RWANDA COUNTRY REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January 2020-December 2021
Cover photograph:
Young Somali refugee couple, Abdulbasit and Zainab, sit with their two-month-old daughter Hadia on their first day at the Gashora Emergency Transit Centre (ETM) in Rwanda following their evacuation from Libya. Hadia was born in detention. Thanks to the ETM their family was united, and they are now free and safe in Rwanda while solutions are being sought. © UNHCR/Tobin Jones
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2020-2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

157,930
PROJECTED REFUGEE POPULATION BY 2020

US$ 163 M
REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020

16
PARTNERS INVOLVED

3,000
ESTIMATED RWANDAN RETURNEES IN 2020

125,000
ASSISTED HOST POPULATION
Background and Achievements

Overview

Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for over two decades. Following the verification exercise that began in 2018, five camps and all urban areas have been covered. By the end of 2019, the verification exercise was ongoing in Mahama camp. As of 31 December 2019, there are 148,848 refugees individually registered and 1,107 registered at group level in reception centres. Refugees are made of two main groups: 76,266 individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (50.9%) living in a protracted situation (up to 23 years); and 73,332 individuals from Burundi (48.9%) who began fleeing to Rwanda in April 2015 following election-related insecurity.

For the Congolese situation, the verification exercise was completed in all the Congolese refugee camps in Rwanda. From the exercise, some 13,000 Congolese refugees expressed the desire to voluntary return to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Since the beginning of 2018, attempts have been made to organize a Tripartite meeting between the Governments of Rwanda (GoR) and the DRC. However, to-date, this meeting has not taken place though UNHCR continues to advocate for such meeting. In the meantime, an increasing bilateral cooperation between both countries is noticed, including to strengthen security in bordering areas. On 17 April 2019, technical discussions were initiated with the organization of a technical Level Coordination Meeting in Rubavu District of Rwanda on the Voluntary Repatriation Operation for Congolese and Rwandan refugees in Rubavu District, Rwanda. The meeting was attended by delegations from the Government of Rwanda (MINEMA) and the government of DRC (CNR). The meeting agreed on several action points including facilitating go and see visits and the review of the current return process. Go & See visits have been proposed at Goma level. However, such activity to be coordinated at Kinshasa level is currently on hold. While options were under consideration, the Ebola outbreaks and recent fights in the eastern regions of DRC have affected the positive steps towards the voluntary repatriation. Although Rwanda has embarked on the GCR (Global Compact for Refugees) and adopted the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which emphasize on the socio and economic inclusion of refugees in national systems, the resettlement of Congolese refugees to third country from Rwanda, mostly from the oldest camps – Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke, remain the only viable durable solution available. However, following the recent USA presidential determination, the solution will no longer be an option in 2020 with the expected reduction of the resettlement quota. Given this information, the planning figure for the Congolese refugee population in Rwanda for 2020 is estimated to some 76,826 individuals.

For the Burundian situation, in 2019, 2,685 new Burundian refugees fled into Rwanda, with an average of 214 new arrivals per month. While this represents a smaller influx as compared to at the onset of the Burundian refugee crisis, these new arrivals nevertheless require immediate support to ensure adequate level of protection and basic humanitarian assistance. About 71.7 per cent of the Burundian refugees registered in Rwanda, are women and children and 85 per cent of the Burundian refugee population (62,003) are accommodated in Mahama camp. As of November 2019, UNHCR look forward to the requisite conditions for safe and dignified repatriation of refugees back to Burundi. While an average 200 to 300 spontaneous returns per month is registered, information from the Burundian community in Rwanda on intentions of return indicates that they do not feel it is safe to go back to Burundi, considering the prevailing political and security situation. This information should be confirmed during the ongoing verification exercise which will be completed in early 2020 in Mahama camp.

By the end of 2020, it is anticipated that the Burundian population will amount to approximately 80,000 refugees. Meanwhile, Mahama camp, which hosts Burundian refugees, is overcrowded and the facilities overstretched. UNHCR has initiated a revision of the interagency contingency plan to prepare for potential influx of Burundian refugees into Rwanda (in case of secondary movement of those averting the return programme of Burundian refugees from Tanzania or new arrivals fleeing in anticipation of possible violence related to the presidential elections to be held in Burundi in May 2020).

Emergency Transit Mechanism (EMT): In addition to the inter-agency Regional Response Plans for both Congolese and Burundi situations, UNHCR has recently started to support the evacuation of refugees and asylum seekers from Libya to Rwanda as part of an Emergency Transit Mechanism (EMT). This follows the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the GoR, the African Union (AU) and UNHCR on 10 September 2019. Since the signature of the MoU, Rwanda has received three flights in 2019 supporting the evacuation of 306 refugees and asylum-seekers. The 306 people of concern are from 5 nationalities - 245 from Eritrea (80%), 37 from Somalia (12%), 17 from Sudan (5.5%), six from Ethiopia (2%) and one from South Sudan (0.3). The average age of the evacuee population is 19 years old and 50 per cent of them are unaccompanied minors. Women and children make the 80 per cent of the population. Prior to evacuation from Libya, more than half of them were in detention centers, and others in UNHCR Gathering and Departure Facilities and few in urban areas. Thanks to the generosity of the Rwandan Government and the people, the evacuees from Libya can enjoy a good protection environment in Rwanda and get access to basic humanitarian assistance services in Gashora Transit Center while durable solutions are being sought. Like other refugees hosted in Rwanda, the evacuees from Libya have the right to safe refuge, including...
freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities. Seven were resettled to Sweden in December 2019.

**Rwandan returnees:** Between 1994 and now around 3.5 million Rwandan have repatriated, mainly from the DRC. From January to December 2019, some 2,086 Rwandan have voluntarily repatriated through Kijote and Nyarushishi Transit Centers (including 509 in December alone). Returnee monitoring missions were conducted in Rubavu and Rusizi Districts and about 2,527 voluntary returnees were reached. Border monitoring/cross-border meetings took place in parallel to the management of the Transit Centers and the provision of basic humanitarian assistance services. These include reception, registration, provision of health insurance, cash and food assistance, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services as well as transportation assistance to their areas of return.

**Operating environment**

Rwanda has a National Asylum Law which complies with international standards and refugees are included in the national birth registration system, which decrease the risks of statelessness.

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through MINEMA, leads the refugee response in the country with UNHCR and partners providing direct operational support, capacity development and technical advice to the local authorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MINAFFET), Directorate of Immigration/Emigration (DGIE), the National Identification Agency (NIDA) and the National Refugee Committee are also involved in the refugee response.

The Rwandan context offers an enabling environment for innovative responses and approaches for refugees based on its national systems and structures. In the framework of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), there have been some key achievements toward the social and economic inclusion of refugees and their integration in national system, particularly in the areas of health and education. All refugees in urban settings and all refugee students in boarding schools have access to the national health insurance. In parallel, the Government is leading a process of Strategic Planning for refugees’ inclusion. The Government’s integration scope is so far limited within the four commitments: promoting refugee access to documentation, refugee economic inclusion and refugee integration in national system in the areas of Education and Health. One year after the historic adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) took place in December 2019 in Geneva offering a critical opportunity to build momentum on the implementation of the Compact and strengthen collective responses to refugee situations. The Forum was a unique occasion for States and others to come together and announce bold, new measures to ease pressure on host countries, boost refugee self-reliance, and search for solutions. The GRF provided an opportunity for the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to showcase its own achievements and to mobilise support from a wide range of stakeholders towards its national refugee response. Building on these achievements the GoR presented renewed pledges in the areas of health, education, documentation and refugees’ socio-economic inclusion as well as one new commitment in the area of energy and environment.

**Achievements and gaps**

In 2019, efforts were made to strengthen the protection environment and advocate for services such as registration and documentation and prevention of refoulement. As a result of these efforts, the asylum space was preserved, and refugees enjoyed a favourable protection environment. All refugees were individually registered, and 6,422 birth certificates issued. Basic rights were respected with most refugees recognized on a prima facie basis during major refugee influxes. Refugees who are registered in camp locations need to inform the authorities for out of camp movements and should carry with them Refugee Identity Documents (IDs) or proof of registration alongside a letter authorizing their absence from the camp. In this connection, there remains a need for legal assistance and detention monitoring for those refugees who are not complying with the rules as well as for advocacy for a greater freedom of movement of camp-based refugees. Care arrangements for unaccompanied children, family reunification, friendly spaces for children and youth at risk remain limited. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) has been major protection concern for refugee women and children even though over 40 per cent of the refugee community is active in SGBV prevention and survivor protection activities.

In 2019, UNHCR and its partners experienced challenges to mobilize enough funding to cover the basic needs of refugees and maintain the necessary level of life-saving assistance including in the areas of food and nutrition, healthcare, shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation services, education and targeted support for refugees with specific needs.

