CONGOLESE SITUATION
RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DISPLACED CONGOLESE AND REFUGEES
ANNEX - RWANDA

Supplementary Appeal
January - December 2018
Rwanda

Map of the area covered by this appeal
Overview

807,000

Congolese refugees expected to be hosted in the region by end 2018

85,000

Congolese refugees expected to be hosted in Rwanda by end 2018

81%

Of Congolese refugees are women and children

131 national and international staff

7 offices in the country

The Rwanda country annex is part of the supplementary appeal for Congolese situation, which outlines UNHCR’s protection interventions planned in 2018 and respond to additional and most urgent needs of people of concern fleeing from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Rwanda hosts 75,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) living in five camps. There are currently some 8,800 Congolese asylum-seekers residing in the camps, of which some are expected to be recognized as refugees.

The Government of Rwanda has made significant contributions to the refugee programme, such as providing land to establish refugee camps. UNHCR is actively implementing cash-based interventions in lieu of distribution of core relief items and energy fuel to enable more dignity and choice for refugees. With the deterioration of the security situation inside the DRC, UNHCR expects 10,000 new arrivals in 2018, bringing to 85,000 the Congolese refugee population by the end of 2018.

Congolese refugees will continue to require sustained support in basic protection services such as registration and documentation, prevention of non-refoulement, lifesaving assistance including food and nutrition, healthcare, shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation services, education, targeted protection support for the most vulnerable and resettlement.

UNHCR’s strategy response will focus on ensuring access to territory and providing protection and lifesaving support to refugees. The Office will continue advocating and supporting the local authorities for the inclusion of refugees in national programme and services.

Population of concern

10,000 new arrivals estimated throughout 2018

75,000 Congolese refugees hosted by end 2017

Financial requirements

9% or $39.2 million requested for Rwanda

$368.7 million requested for the overall Congolese situation
Needs and response

Identified needs

Congolese refugee camps have depended for years on continuous humanitarian assistance which has resulted in camp-based populations which are highly dependent on assistance. Camps are very congested, and shelter and other camp facilities—which in some cases were constructed decades ago—are dilapidated.

Although there are limited prospects for official local integration, there is potential for alternatives to camps with refugees moving out, camps being transformed into villages and the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in national structures.

UNHCR and WFP are the only UN agencies operating in the Congolese refugee camps. Funding is very limited, impacting all sectors.

The Congolese situation has created considerable humanitarian needs:

- All five Congolese camps are highly congested and lack of shelters is one of the main gaps in the operation.
- Although UNHCR makes efforts to maintain water provision in accordance to the standards, there is an important gap in water supply in two camps where the daily provision is below 13 liters/person.
- All five Congolese refugee camps face lack of WASH facilities due to shortage of resources and constant population growth. Urgent intervention in repairs and maintenance is required in WASH.
- Due to poor drainage systems, gullies and landslides occur across all five camps.

Response

Throughout 2018, UNHCR interventions will be guided by the following strategic priorities to respond to protection and immediate needs of Congolese refugees:

**Protection and lifesaving support**—Conduct verification exercise in all camps to ensure accurate statistics and update protection and other sectoral information that will shape the overall interventions by the end of 2018. UNHCR will ensure refugee access to basic rights including education, health, improve shelter and WASH facilities and shift from plastic sheeting to corrugated iron and from firewood to alternative cooking fuel in line with 2017 Government’s Leadership Retreat resolutions.

**Promoting inclusion of refugees in national programmes**—Promote the inclusion of refugees in national systems in line with the commitments made by the Government of Rwanda at the 2016 Leaders’ Summit on Refugees convened by the former United States of America President Barack Obama, specifically in education, health, documentation and self-reliance to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid, enable refugees to live outside the camp if possible, and empower them to contribute to the growth of the host community economy.

**Self-reliance and livelihoods improved**—Scale-up delivery of cash and livelihoods in all camps to ensure self-reliance and shift towards alternative to camps and socio-economic inclusion.
Key intervention areas

Protection

UNHCR’s strategy will focus on registration, facilitate access to protection services, prevention and respond to SGBV and addressing the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children and other key vulnerabilities. UNHCR will:

