources: UNHCR, IOM, UNHCR Feedback, UNHCR Regional Support Hub in Nairobi (karongi@unhcr.org)

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In Rwanda, based on the Refugee Coordination Model UNHCR co-leads the refugee response with the Government of Rwanda's Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), including through working groups for all sectors. UNHCR also co-leads the One UN humanitarian programme through three joint projects: Preparedness and Response to Refugee Influx, Response to Return and Initial Reintegration, and preparedness and response to natural disasters.
- In addition to its primary Government counterpart, MIDIMAR, UNHCR collaborates closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of Immigration/Emigration, National Refugee Committee, and Ministries of Health and Education.
- **Project partners:** Adventist Development and Relief Agency Rwanda (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Parlement des Jeunes Rwandais (PAJER), Plan International, World Vision Rwanda.
- **Operational partners:** Association Rwandaise Pour La Defense Des Droits De L'homme (ARDHO), Atmosfair, CARE International, Caritas Rwanda, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints / Deseret International Charities, Church World Service, Concern Worldwide, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FSDS Rwanda, German Society for International Cooperation, Handicap International, International Organization for Migration, Legal Aids Forum, Oxfam, Protect-Rwanda, Rwanda Red Cross, Save the Children International, UN Population Fund, UN Children's Rights & Emergency Relief Organization, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, World Food Programme, World Health Organization.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- UNHCR in Rwanda leads a comprehensive protection program which includes individual counseling for refugees and advocacy with the Government for refugee rights and access to asylum; registration of refugees and returnees; capacity building for Government, UN, NGO and community-based actors; sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response; protection of children; and community initiatives through an age, gender and diversity approach to ensure participation of all refugees.

Education

- UNHCR is committed to ensuring that all refugee children & youth in Rwanda access their fundamental right to basic education, whether they are living in one of six refugee camps, or in urban areas. As the Government has adopted a policy of integration for refugees into its national education system, UNHCR is progressively integrating refugee students. In the whole operation, nearly 33,000 refugees are enrolled in primary and lower secondary education. The challenge for UNHCR is to provide secondary education, particularly upper secondary, in line with the Government policy of 12-year compulsory basic education program.

Health

- UNHCR Rwanda works to ensure that all refugees have access to life-saving and essential health care, reproductive health care, HIV prevention and treatment and nutritional well-being. As the Government policy is for refugees to be integrated into national health systems, wherever possible UNHCR builds capacity of national health services to enable refugees to access them; where this is not feasible UNHCR establishes health services for refugees, which can also be accessed by neighboring host communities. UNHCR's support to Rwandan returnees extends one year of health insurance coverage to them to foster their reintegration.

Nutrition

- Treating and combating malnutrition is a key part of UNHCR's mandate, and in Rwanda we have established systematic nutrition screening as well as severe and moderate acute malnutrition management programmes in all locations for emergency response as well as in older refugee camps. This complements general food distribution which is provided by the World Food Programme. One of the main activities is preventive and therapeutic interventions in collaboration with a target of reducing acute malnutrition and anemia among children under 5 years of age.

Water and Sanitation

- In Rwanda, UNHCR provides refugees living in camps with clean drinking water through various means including the sourcing and trucking of water into refugee camps, the drilling of boreholes, cleaning of surface water, and the design, construction and maintenance of water systems and infrastructure. These systems also benefit host communities surrounding the camps. UNHCR also ensures adequate conditions of sanitation and hygiene, constructing showers, handwashing stations and latrines, and empowering refugee communities to manage water and sanitation facilities.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR provides shelter and communal infrastructures as a core life-saving activity to all refugees living in camps in Rwanda. UNHCR's shelter and infrastructure strategy in Rwanda consists of providing semi-permanent houses made out of a pole structure covered with mud plastering and iron sheet roofing, for Congolese refugees living in camps. In Mahama camp, newly opened for Burundian refugees, emergency tents have been provided while semi-permanent shelter construction is ongoing. However due to environmental challenges UNHCR is looking to shift towards mud brick housing for refugees in Rwanda.

Access to Energy

- Refugees in camps receive dry food rations that must be cooked to be edible. As such, UNHCR provides materials that enable cooking as an essential life-saving priority. UNHCR works with the Government to ensure that refugees have access to firewood so that families can cook their own meals. Our longer-term energy strategy involves the procurement and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves as well as tree planting in order to reduce consumption of firewood & minimize the impact on the environment. UNHCR also distributes solar lanterns for refugee families, to improve access to energy-efficient lighting. This is critical for protection of refugees and the ability of children to read and study after sunset.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- At camp level, livelihoods as means of empowerment/self-sufficiency is supported through activities including Voluntary Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), and a program helping persons living with HIV to engage in farming and poultry production. A partnership with Kepler University is enabling the enrolment of students in tertiary education and vocational training. In urban areas, refugees are involved in self-employment/small businesses to cater for their families. However, livelihoods support remains limited due to inadequate funding and difficult accessibility of land. To address and improve the support for self-reliance activities in all locations, UNHCR is developing a comprehensive Livelihoods strategy which will be launched in October 2015. Regular participatory assessments are conducted in all locations based on UNHCR's Age, Gender and Diversity policy. UNHCR supports refugee committees and other leadership/management structures such as area leaders, anti-violence committees, and associations for persons with disabilities among others. Gender balance in refugee leadership is also ensured.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR supports the return of refugees only if and when conditions for return can be guaranteed to be voluntary, safe and dignified. Prospects for returning home for over 74,000 Congolese refugees, many of whom have lived in Rwanda since the mid-1990s, continue to be very limited due to on-going insecurity and conflict. Organized return of Burundian refugees who have fled election-related tensions since April 2015 is not envisioned in the near future, until it can be assured that their return is safe and voluntary. However Burundian refugees are able to return to Burundi spontaneously, at their own volition.
- Due to the ongoing on-going insecurity and conflict in the Eastern DRC, and based on the limited ability for Rwanda to absorb the refugee population through integration and naturalization, resettlement to third countries for those refugees who have been in Rwanda for many years is seen as the most protective and pragmatic step towards bringing an end to the protracted situation of Congolese refugees in Rwanda, over 90% of whom originate from conflict zones in the DRC. A multiyear strategy from 2012-2015 has seen over 9,000 individual submitted for resettlement from Rwanda with over 5,375 departures to date.

Logistics and Supply

- UNHCR Rwanda runs a large-scale logistics and supply operation including transportation of refugees from the border to refugee camps, as well as procurement and distribution to refugees of core relief items that are essential for daily life, such as blankets, jerry cans, soap, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. During the Burundian refugee influx the biggest challenge was to procure, transport and set up over 5,000 tents to host newly arrived refugee families. This was achieved in two weeks' time. UNHCR also transported an average of 1,000 refugees per day, moving over 43,000 people from the transit centers to the new Mahama camp, in safety and dignity.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

[United States of America](#) | [UN Central Emergency Response Fund](#) | [EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department \(ECHO\)](#) | [UK Department for International Development \(DFID\)](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Sweden and One UN](#) | [Japan](#)

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