Even though, 91 per cent of the refugee population residing in camps received cash-based interventions (CBI) in lieu of food and non-food items, WFP faced recurrent challenges to maintain the food assistance pipeline. Thanks to joint fundraising efforts with UNHCR and to the support of the GoR, all refugees in need of food assistance in camps received full food rations. The findings of the 2019 Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) showed that more than 80 per cent of refugee income comes from WFP food assistance. In the area of nutrition, a Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) conducted in May 2019 shows that nutrition rates in all six camps were within standards (2.7% GAM). However, unweighted stunting prevalence and anaemia prevalence among children aged 6 to 59 months in all the 6 camps.

Health partners provided health services to those in need with prioritized attention to the most vulnerable...
including children and the elderly. Primary health services were provided by humanitarian actors inside the camps through health centres accessible also by the local host communities, while refugees with serious medical conditions were referred to local health facilities for secondary and tertiary health care. Thanks to the great collaboration of all health partners, by the end of 2019, mortality rates were within standards (Crude mortality rate 0.14 death/1000/month for Congolese and 0.27 deaths/1,000/month for Burundians - 0.5 %/ 1000/month Under-5 mortality rate in the Burundian population against 0.2% for Congolese refugees). Over 90 per cent of deliveries were attended by trained health professionals. However, family planning prevalence remained low (37%). With the ongoing Ebola virus disease outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri Provinces of DRC, the risk of spill over to Rwanda and other neighbouring countries constituted a risk. Strengthening the epidemic preparedness and response at the different transit/reception centres and camps, including medical screening, appropriate health staff trainings, prepositioning of equipment and supplies and community surveillance was critical.

Thanks to campaigns promoting schooling, a total of 24,690 Burundian refugee students from Mahama camp (5,381 in Early Childhood Development – ECD / 14,544 in primary and 4,765 in secondary) and 28,018 Congolese refugee students were attending school alongside host community students (5,189 in ECD, 15,123 in primary cycle, and 7,706 in secondary cycle). Around 90 per cent of primary and secondary school aged refugee children had access to formal education in the national education system and were included, for the first time in 2019, in the national education statistics. In addition, some 290 refugee students had access to tertiary education. In 2019, the capacity of local schools was expanded through the construction of additional classrooms and the provision of school equipment and materials. School feeding programme provided good learning environment, contributing to the attendance, concentration in classes and retention thus contributing the performance of the school children. In addition, new teachers were hired and received training. However, most of school classes remained overcrowded with over 90 students per classroom in Paysannat L school near Mahama with also increased needs for school materials and equipments.

Shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene activities were carried out in all six refugee camps. However, the funding gap has had a devastating impact that entailed radical reprioritization of support. Among others, partners were unable to adequately maintain WASH facilities or expand existing structures. As resources have been decreasing in recent years minimum standards are often not met. Despite the existing ban on plastic in Rwanda, UNHCR does not have enough funding to support the transformation of all shelters roof from plastic to iron sheets. In the camps hosting Congolese refugees (Gihembe, Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke) over 1,700 shelters remain to be transformed and in 2019 only 41 per cent of female-headed households were living in adequate dwellings. In addition, the topography of the land and soil erosion in these camps are among those factors which are putting refugees in the camps at risks of natural hazards. The funding level of the humanitarian response did not allow to address environmental degradation, including landslides. Most of the shelters in the camps hosting Congolese are very old and camps are congested with no proper access roads or fire break points. At the end of 2019, the average supply of potable water in refugee camps was 20 litres/person/day in Mahama camp against 16 l/pers/day in the Congolese camps. Supply of water is way below the minimum standard in Gihembe (10 l/pers/day), in Nyabiheke (15.4 l/pers/day), and in Kigeme (16 l/pers/day) camps. There remained also challenges with the maintenance and the dislodging of existing latrine blocks in all camps.

In 2019, in compliance with the national law on the ban of firewood, all camps shifted to clean cooking energies. By the end of the year, 48.5 per cent of the refugee population switched to Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) solution and the remaining 50.8 per cent received cash assistance to purchase biomass (pellets or briquettes) made of sawdust. In addition, some 3,186 trees were planted in Mahama camp to preserve the environment. However, there was a limited number of suppliers providing clean cooking solutions and some resistance from the community to adopt new cooking fuel.

The National Asylum Law provides refugees with the right to work, freedom of movement and to access documentation. Refugees can own property and engage contracts, including land-leases. In 2016, the GoR announced four commitments including for the promotion of economic opportunities for refugees to decrease reliance on humanitarian assistance. The fundamental right to work combined with a relatively enabling environment provides refugees with the opportunity to contribute economically to their host society. However, despite the favourable legal environment challenges remained for refugees to become productive members of Rwandan society including non-legal barriers; e.g. employer’s attitude and limited awareness about refugees’ right to work, insufficient access to financial services for refugee entrepreneurs etc. By the end of 2019, only 16,975 refugees were engaged in income generating activities. Even though limited, however, UNHCR continued to prioritize this sector which not only remains part of the GoR commitment presented at the GRF but also has shown in 2019 concrete steps towards refugee socio-economic inclusion. As part of the Misizi Marshland project, funded by the IKEA Foundation, UNHCR in collaboration with WFP, FAO, MINEMA and the GoR improved the food security, the social cohesion and the income of 1,427 farmers through the development of 55ha marshland availed by the Gisagara district. UNHCR, in conjunction with the partners, has identified more lands with the authorities for the replication of this project in other districts hosting refugees. In parallel, UNHCR is working with the GoR on the revision of the joint strategy on the socio-economic inclusion of refugees 2017/2022.
## Beneficiary Population

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Refugees from Burundi</td>
<td>73,369</td>
<td>80,604</td>
<td>82,028</td>
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<td>Refugees and Asylum Seekers from DRC</td>
<td>76,446</td>
<td>76,826</td>
<td>77,200</td>
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<td>Evacuees - ETM Rwanda</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150,121</strong></td>
<td><strong>157,930</strong></td>
<td><strong>159,228</strong></td>
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| Rwandan returnees          | 2,085                                | 3,000                                | 3,000                                |
| Assisted Host Population   | 125,000                              | 125,000                              | 125,000                              |

### Planning assumptions for the Burundi situation
- 500 average new arrivals per month in 2020 (Increase in arrival trends due to tense political climate) and 200 in 2021;
- 1,500 spontaneous returns in 2020 (Less people would return during an election year) and 4000 in 2021;
- 4 per cent natural population growth;
- 200 resettlement departures for protection referrals per year.

### Planning assumptions for the ETM Rwanda
- The MoU signed with the GoR and the AU for the creation of the ETM has stated that the ETM in Rwanda can accommodate 500 persons at any given time. However, it is planned that with the departure of some of the evacuees for durable solutions, 1,500 persons will be evacuated from Libya by the end of 2020 (3 waves of 500 pers. each).

### Planning assumptions for Rwandan returnees
- 3,000 returnees per year;
- Significant delays in screening process may continue to be experienced.

### Host community and other refugee groups:
- In addition, it is estimated that host communities will benefit directly or indirectly from the support provided to the refugees. The estimate is approximately 125,000 host community members.
- There are also a small number of refugees from other countries living in urban areas and Rwandan spouses married to registered refugees (49 and 566 respectively as of 31 December 2019).
Needs Analysis

Needs Analysis Overview

It is expected that the refugee population will reach some 157,930 individuals by the end of 2020, and some 159,228 by the end of 2021. The majority of refugees now are living in camps (91%) and a small number are settled in urban areas. About 76 per cent of the population are women and children and some 19,103 refugees have specific needs and require special assistance and protection services (children at risk, persons with disabilities, older persons at risk, serious medical condition, single headed households, women at risk, Unaccompanied and Separated Children – UASC, etc.).

While refugees in Rwanda generally enjoy a favourable protection environment, most refugees in camps remain dependent upon assistance as a coping mechanism to meet their basic needs such as shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, food, health, education, nutrition and cooking energy. Livelihood opportunities are scarce due to the lack of job opportunities, land for cultivation and livestock rearing in hosting areas around the camps.

In 2019, response partners, conducted a number of joint assessments to better understand their needs, vulnerabilities and coping capacities including a participatory assessment, a Rapid Assessment of Livelihoods situation of the refugees living in camps and urban areas a Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) and a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) on refugees food security and nutrition.

Following the reduced admissions ceiling for resettlement to USA the Group Resettlement Programme benefiting Congolese refugees will be affected. In particular, camp-based refugees, who have been in Rwanda for over 15-20 years with no prospects for return, are demotivated to take initiative to improve their own future and only consider resettlement as the solution to their plight. A revised solution strategy focusing on self-reliance, and enhanced local integration is envisaged for 2020 and beyond. Resettlement will continue to be pursued as a durable solution, however only for few individuals with specific vulnerabilities.