- Build capacity of various actors (administrative, judicial, security, health and legal partners) in facilitating access to civil registration. Increase community awareness on birth registration procedures and the importance of civil registration. Continue registration and issuance of proof of registration in all five camps and issue birth certificate to 3,000 Congolese refugee children.
- Ensure Government IDs are issued to 3,000 refugees without individual documentation. Systematic renewal of expired refugee IDs across all the camps.
- Conduct a verification exercise of the refugee population in all five camps.
- Work closely with the Government to regularize the situation of the roughly 8,800 asylum-seekers residing in the Congolese camps.
- With legal partners, improve access to justice and legal services for 400 Congolese refugees. Support with counselling and sensitize the refugee community in the camps on national laws and refugees rights.
- Conduct 1,100 best interest assessments and determinations, and identified unaccompanied and separate children. Ensure children and youth participation in various child protection interventions targeting 3,500 people.
- Support 400 SGBV survivors with psychosocial counselling and provide material assistance to 150 SGBV survivors. Capacity building on SGBV prevention and response for 90 representatives of partners, Government and UNHCR.
- Maintain and strengthen existing community based mechanisms and communication systems to assist some 10,000 people.
- Support 3,000 people with disabilities and 3,000 people with specific needs.
- Pursue resettlement efforts as a protection, durable solution and responsibility-sharing tool to enhance the protection space and complement child protection, SGBV and shelter strategies and the provision of services in the camps.

Education

UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support the national health services so as to meet the health needs of the refugees. UNHCR will:

- Ensure access to early childhood education for 6,000 refugee children, primary education for 13,000 refugee children and secondary education for 4,500 refugee children.
- Construct 150 education facilities.

Shelter and core relief items

Bearing in mind the parameters set by the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR will:

- Rehabilitate 2,500 shelters and maintain 300 structures.
- Build 2,980 long-term shelters and set up gutters in all camps infrastructures.
- Construct comprehensive drainage systems and road construction and maintenance.
- Support 16,000 refugees with cash based interventions for the provision of core relief items—blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets.
- Distribute sanitary pads and soap to refugees.
Health
UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support the national health services so as to meet the health needs of the refugees. UNHCR will:

- Ensure access to primary health care for all refugees in all five camps, including antenatal and postnatal care and referral mechanism to secondary and tertiary health care.
- Upgrade health posts to health centers in two camps (Mugombwa and Kigeme) and procure and distribute medicines.

WASH
UNHCR will ensure timely provision of life-saving assistance including water and sanitation and hygiene services. UNHCR will:

- Maintain the current level of potable water supply and monitoring of the distributed water quality and quantity.
- Connect two camps to the host community water supply system.
- Continue to invest in regular maintenances and repairs of existing WASH facilities (latrines, showers and laundry slabs) including construction of additional 300 latrines.
- Continue with rehabilitation of existing water pipelines and water taps.

Community empowerment and self-reliance
UNHCR will strengthen the local capacity to host refugees and promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and with host communities. UNHCR will:

- Foster economic self-reliance for refugees and host communities and decrease dependency on aid, including through the realization of a sustainable food system and natural resources management, and provision of broader employment opportunities (with a specific focus on women and youth).
- Offer refugee entrepreneurs individualized training, mentoring and access to finance and financial services.
- Provide guidance on labour market opportunities.
- Support 200 people with wages from partner and community contracting projects.
- Preserve natural resources around camps and soil erosion.

Logistics and operations support
UNHCR will ensure timely provision of immediate life-saving needs and support effective sourcing, transportation, delivery, storage, distribution and accounting for assistance including programme support.

- Timely and dignified transport of refugees from reception centre to their allocated plots.
- Sufficient warehouse and distribution services capacity.
Coordination and working in partnership

The refugee response is jointly coordinated by the Government (Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs [MIDIMAR]) and UNHCR under the Refugee Coordination Model, which includes UN agencies, national and international NGOs and other operational partners. UNHCR also coordinates sector working groups, in coordination with partners where relevant.

UNHCR engages in eight project partnership agreements with various national, and international NGOs and Government institutions. These project partners are involved in UNHCR programming aspects and when possible, raise funds to complement UNHCR’s efforts.

UNHCR is also engaged in partnership with private sector actors, having complemented NGOs with commercial contractors in 2016 for the construction of shelter (employing refugees using market-based compensation) with excellent results, and social enterprises for clean cooking fuel and livelihoods.

UNHCR as an active participant in the One UN and UNCT advocates for the inclusion of refugees and returnees both within the UN agencies’ planning including UNDAP and the national development agenda; to this end UNHCR is an active participant in the UNDAF task force. UNHCR is advocating strongly with the Government and other above-mentioned actors, in addition to donors to ensure refugees are included.

UNHCR will continue to participate in Government-chaired sector working groups where the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is planned. This is seen as a key entry point for inclusion of refugees in national systems and UNHCR plays an active role in the SDG task force to ensure that refugees are part of the SDG’s progress and data.
# Financial requirements

UNHCR’s 2018 ExCom budget for Rwanda includes **$39,249,149** million to address the needs of Congolese refugees fleeing from the DRC. No additional requirements are requested in this appeal.

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Congolese situation</th>
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Cover photo:
Displaced and struggling to survive. © UNHCR/John Wessels