Creating a conducive environment to the promotion of livelihoods including through introduction of CBI and Multi-purpose Cash Grants (MPGs) and turning around an attitude of dependency on humanitarian assistance should help refugees to become more self-reliant and live more dignified lives.

While urban refugees enjoy more freedom of movement, those in camps need for authorization to leave camps, which hinders livelihoods opportunities. However, it was observed in 2019 that as the Burundi emergency drags on, more and more urban refugees, who have exhausted their savings and cannot sustain themselves anymore, are seeking relocation to camps.

Beside efforts made in availing sexual and reproductive health including family Planning services, teen pregnancies are still a big issue in refugee camps in general. First Time Young mothers are increasing and present different needs including psycho social issues, education drop off, family conflicts, limited access to HIV and SRH services, and socio-economic problems. The prospect of socio-economic integration and targeting of assistance were extensively discussed with refugees as the main themes of the Participatory Assessment as a means of sensitizing refugees to the long-term vision. In addition, the verification exercise in camps has helped identify refugees registered in camps but living outside camps to rationalize the real camp and urban population figures and pave the way for better targeting of livelihoods interventions to boost self-reliance, progressively graduate refugees from assistance focus interventions on the most vulnerable refugees.

Needs analysis by sector

Registration and documentation

Registration in Rwanda is a joint activity between MINEMA, DGIE and UNHCR, which also form the Continuous Registration Panels that adjudicate and litigate all cases of refugees who are eligible for registration. UNHCR is sharing jointly collected basic biographic and biometric refugee data with the GoR. The refugee verification exercise aims to update data and fix the number of refugees currently in the country. Results from the completed locations, urban and Congolese camps indicated a very substantial no-show rate (mostly in urban) which resulted in a reduction in the operation’s figures. Mahama is the last camp in this verification exercise which is projected to end early 2020.

The GoR with the support of UNHCR is providing refugee ID cards to refugees aged over 16 years. UNHCR also supports refugee documentation by issuing Proof of Registration (PoRs) which protect refugees against refoulement, facilitate access to services and assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners, and support mobility and hopefully regional mobility pending advocacy by UNHCR. The GoR is issuing Machine Readable Certified Travel Documents (MRCTD) and UNHCR is monitoring the implementation of MRCTDs through different complaints’ channels.

Family tracing and reunification is respected and facilitated with the support of ICRC. Improved referral systems and the presence of a local legal protection partner has significantly improved access to civil registration, including birth registration with almost all of refugees issued with birth certificates. Late birth registration is supported through the same process whereby approximately 20 per cent of children obtained birth certificates. As GoR continues to issue refugee

RWANDA Country Refugee Response Plan (CRP)
IDs, refugees will be able to access the online public service system (IREMBO) where they can register their children and/or obtain other civil documentations such as divorce or death certificates online. This should help reduce or eliminate the need for UNHCR and partners to facilitate the issuance of civil documents, in line with the 2019 GoR pledge to prevent and eradicate statelessness through access to birth registration.

In view of the GoR’s recent commitments made to eradicate statelessness in 2019, UNHCR will continue to support birth registration campaigns in 2020 (under commitment 6), in all refugee camps to ensure that all refugees have birth certificate and most importantly the late birth registration backlog is reduced. UNHCR also needs to strengthen its cooperation with UNICEF and work closely with the district offices during those campaigns.

With the GoR’s direction towards digital Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system in the country, in 2020, all refugees will be in similar footing as nationals as all civil registration instances will be made electronically, on the spot, i.e. in health centre. This means that all births registered in health centres will be automatically sent to the sector office and applied to all civil documents.

Community-based protection and persons with specific needs

To support effective camp management and community participation in protection and services, refugees are supported with training and equipment to organize leadership committees, women’s committees, security committees, and other community-based structures. Capacity building and awareness raising is also conducted to ensure that age, gender and diversity are reflected in the composition of committees, though gender inequality remains a challenge. Some 12.8 per cent of the registered refugee population in Rwanda have specific needs (such as child-headed households, female-headed households, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons with mental health needs) and need specialized interventions to ensure their equal access to protection and basic services.

In 2020-2021, response partners will continue to focus on persons with specific needs, in particular in urban settings, including for cases of mental health and those in need of psychosocial support. A concern is the identification of persons with specific needs in urban settings which shall be improved through continuous mapping exercises conducted by Humanity and Inclusion, as well as through a structured and comprehensive community outreach. Community-based protection structures will further ensure that mapping remains updated and interventions are targeted to existing and new needs of persons of concern. Efforts in this connection will focus on advocacy ensuring that persons with specific needs are adequately integrated into existing public and (when adequate) private structures. In the education sector, refugee students with specific needs will be monitored. Targeted exceptional financial assistance to persons of concern most at risk will be provided and cash transfers will be the modality for assistance.

In camps, the accessibility to services and communal infrastructures remains challenging for older refugees and refugees with disabilities due to the hilly terrain, particularly in Congolese camps. The limitation of available land hinders the construction of adapted structures for specific services such as community-based rehabilitation. Severe cases, for example those of mental illness, other psychiatric pathologies and severe psychological problems, need to be referred through referral pathways identified by partners. Although a decrease of stigma and discrimination in the community is recognized and service provision in various sectors is strengthened, stereotypes on gender and disability are still strong.

Further, weaknesses and areas of improvement remain in community mobilization and outreach, as well as in the development of networking, referrals and coordination for persons with specific needs. Priority must remain on the identification of persons with disabilities (mental and physical) through community-based protection structures in order to ensure that the community becomes gradually the main protective safeguard against exclusion, stigmatisation, discrimination and exposure to violence and abuse. Partnerships must be strengthened in order to efficiently identify persons with specific needs in order to adequately refer them to national structures.

Security from Violence and Exploitation

In general, most security problems linked to child protection and SGBV stem from negative coping mechanisms; limited access to higher level schooling; vulnerabilities relating to age and disability; service provision issues such as insecurity in the context of CBI; poor lighting in and around camps and transit centres; lack of life-saving information or safe and confidential reporting channels. Though SGBV prevention and response services are in place in all refugee settings, there remain challenges of limited knowledge and awareness of the community on SGBV issues, difficulty collecting evidence for justice mechanisms, and lack of reporting. Refugees also report challenges related to managing household resources, particularly since the rollout of CBI, leading to increased intimate partner violence and child neglect. Under these circumstances families including women and young girls, are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, resulting in exposure to HIV and early/unwanted pregnancies/conditional pregnancies, etc.

In urban settings it is challenging to conduct outreach as refugees are scattered in different villages in and around Kigali and other areas. Integration of refugees into national SGBV services is also challenging as refugees may be deterred from reporting to local “One Stop Centres” where they initially access services via
the police. Reported child protection risks are predominantly child neglect, child abuse, child marriage and pregnancy among adolescent girls between 16 and 18 years old. An assessment of out of school children revealed that 10 per cent of children of different age groups are out of school due to various reasons, in all camps.

In 2020-2021 more funding would be needed to support the recruitment of SGBV and Child Protection staff in all camps and to ensure qualitative and specialized services. Additional support would also allow to build additional child friendly spaces to provide adequate services while supporting the resilience of children and youth. Despite the efforts of the child protection teams in raising awareness of the community as well as enhancing the establishment of the community-based child protection structures, some cases are still under-reported due to different reasons such as the culture constraints, neglect of the children’s needs, lack of knowledge on children’s rights and insecurity. More activities must be developed in 2020-2021 to engage more children of different age group and gender to protect themselves and protect other children (such as IOC youth and sports programme). In addition, there is a critical need for additional child-friendly spaces and comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support services (including family strengthening programmes) to improve the protection environment for children at risk.

Basic Needs and Essential Services

In 2020, considering the protracted character of the refugee response and the severe shortfall of humanitarian funding for the refugee response to Burundi and the Congolese situations in Rwanda, the overall assistance programme must initiate a progressive shift from blanket to more targeted and prioritized assistance. The refugee response will move towards basic needs approach and incorporating multipurpose cash grants (MPGs) as the most favourable approach to deliver assistance to cover part of basic needs of refugees in various sectors. In 2020 CBIs will be scaled up and overall provision of NFIs including soap and sanitary pads that will be provided through MPGs. Response partners will work to identify the Minimum Expenditure Basket in accordance to the national standards. In collaboration with development partners, inclusion of refugees in the national social protection systems will be explored.

One of the key challenges in the response is the lack of funding to provide exceptional financial assistance in a form of MPGs for urban refugees for their basic needs and access to essential services. Though the operation has adopted Alternative to Camp, and many refugees are trying and managing to live in urban areas with minimal support, the most vulnerable face difficulties to stay afloat in the urban setting and are sometime compelled to move to the camps to get access to assistance. In 2020, additional effort is needed in livelihoods for refugees in urban areas as well as for their integration into the existing nationals’ cooperatives

in order to avoid putting extra pressures on the infrastructures and services of already congested refugee camps.

Soil erosion remains the main cause of degradation of the communal infrastructures including access roads and family shelters in the camps. The status of shelters established many years ago (some more that 20 years) in the protracted Congolese refugee camps is alarming, aggravated by the inappropriate site planning at the beginning, and lack of appropriate drainage system, putting refugees at risk of fatal accidents as some facilities will likely collapse.

In 2020 partners will initiate the inclusion of shelter recovery as part of the MPGs. With limited camp space in all the settlements, the operation together with the MINEMA will opt to construct a one pilot story building shelter which shall conform to integrating camps to urban settlements.

In the area of WASH, advocacy efforts and investments are needed to upgrade and improve the reliability of water supply systems as well as for the maintenance and expansion of sanitation facilities. Meanwhile, most of the access ways to sanitation facilities should be adapted for people with disabilities.

While primary health care is prioritized, secondary and tertiary health referrals are limited due to very low funds. Health posts in Mugombwa and Kigeme require upgrading the centres in structure, staffing and logistics. Rehabilitation of Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke health centres is needed. Accreditation of the camp based health facilities is pending until the recommendations of the MoH are met. Regular advocacy needs to continue in 2020 with Government stakeholders to continue integrate all refugees into the national HIV and Hepatitis program Programme. Inclusion of urban refugees including students studying in urban areas into community-based health insurance system was implemented in 2019 with the hope of extending it to refugees in camps in the coming years.

In the area of education, financial support will be needed in order to increase the absorption capacity of host community schools in the vicinity of camps by constructing additional education facilities including classrooms, latrines, laboratories, libraries, IT labs and girls’ rooms. Financial support will also be needed in order to upgrade camp based education infrastructure in Kiziba Camp, where the school will be taken over by the district once the Ministry of Education standards are achieved. Response partners will continue towards ensuring that refugee children enjoy their basic needs, including for education by providing supplies and reinforcing the welfare of students with the provision of meals at school.

In 2020-2021 advantage will be taken from the CRRF context to integrate as much as possible refugees’ access to basic services into the development programme. The refugee response must invest in the creation of more joint programmes with other UN agencies to address some basic needs of the refugees.
Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

Limited access to vocational training and land for refugees and insufficient budget for start-up capital are the major unmet needs to initiate some livelihood activities in order to build refugee self-reliance. The livelihood strategy combined with Community Based Protection initiatives and implementation of recommendations of the gender assessment, participatory assessment and others, alongside as the introduction of cash-based interventions, should lead to an increased self-reliance and community self-management.

At the same time, response partners will continue to address the challenges faced by populations of concern in terms of local integration, including but not limited to the lack of equal access to higher education and the job market; issues linked to freedom of movement (authorization required to leave the camp) which despite the favourable legal framework hinders their actual access to work, etc.

Follow up must be maintained for the rollout of a network of Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs) which stopped in 2017, and which will help with identification of most vulnerable refugees should be facilitated with the community, taking up a greater responsibility in identification and better targeted response and strengthened self-management of community-based structures, starting with a community mapping exercise carried out across the operation in 2018. For 2020 it is expected to have a well-functioning network of COVs in all locations with COVs specialized in various protection areas. Exchange and capacity building shall be strengthened through a COV peer-network.

A recent joint assessment carried out by Nyamagabe District, UNHCR, FAO and WFP in November 2019, in Mushishito marshland near Kigeme camp revealed that there is a possibility of inclusion of refugees in the marshland’s activities and replication of Misizi project activities in other districts hosting refugees. In the area of food security and livelihoods capacity building of small holder farmers (refugees and host communities) is needed. Internments in that areas will focus in providing training and assistance to cooperatives members on sustainable agricultural production that include agriculture nutrition sensitive and climate smart agriculture for identified crops; assist cooperative members in identify and using appropriate post-harvest handling technologies. Training cooperatives members in farming as business and access to finance including the development of inclusive business models for the big cooperative and assist cooperative members in appropriate identification and use of clean energy.

Durable Solutions

Based on the intention monitoring exercises conducted in 2018-2019 in all Congolese camps, some 13,000 individuals demonstrated the intention to return to the DRC, except for those in Kiziba camp. About 1,000 Burundians have expressed a willingness to return. Given the volatile political and security situation in both the DRC and Burundi, promoted voluntary repatriation to these countries is not foreseeable. However, UNHCR has proposed to the GoR that those who wish to spontaneously return may be accompanied by UNHCR to ensure that they benefit from return package and be included in returnee monitoring. This proposal is under discussion for a potential tripartite framework to be developed with the DRC. Cross border discussions between DRC, Rwandan Governments and UNHCR were held in 2019 at technical level to discuss options for facilitating spontaneous return to safe zones in DRC and must continue in 2020. Congolese refugees in a protracted situation continued to benefit from multi-year planning and prioritization for the strategic use of resettlement to create protection dividends.

In 2019, the USA announced the reduction of refugee’s admissions programme from 30,000 to 18,000 and introduced additional criteria which will limit the operations ability to make new submissions. Whilst departures are expected to continue at a lower rate, this has drastically affected the operations already limited the ability to resettle protracted Congolese refugees within the set targets of the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy.

Given the limited prospects for Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep) and Resettlement in 2020, response partners will seek to facilitate socio-economic inclusion as the solution for most refugees. However, refugees, especially those living in camps have been less inclined to be interested in self-reliance initiatives due to the hope of being resettled to a third country, however, this may change in 2020 due to the change in USA admissions policy. In 2020 and 2021, potential for local integration could be achieved through implementation of the alternative to camps policy, self-reliance and advocacy for the prevention of statelessness.

While obstacles to freedom of movement have been identified such as the need for authorization to leave the camp, refugees have the right to work, start a business, continue education and are not subject to an encampment policy. Response partners should then engage in full-fledged advocacy to achieve the inclusion of refugees in national planning.

Building on opportunities created by nationality law revision and CRRF approach adoption, opportunities for access to nationality for persons of concern must continue to be explored in 2020-2021.

In addition, response partners will seek to conduct a socio-economic profiling for a gradual transition to a protection systems and targeted, needs-based assistance.

Emergency preparedness

In preparation for a possible Burundian influx, an inter-agency contingency plan is under review with all the partners involved in the response and projects the
arrival of some 30,000 Burundian refugees through Gatore and Nyanza reception centres. In 2020, preparedness activities will focus on strengthening of camp infrastructures as well as the development of reception centres in case of a new influx. Additional advocacy and capacity building interventions will also target local authorities, response partners, as well as host communities to foster emergency response capacities. Additionally, partners will continue to advocate for the preservation of the asylum space for the reception of a new influx.

**Host Population**

Key challenges in terms of peaceful coexistence include connecting factors between the communities which are not yet supported enough (use of common spaces, joint events and activities), and dividing factors (competition over resources, general lack of occupation, unemployment, limited livelihood opportunities) which in some cases lead to tensions and negative coping strategies (prostitution, alcoholism, drug abuse).

Learning from previous experience with refugee camps in Rwanda, refugees and host communities share resources. In 2020, advocacy will be continued or initiated with the aim of enhancing peaceful coexistence between refugees and members of the host community. The GIZ Civil Peace Service (ZFD) continues to be a key partner in the response engaging local actors to implement various programs and projects that include both refugees and host community members: educational cinema, participatory theatre, an inter-camp magazine, joint youth activities (Umuganda, cultural dance, music and sports), the construction of a mediation centre and conducting structural peace dialogue sessions among leaders from both communities. These interventions are aimed at building the capacity of ‘key actors’ in the refugee and host community, enhancing their ability to become a driving force in peaceful coexistence and active agents of change, increasing overall autonomy and self-reliance.
Response Strategy and Priorities

Overall Strategy

Following four years of interventions related to the Burundian emergency influx, the situation has stabilized, and most emergency facilities have been upgraded to more durable structures and systems. After more than 23 years living as refugees in Rwanda - and with no foreseeable possibility of safe, dignified return - the response strategy for the protracted Congolese refugee situation is focused on inclusion of refugees in national systems and scaling up livelihoods so refugees can graduate from dependency, become self-reliant, and contribute to the local economy.

Under the One UN umbrella, concerted efforts have been made to ensure developmental outcomes in the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP 2018 – 2023) that outlines the inclusion of refugees in the national planning processes in lieu of having parallel systems specifically meant for refugees. With clearly set-out baselines and yearly (where applicable) target data, and a corresponding Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the UNDAP, all progress registered are being tracked in an efficient manner and reviewed on a mid-year and end-year basis.

The Multi-Year Multi-Partner Strategy (MYMPS) will also be used as a vehicle to attain the desired results of the refugee response plan, by inculcating more innovative, long-term programmes with various internal and external partners, which are complementary to ongoing development. Lastly, as part of the UNDAP Joint Programmes, the One UN family of agencies will seek to leverage existing comparative advantages and pool resources in order to achieve common development and humanitarian oriented results, while reducing redundancy and overlap of agency activities. This will in turn significantly reduce operational costs and increase efficiency in the delivery of programmatic and operational activities.

Considering the above, the CRP’s Strategic Directions for 2020-2021 are to Protect, Respond, Include, Empower and Solve. Not only does these 5 Strategic Directions enforce UNHCR’s core mandate to respond and protect, but also emphasise the need for all CRP partners to empower persons of concern and walk the talk of solving refugee situations fully.

In order to avoid protracted encampment and overreliance on humanitarian aid, it is critical to focus on the development and implementation of multiyear and multi-partner solutions strategies that will allow us to progressively move away from the care and maintenance model while ensuring that programme delivery is done in an efficient, more sustainable and cost-effective manner.

The 2020/2021 CRRP Strategic Directions in Rwanda are:

1. **Continue to ensure reception, protection and assistance for all persons of concern**, including new arrivals;
2. **Targeting of assistance** to the most vulnerable persons of concern, including persons with specific needs and a community-based approach;
3. **Expanding cash-based interventions** to gains in efficiency and effectiveness, and promote refugees’ financial inclusion and contribution to the local economy;
4. **Pursue the roll out of alternative cooking energy solutions** in all camps in line with the national policy banning the use of firewood;
5. **Reinforce advocacy and strategic development partnerships** for the inclusion of all refugees in national systems health and education, in line with Government policy;
6. **Support the economic inclusion of refugees and food security** with the objective to foster refugees’ self-reliance and their progressive graduation out of humanitarian assistance;
7. **Continue seeking for the implementation of durable solutions** to refugee situations.

To meet these challenging requests, all CRP partners must adhere and comply with the 2030 Strategic Vision for Refugees: “By 2030 all refugees including potential new influx as well as returnees are living safe, dignified and productive lives across Rwanda and supported by Government-led services and programs, with camps transformed into integrated settlements. In short, this vision is UNHCR Rwanda’s commitment to the people we serve”.

RWANDA COUNTRY RP – JANUARY 2020-DECEMBER 2021
Strengthening Livelihoods and Resilience

Following the CRRF and Leaders’ Summit commitment on livelihoods, the key priority will be strengthening the livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees and their host communities by scaling up the most sustainable and cost-effective interventions. To make this happen, the joint Government-UNHCR Economic Inclusion Strategy, currently under review, will be the key instrument to focus more on the implementation of market-based livelihood interventions, both in the areas of farming and business and help graduate refugees from humanitarian assistance by offering an integrated package including facilitating their enhanced access to jobs and businesses, productive assets and socio-economic services.

CRP partners in Rwanda aim to ensure that refugees are not left behind in programming for access to justice, livelihoods, environment and sustainable development. Existing programmes will be expanded. These include:

**Youth entrepreneurship:** UNDP’s YouthConnekt programme will be expanded to include youth and women refugees within its target groups. UNHCR also has a programme for entrepreneurship development through the private sector. UNDP and UNHCR will explore opportunities to link these programmes. There is a suggestion to link skills-building of refugees to needs in the environmental sector, such as ecosystem restoration.

**Environmental and land management:** UNDP, as co-chair of the Environment sector working group, will advocate for the inclusion of refugee camp environmental issues and land management in and around refugee camps. This initiative can be linked to UNHCR’s partnership with the private sector for the supply of clean energy to refugees and host communities.

**Access to Justice:** UNDP will seek to scale up, and UNHCR to scale down, provision of legal aid in Gicumbi district/Gihembe camp. This strategy is intended to move away from parallel service provision for refugees, while fostering coordination of joint UNDP-UNHCR efforts to strengthen capacity of national and local authorities in the access to justice sector. Both agencies will also join their efforts to support conflict resolution.

**Food security and nutrition:** Building on it strong technical expertise and experience to support in sustainable agricultural production for refugee’s and host communities’ enhanced food security, nutrition and income, FAO will assist in Agriculture value chain promotion, through nutrition sensitive and climate smart agriculture, post-harvest handling technologies as well as bioenergy. FAO will also advocate to agricultural government authority.

**Leaving No One Behind in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Supporting the Government’s domestication of the SDGs messaging, support will be provided for awareness raising activities to ensure that people in Rwanda and Government institutions are aware of the importance of addressing issues relating to refugees in the national development agenda.
Partnership and Coordination

The Refugee Coordination Model (RMC) in Rwanda is co-coordinated by the Government (MINEMA) and UNHCR, in close cooperation with other UN Agencies, NGOs as well as operational and development partners. This 2020-2021 Rwanda Country Refugee Response Plan (CRP) is a UNHCR-led inter-agency appeal bringing together 17 humanitarian and development partners who are working together to ensure complementarity and effectiveness in the refugee response.

CRP partners are involved in the planning of the refugee response through the contribution to the participatory needs assessment and other inter-agency assessments, including the review of the UNHCR’s Country Operational Plan. They attend the Refugee Coordination Meeting (RCM) every second month to keep all stakeholders updated on latest happening, and to brainstorm collectively on how best to handle challenges encountered and chart the way forward. They also attend in regular field coordination meetings doing the follow up on sectoral activities. In addition, UNHCR works closely with refugee leaders, refugee community groups and conducts regular protection monitoring through focus group discussion and households visits to conduct protection monitoring and ensure that humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner.

To implement its protection and assistance programme, UNHCR engages NGO partners, both national and international, Government institutions and the private sector. The NGO partners are involved in UNHCR programming aspects and when possible, raise funds to complement UNHCR’s efforts. In 2019, project partnership agreements are signed with eight international NGOs, two National NGOs, two Government Institutions and UNOPS. Similar arrangements will continue in 2020. UNHCR will continue engaging with the private sector in the areas of energy, construction and livelihoods in 2019. The private sector is a core of Rwanda’s national development strategy and thus a pillar of the operation’s self-reliance strategy.

Considering the adoption of CRRF by the GoR in February 2018, UNHCR in collaboration with MINEMA is expanding strategic partnership with other key institutions notably the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Local Government, Education, Health, District authorities, and others to strengthen protection and solutions for refugees, in line, particularly with the GoR Leaders’ Summit Commitments. In February 2019 the interagency task force reviewed and validate a Strategic Document on refugees’ inclusion of refugees in Rwanda. The relationship with district authorities in areas hosting refugees is also being strengthened and will be continued in 2020.

In preparation for the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, UNHCR had intense consultations with the GoR which provided an update on the progress made in meeting its four commitments made by the GoR in 2016 and on the revision of existing pledges and the announcement of one new pledge.

The One UN in Rwanda continues to play a key advisory role in the formulation of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) by participating in the sector working groups and other technical meetings during the elaboration process. A key gap that was identified from the previous two processes was the inclusion of policies and strategies aimed at including refugees in the national planning mechanisms – in order to adhere to the programming principle of Leave No One Behind. To this end, UNHCR as an active participant in the One UN and UNCT, has been advocating in 2017 and 2018 for the inclusion of refugees and returnees in the UNDAP II (2018-2023) and the national development agenda. This has been addressed in the new United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II 2018-2023) via the inclusion of baselines, targets and indicators that speak to refugee inclusion in all three of the UNDAP pillars, which are aligned the 3 pillars of the NST1: Economic Transformation, Social Transformation and Transformational Governance. The UNDAP was officially endorsed by the Government of Rwanda and will be taken into consideration as part of implementation of the NST1 over the next five years. UNHCR is an active participant in the UNDAF task force. The UNHCR Representative is a focal person to sit on the recently instituted SDG Taskforce, as well as co-chairing the UNDAP Results Group 2B: Resilience. UNHCR advocates strongly, including through donors to ensure refugees are included, and UNHCR is an active member of the Development Partners Coordination Group chaired by the Ministry of Finance.

Institutional collaboration between UNHCR and FAO

Overall Outcome: Promote livelihood and food security of refugees and host communities in Rwanda through climate smart agriculture and value chain development. Activities include:

- Joint needs assessment, planning and implementation of programs;
- Livelihood sector working group/coordination established;
- Joint resource mobilization (for refugees and host communities);
- Provide technical assistance in sustainable agriculture including post-harvest handling technologies;
- Provide Technical support on Value chain, Energy, climate smart agriculture etc;
- Access and advocate to government key institutions (eg. MINAGRI and the Ministry of Environment);
- Promotion of integrated (agriculture / livestock) approach to build and strengthen self-reliance of refugees.
Partners in the response

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
Alight
CARE International
Humanity and Inclusion
Plan International
Practical Action
Save the Children International
The Legal Aid Forum
UN - Food and Agriculture Organization
UN - International Organization for Migration
UN - United Nations Development Programme
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN - United Nations International Children's Fund
UN - United Nations Population Fund
UN - World Food Programme
UN – UNWOMEN (The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
World Vision International

Planned Response for 2020 and 2021

Response to Refugee Populations

Protection

Key protection priorities include: ensuring access to territory and asylum, registration and national documentation, promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and preserving the civilian character of asylum. These priorities will be pursued through advocacy, protection monitoring, capacity-building for authorities and partners, and the continued strengthening of community-based protection networks in all refugee locations.

Child Protection Response: A comprehensive response involves strengthening the child protection case management system, ensuring family tracing and restoring links for all UASC, building alternative care options for unaccompanied children and other children in need of care arrangements. Furthermore, developing and enhancing the community-based engagement approach both in terms of prevention and response, moving beyond facilitating recreation activities to facilitating integrated child and youth empowerment programmes. The Best Interest Determination (BID) process will continue to be carried out for refugees to identify suitable durable solutions with the participation of the government and various child protection actors in Rwanda.

Furthermore, community-based mechanisms and structures will enhance the community knowledge on child protection issues and assist in the identification of children at different types of risk. Community mobilizers’ role will be enhanced to ensure identifying and reaching out to refugee children at risk in camps through home visits and the provision of social and PSS structured activities. Awareness raising activities are also conducted on child protection issues and gender equality. Children at risk cases will be identified such as learning difficulties, articulation problems, child abuse, separated children, domestic violence and out-of-school children. UNHCR and RRP partners will continue working for the protection of children, adolescents and youth through targeted activities and programs. The efforts to offer tailored protection to refugee children living with their biological or alternative care families in urban areas will continue through an improved case management system involving host community resources.

SGBV: In the past years, UNHCR has focused a lot on the capacity building of the partners in the past few years which has led to more time identification of cases and hence more quality multi-sectoral response including in the urban setting. In 2020 this will be further reinforced through ongoing technical support and capacity building not only for NGO partners but for Government institutions, law enforcement and UN agencies etc. Community outreach and awareness raising teams with community-based protection mechanisms will be created and reinforced. Focus will be put on strengthening national level of coordination among all stakeholders including the Government; and advocacy interventions will be conducted for the integration of refugees into national structures.

CRP partners in collaboration with MINEMA will strengthen the community outreach, also by advocating for integrating refugees into national Community-based Child and Family Protection structures, called “Inshuti
z’Umuryango (IZU)\(^{1}\) supported by MIGEPROF, UNFPA and UNICEF, to increase mass awareness raising campaigns on sexual and reproductive health education (SRHE), protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and SGBV etc. Ongoing collaboration among UN sister agencies will also be strengthened to confront the issues of women’s empowerment and combat trafficking. SGBV mainstreaming, launched in end 2018, in all sectors will be ensured by providing technical support to partners at all levels. Adequate information management, systematic data collection and analysis, and reporting mechanisms will be promoted and supported. UNHCR aims to roll out the GBVIMS pending agreement with the Government and GBV info management system (GBVIMS) partners regarding data management to be codified in locally agreed information sharing protocols.

In 2020-2021, partners will monitor the intentions of refugees, and ensure that spontaneous returns are conducted on a voluntary basis, and in a safe and dignified manner. Returnees will be provided with information, counselling, and logistical support up to border crossing points. In parallel, UNHCR will work closely with RRP partners and the government on preparedness measures for the reception of a potential new influx from Burundi.

- 100 per cent children under 12 months old who have been issued birth certificates by the authorities;
- 40,000 identity documents issued for refugees in 2020;
- 100 per cent of persons of concern living in areas accessible to humanitarian workers;
- All identified SGBV survivors receive appropriate support;
- 120 community-based committees/ groups working on SGBV prevention and response;
- 15,000 adolescents including First Time Young Mothers (FTYM) participating in targeted programmes;
- 80 per cent of registered UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated/completed;
- 5,000 persons with specific needs receive specialized protection support.

**Education**

In line with the commitment of the Government to integrate refugees in the national education system, refugees are provided with orientation and back-to-school initiatives to prepare them for the Rwandan curriculum, and then enrolled in national schools where possible. In 2020 - 2021, the full integration for primary and secondary student will be the focus to ensure that all refugee children have access to quality education by constructing additional education facilities including classrooms, latrines, laboratories, libraries, IT labs and girls’ rooms. Partners will also keep advocating for all teachers to be recruited and paid under the government payroll. Access to early childhood education will be prioritized in 2020, learning environment will continue to be improved, hence classroom will be constructed to reduce the ratio of children per classroom.

Vulnerable refugee households will be supported financially in order to expenditures linked to school uniforms, scholastic materials, textbooks and school feeding. Also, refugee student performing well in national exam will be supported to enrol into national boarding schools, through school of excellence program. Whenever possible, scholarships will be allocated to students with exceptional academic records. Hence, CRP partners will also continue to close the gap in the number of children who have access to early childhood development interventions and provide early childhood education in the camp that will positively contribute to refugee children’s future education and inclusion in national systems.

- 100 per cent of children enrolled in primary education by end of 2020;
- 80 per cent of children enrolled in secondary education by end of 2020;
- 100 per cent of refugee children accessing national education system by 2021;
- 1,000 of persons of concern who receive tertiary education scholarships;
- 12,000 of children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education.

**Livelihoods and Resilience**

The Joint Government-UNHCR Strategy on Livelihoods and the Economic Inclusion of Refugees (2016-2020), currently under review, will form the basis for all livelihood interventions. The joint strategy guides all partners. The strategy aims to ensure that refugees and host communities can fulfil their productive potential, as self-reliant members of Rwandan society, contributing to the economic development of host districts.

The existing response revolves around perceiving refugees as potential consumers, suppliers, and employees. In view of this, partnerships with several specialized organizations are envisaged in the fields of: entrepreneurship, value chains development, financial inclusion and access to finance, crowdfunding, technical vocational education and training. In 2020 and 2021, efforts to support refugees who have the potential to be self-reliant, will be prioritized along with the right to, and access to, work, to gradually move them away from dependency on humanitarian aid.

Following a sequential, time-bound, integrated approach, priority areas for 2020-2021 will include: access to productive assets and income, enhancing skills, particularly targeting youth, coaching and mentoring for business entrepreneurship, facilitating better market linkages and access to financial services.

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1 Inshuti z’Umuryango are Community-based Child and Family Protection volunteers (A man and a woman) operating at Village level as a para-professional social workforce for preventing and responding to all forms of child abuse, child exploitation and neglect.
Targeted support will be provided to the refugees and their host communities to increase income and food production from agricultural enterprises.

In 2020-2021 priority areas will focus in generating analysis related to agriculture, livestock, rural value chains, energy, forestry land suitability and tenure, food security and resilience to inform evidence-based programming advocacy and decision making.

Coverage will be expanded by including the vulnerable households who have ability to be involved in income-generating activities. In parallel, the other key priorities will be to strengthen evidence-based policy advocacy for enhanced economic inclusion of the refugees. Efforts will be made to increase their access to jobs and employment (including owning a business and facilitating their enhanced mobility), and for greater access to public services such as health, education, safety nets, and financial services.

- 12,000 refugees will be provided with business training by end 2020;
- 15 per cent of refugees will be employed by end 2020 and 25 per cent by end 2021.

### Energy and Environment

Interventions will be designed to alleviate environmental degradation and undertake specific activities that promote and protect natural resources shared by refugee and host communities in the village. Awareness and education on protecting the environment will be conducted, agro-forestry promoted, and trees planted to mitigate against soil erosion. In addition, a rehabilitation work will be carried out on the upper part where the dangerous gullies are located by erecting retaining walls in refugee camps to prevent gullies formation and drainage channels will be built for storm water control.

In 2020-2021 priority areas will focus in enhancing refugees and host communities social and economic inclusion and self-reliable through inclusive, clean and sustainable value chain development programmes; strengthen social cohesion and improve the sustainability of natural resource management in areas hosting refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and IDPs through conflict sensitive programming and provide safe and sustainable access to fuel and energy for refugees and their host communities.

In line with the government policy CRP partners will pursue the roll out of alternative energy-saving solutions in order to avoid the usage of firewood and promote clean cooking solutions. Clean and sustainable energy sources will also be encouraged (ex. Solar energy). These will also be encouraged for lighting and to reduce fuel consumption from diesel generators. CRP partners with expertise in energy will also continue to promote the use of sustainable energy for productive use through a market-based approach attracting companies selling solar homes systems to refugees.

- 100 per cent of camp-based refugee-households will have access to sustainable energy in 2020 and 2021;

### Food

Food security partners aim to ensure access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food on a daily basis for all refugees in camps. In 2020-2021, as a result of the socio-economic profiling of the refugee population, blanket distribution of food assistance will transition to a targeted food assistance approach. Refugees identified as less vulnerable will receive a reduced ration or no ration, based on their socio-economic profile, vulnerabilities and capacities. Persons with specific needs or the most vulnerable will continue to receive food rations and other support, including school feeding and nutrition interventions, according to needs. In parallel, in-kind food assistance will transition to cash-based interventions to promote nutritional diversity through the wider variety of food available in the market.

New arrivals in reception/transit centres will continue to receive in-kind food support (high-energy biscuits transit ration for two-to-four days or hot meals) upon arrival and until relocation to a refugee camp. To prevent deterioration in the nutrition status of the population, nutrition education counselling will be conducted proactively.

- 100 per cent of refugees in need of food assistance in camps will receive full food rations.

### Health and Nutrition

In 2020-2021 the response will prioritize integrated access to quality primary health care services for refugees and host community as well as improve camp-based primary health centres and government secondary and tertiary facilities near the camp. These interventions will help to decrease morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases and epidemics and enhance prevention of under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia, for both refugee and host communities. Partners will ensure that health care staff are adequately trained, and maintain enough quantities of medicine, vaccines and medical items for the camp and surrounding populations. Accreditation process of the camps’ health facilities by the MoH will continue. Activities tailored to prevent, control and manage communicable disease, particularly malaria, typhoid fever and diarrheal illnesses will be expanded.

In 2020-2021 priority areas will focus in improving food security and livelihoods of refugees and host communities through developing agricultural cash-based interventions, nutrition sensitive and climate smart agricultural programmes and strengthening social protection.

The nutrition response camps will focus on prevention, screening/detection, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, especially anaemia through a Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach along with support, promotion and protection of Infants and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices. Pregnant women and
nursing mothers will receive nutritional support through blanket SFP, and children aged 6-23 months will be provided with preventive blanket SFP. Nutrition education and awareness raising for behavioural change at the community level will be a continuous process. Nutrition programmes will work in close collaboration with the health, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, protection, livelihood and agriculture sectors.

- 100 percent of urban refugees are enrolled in the national health;
- 100 per cent of live births will be attended by skilled personnel;
- Global Acute Malnutrition Prevalence of maximum 3 per cent across the camps.
- 45% of women and girls in reproductive health using Family planning methods

**Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)**

In 2020-2021, the shelter response in will prioritize finalizing the transformation of existing semi-permanent shelters with plastic sheeting roofing to corrugated iron sheets and focus on communal structures (in all camps) transforming them from plastic sheeting to more durable facilities to accommodate families. Focus will also be put on ensuring the construction of new shelters in order to welcome new arrival refugees and relocate families living in high risk areas and decongest the shelters in order to provide adequate family shelters to refugees. With the shelters constructed in mud blocks or wall made of reeds/poles with mud, there is need for routine mudding or plastering which is done closely with the families to ensure the shelters are maintained and sensitization of full ownership by the families. The transition will be complemented by improvements in public infrastructure within the camps, i.e. drainage works, access roads, and other key facilities to ensure adequate conditions for sanitation, as well as the preservation and protection of the environment. Considering the possibility of a new influx from Burundi in 2020 and the congestion of Mahama camp, more alternatives are still required and advocacy between UNHCR and MINEMA is necessary to identify and allocate space for Mahama extension.

- 3,236 shelters constructed;
- 5,934 shelters repaired;
- 150 structures maintained;
- 80 per cent refugees have access to the adequate NFIs.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

In 2020-2021, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response will include to work with implementing partners and government agencies providing water services (WASAC) to maintain an increase the level of potable water supply in all the camps, routine maintenance and repair pipe leakages, taps replacement and also monitoring of the distributed water quality and quantity and bacteriological analysis is performed through daily water sampling and testing. There is need for rehabilitation/construction and maintenance of water kiosks in all refugee camps to protect the water infrastructures from vandalism but also to ensure sustainable water supply to camps and host communities connected to the water network.

The continued increase of the population in the camp is subjected to the need for more additional sanitation structures to be developed. For example, in 2020 in Mahama, there will be a need for constructing 700 toilets drop holes; fixing of the improved hand washing stands; routine solid waste management with involvement of the population in the camp and routine maintenance of the existing sanitation infrastructures. However, the intervention will be slowed by the limited spaces for additional infrastructures in all camp. All constructed/installed WASH facilities will need regular maintenance and replacement to satisfy the purpose of availing adequate sanitation facilities and continue to promote hygiene and avoiding significant health risks linked to substandard sanitation and hygiene. An adequate drainage system in all camps is also needed to ensure sanitation and hygiene; a major challenge is surface run-off which can contribute to spreading disease.

CRP partners will continue working on the improvement of sanitation infrastructures to ensure the gender-segregation of sanitation facilities and access for persons with specific needs. They will also ensure community participation and involvement in hygiene promotion to promote good hygiene practices through education and awareness promotion campaigns.

- Refugees have access to an average of 20 litres of potable water available per person per day;
- In camps there are less than 20 refugees per drop-hole in latrines;
- 4,277 of communal sanitary facilities/ latrines constructed;
- 137,187 persons of concern reached by environmental health and hygiene campaigns.
Planned ETM response for 2020

Reception and registration

For the organization of evacuation flights, UNHCR coordinates with the authorities regarding the delivery of the entry permits of refugees and asylum-seekers registered using manifest list sent by UNHCR operation in Libya. Evacuees depart to Rwanda with a travel document which is used for their identification and UNHCR together with the immigration authorities cross check the information with the manifest. Upon arrival in Rwanda, the evacuees are immediately transferred from the Airport to the Gashora transit center, located in Bugesera District which is approximately 60km from Kigali. At Gashora, they are registered and provided with documentation that enables them to access to protection services and basic humanitarian assistance. Once in the center, UNHCR together with MINEMA proceed with the individual registration of all refugees and asylum-seekers. They are registered with the same legal status they had in Libya.

The individual registration followed by a protection interview and interpreters allows UNHCR to collect and confirm information on where they come from, their age, the reason of flight from their country of origin and the flight paths. UNHCR also documents known whereabouts of their family members, checks if they were recognized as refugees in another countries, any abuse and exploitation among any other specific protection needs. This first step allows UNHCR to have comprehensive information in its database for further protection assessment leading to the identification of durable solutions.

Upgrade of the Transit centre: Since the signature of the MoU in September 2019, the ETM Gashora Transit Center improvement works has been conducted through the rehabilitation of 30 accommodation blocks which had the capacity to accommodate 320 evacuees from Libya by the end of November 2019. All the houses are equipped with beds, bedding materials, sitting room chairs and etc. To increase the capacity of the ETM facility and meet the WASH humanitarian standards, sex-segregated communal facilities were constructed, including 11 blocks of dischargeable latrines (44-drop holes), 10 shower blocks of 40 shower rooms, 6...
garbage collection blocks, 4 public laundry slabs. By the end of November, the WASH facilities had the capacity to provide safe access to sanitation within the center for more than 300 individuals.

For the public infrastructures, in 2019, the operation constructed a new dining/kitchen block servicing refugees and asylum-seekers to have their meals; a reception/medical screening area in durable materials at the main entrance for medical screening services upon arrival; a new security screening area at the main entrance assisting the police for security checks at the center. Improvement of sports and recreation facilities were achieved through the construction of the new basketball/volleyball courts, the rehabilitation of an improved football pitch ground, and the construction of an indoor game structure. Support was provided to partners and security staff through the creation of office spaces. The drainage network was increased with the construction of more than 900m masonry-built channels. In 2020, the operation shall continue to improve the capacity of Gashora Transit Centre, including construction of additional structures to accommodate some 200 persons, so that 500 persons at any given time can be accommodated.

**Protection and assistance**

The Gashora Transit Center was established in 2015 in response to the influx of Burundian refugees fleeing insecurity in their country. UNHCR Rwanda is currently engaged in the rehabilitation and upgrading of this Transit Centre which was originally built with a capacity of hosting up to 320 refugees and will soon have the capacity to welcome a maximum of 500 persons in conformity with UNHCR humanitarian standards.

Once in the Gashora Transit Center, the evacuees go through an initial medical screening to assess their health and nutritional status. With the reception of the first flights in 2019, it was generally observed that the prevalence of infectious disease (e.g. Tuberculosis), skin disease due to lack of hygiene in detention and psychological distress (including mental illness) was high. Out of the 306 refugees and asylum-seekers received, 14 have been tested positive for pulmonary tuberculosis and required immediate support following the national TB protocol. Moreover, the psychological assessments showed that more than 40 refugees and asylum-seekers are suffering from psychological distress, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression, while 3 refugees and asylum-seekers were diagnosed with psychotic disorder and were referred to a tertiary psychiatric care.

In the transit facility, response partners provide them with essential protection services and humanitarian assistance including accommodation, education, food, basic hygiene products, health care services and etc.

In the area of health, all refugees and asylum seekers have access to primary health care and psychosocial support in the health center within the ETM facility. CRP partners are also facilitating medical referrals for patients requiring secondary or tertiary health care. In addition, in collaboration with the district health office, access to basic and comprehensive reproductive health and HIV services will be supported. These services include, antenatal, post-natal and child delivery and family planning services. Also, HIV services such as voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), PMTCT, anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and community awareness will be supported. Moreover, health related services in relation to SGBV which include provision of PEP, clinical management of rape, emergency contraception, and presumptive treatment of STIs will be supported. There is a need to ensure that staffing, tools, equipment and supplies are adequate and supported.

The nutrition programs consist of nutrition screening of new arrivals, supplemental feeding program for children aged 6 to 23 months, lactating and pregnant women and persons with chronic disease (TB and HIV) and nutrition education. This includes therapeutic feeding program to acutely malnourished children (MAM and SAM)."

Considering the profile of the evacuees that includes many children and youth who went through traumatic experience during their journey and in Libya, response partners are investing in education activities. Literacy and language classes in English and Kinyarwanda have started and accelerated learning programs will take place in 2020. As part of the healing process, UNHCR also facilitates their access to leisure and entertainment activities. In this framework, structured sport activities with trainers (football, volleyball and basketball) as well as a dance classes have already been set up and more activities will be developed in 2020.

In the area of protection, special attention and support will be provided to the refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs including refugees with disabilities, women head household, children at risk including unaccompanied children, and SGBV survivors. For these last two categories, UNHCR developed specific child protection activities (BIA/BID and family tracing with the support of the ICRC) and interventions for the prevention and response to SGBV. Refugees and asylum seekers will also have access to legal assistance and counselling.

Refugees and asylum seekers receive a package of non-food items. Hot meals are provided upon arrival and during their stay in Gashora. In 2020, response partners will support a progressive transition to Cash-Based Interventions for food and non-food assistance so that the evacuees enjoy the same rights and standards of assistance as other refugees living in Rwanda. The purchase of their own food and goods from local market as well as cooking of their own food in communal kitchens will not only allow them to rebuild a sense normality but it will also ensure that the assistance is adapted to their needs. It will also give them the opportunity to contribute to the local economy and to interact with the host population.

In the area of WASH, persons of concern are provided with over 20 liters of potable water per person per day and ensures the maintenance of sanitation facilities, as
well as waste management and hygiene promotion activities.

Considering the importance of peaceful coexistence with the host community and the sustainability of this ETM, response partners will also support quick impact projects benefiting both the evacuees and Rwandese population, which could include among others, the creation of a youth center in Gashora and the organization of sport and cultural activities (football tournaments, participation of refugees to Umuganda community work among others).

Durable solutions

Once refugees and asylum-seekers are registered, UNHCR undertakes all necessary efforts to facilitate the timely search and implementation of durable solutions based on the principle of voluntariness. While some may benefit from resettlement to third countries, others will be helped to return to countries where asylum had previously been granted, or to return to their home countries if it is safe to do so. Some may be given permission to remain and integrate in Rwanda to benefit from complementary pathways. For unaccompanied children, a Best Interests Determination (BID) is completed with the participation of response partners and the GoR, to seek the most appropriate solution.

- **Resettlement**: For those found to meet the refugee definition and for whom resettlement is deemed to be the most appropriate durable solution, UNHCR prepares resettlement files which are then submitted to third countries for consideration. Following screening of the files in resettlement countries, the responsible parties of the governments of third countries will either undertake a mission to Rwanda to directly interview those under consideration for resettlement or may decide based solely on the files shared with them by UNHCR, without necessarily undertaking a resettlement mission to Rwanda. If accepted, the transport of the refugees for the resettlement country will be organized by the operational partner IOM.

The resettlement of refugees evacuated from Libya to Rwanda is part of UNHCR’s overall resettlement program. Refugees who were already present in Rwanda and deemed to require resettlement as a solution, are also included in the program. UNHCR in Rwanda has so far received a total of 900 resettlement pledges including 450 places from Norway, 100 places from France, 200 from Canada and 150 places from Sweden.

**Voluntary Repatriation**: Considering the ETM Rwanda’s comprehensive approach to durable solutions, UNHCR will explore potential for voluntary repatriation. This will require information gathering and sharing on the protection, security and humanitarian situation in countries and areas of origin. This analysis will allow to assess if the conditions are conducive to return and reintegration and if UNHCR can, in compliance with its protection mandate, promote and facilitate voluntary repatriation.

In order to assess evacuees’ willingness to explore this option, UNHCR will conduct intentions surveys. These intention surveys combined with information sharing will allow concerned refugees and asylum-seekers to make an informed and voluntary decision on this durable solution. 100% of evacuees who are willing to voluntary return to their country of origin, in an area where the situation is conducive to a dignified repatriation, will receive support from UNHCR Rwanda to facilitate their departure.

**Local integration and Complementary Pathways**: Enhancing self-reliance and resilience capacities are undertaken with the objective to preparing them to respond to the protection risks they face and to take advantage of opportunities leading to durable solutions. Through projects related to income-generating activities and skills training programs, UNHCR in close collaboration with the GoR will make effort to ensure that the refugees become self-reliant. This intervention is being planned based on the results of livelihoods assessments. In 2020, livelihoods activities will target around 750 evacuees and include a mix of skills training in entrepreneurship and financial literacy, TVET/Vocational training mainly in the areas of trade and ICT, as well as the allocation of sectoral cash grants allowing refugees and asylum-seekers to start small businesses.

Beyond building the resilience capacities and self-reliance of the evacuees, these activities are meant to support their socio-economic integration in Rwanda. Refugees who would not be eligible for resettlement and for whom no other durable solution is available might then be interested in settling in Rwanda, taking the opportunity offered by the GoR to opt for local integration. If not local integration, these activities could also open opportunities to access other solutions in third countries, including through humanitarian admission programs, community or private sponsorship, scholarships or labor mobility schemes, etc.
Planned response to Rwandan returnees for 2020

Between 1994 and December 2017, over 3.45 million Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda, with the majority coming from the DRC. The GoR manages reception and ensures returnees’ sustainable reintegration with support from CRP partners. Returnees arriving by land are received in transit centres where they receive basic services, before they are assisted to return to their district of origin and reintegrated into the community.

UNHCR was requested by the GoR to continue facilitating the voluntary return and reintegration of Rwandan refugees through the provision of financial assistance in 2019. This process is expected to continue in 2020.

Over the last six years, 42,815 individuals have returned to Rwanda. All refugees returning to Rwanda are registered and verified against the national database of Rwandan citizens. The vast majority arrive at three transit centres, where they can access basic services such as water, sanitation and hygiene and health, and where they receive food rations before they are transported to their district of origin for reintegration. The cash assistance upon return is enough to cover needs of returnee families for at least one year. However, there is a lack of sustainable reintegration programmes to ensure that returnees can rebuild their lives upon return. As nationals returning home, they will benefit from the government led national development plan at district level.

The unavailability of accurate figures regarding the numbers of Rwandan refugees in countries of asylum makes it difficult to predict how many would return in 2020. Reliable data is expected to be available once verification and profiling exercises are finalized in all countries of asylum. However, the introduction of biometric registration of Rwandan refugees in countries of asylum, and the sharing of such data with the Rwanda operation, is a necessity.

In order to ensure that refugees can make informed decisions regarding the available durable solutions, increased sensitization is to be conducted in countries of asylum, with clear information about the content of the reintegration package provided by UNHCR presented to potential returnees. In addition, there is a clear need to increase the operation’s field monitoring capacity, especially in terms of human resources. Sensitization can be a cost-efficient tool able to contribute significantly to the socio-economic reintegration of Rwandan returnees.

For 2019, 2,086 returnees were registered in Rwanda with an increase in December due to the security situation in South Kivu in the DRC. The expected returns for 2020 and 2021 are estimated at 3,000 individuals per year.
## 2020 Sector Financial Requirements Summary

### By Organization & Sector

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<th>Health &amp; Nutrition</th>
<th>Energy &amp; Environment</th>
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RWANDA Country Refugee Response Plan (CRP)

RWANDA COUNTRY RP – JANUARY 2020-DECEMBER 2021
## 2020-2021 Financial Requirements Summary

By Refugee Population / Situation and organization

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| Grand Total                         | 162,668,950 | 160,461,717 | 323,130,667 |