

Annual Results Report

2023

Rwanda

Acknowledgements

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, amid escalating global inflation and an increase in regional conflicts and instability, Rwanda remained a politically stable environment. Despite this, the country faced economic challenges that affected vulnerable populations, including refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced populations. In particular, the increased cost of living and commodities placed an additional strain on refugee self-reliance.

Rwanda continued its open-door policy for asylum seekers from the region and beyond, including those evacuated to the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). Nevertheless, challenges persisted in the protection environment, notably with continuing arrangements to externalize asylum procedures between the UK and Rwanda through a newly launched treaty.

A decrease in financial resources prompted mid-year reprioritization, resulting in reduced services in certain sectors, in particular, no cash assistance for NFIs as of March, no cash assistance for energy in Nyabiheke, Kigeme and Kiziba Camps as of June, a limitation on refugee referrals to hospitals to lifesaving and emergency cases only, and reduced and delayed ability to support convoys of refugee return. Despite this, UNHCR continued to encourage refugee socio-economic inclusion and employment out of camps to strengthen households' self-reliance.

Solutions continued to advance for refugees, with reinvigorated tripartite discussions between the Governments of Rwanda, DRC and UNHCR for the return of Congolese in Rwanda to the DRC and Rwandans in the DRC to Rwanda, launched by the High Commissioner in May of 2023 and ongoing technical discussions thereafter.

Building upon pledges made by the Government of Rwanda at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, Rwanda pledged to include refugees into the national Community Based Health Insurance scheme at the GRF in December 2023.

At the end of 2023, the population reached 134,000 refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced populations, indicating a 6 per cent increase from 2012, with 12,000 arrivals, 3,800 births, 7,800 resettlement departures, and 325 repatriations contributing to the growth.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Refugees, asylum seekers and stateless populations in Rwanda live in a safe environment where their protection needs are met.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	98.90%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.89%	100.00%

In Rwanda, refugees and asylum seekers enjoy freedom of movement within the country, whether in camps or urban areas. The Rwandan government also issues convention travel documents (CTD) which allow refugees to travel to other countries which recognize CTDs. In addition, there were no reported arrests of refugees or asylum seekers based on their legal status in 2023.

The Government's open-door policy for asylum seekers continued to apply for those coming from neighboring countries in 2023. All asylum claims are assessed through an individual status determination process by government authorities.

In addition, in Rwanda, the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) undertakes pre-screening interviews prior to granting access to the state-led asylum procedures. Due to lack of data sharing between UNHCR and the DGIE, UNHCR cannot accurately confirm the proportion of asylum applicants granted access to asylum procedures, but of those UNHCR is aware of, 98.89 per cent are able to access asylum procedures.

Throughout 2023, UNHCR recorded seven incidents (11 individuals) of refoulement, where individuals were unable to access asylum procedures. This was an increase compared to 3 incidents recorded in 2022.

Due to ongoing conflict in eastern DRC since end 2022, UNHCR recorded over 12,000 new arrivals in 2023. New arrivals were initially accommodated in Nkamira transit centre, with 7,290 individuals being registered as asylum seekers. While registration of asylum seekers is ongoing, UNHCR continues to advocate for simplified refugee status determination for these asylum seekers.

Data for stateless persons in Rwanda is not reported due to challenges to identify them and report on them by both UNHCR and partners.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By the end of 2025, all refugees, asylum seekers and stateless populations in Rwanda enjoy a better living conditions and improved fulfilment of basic needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.95%	59.07%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Host Community	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%
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The most recent poverty headcount for Rwanda nationally was 38.2 per cent in 2016 (EICV5)[1] but did not include refugee and asylum seekers households. Though progress to include refugees and asylum seekers in national surveys was noted,[2] the EICV 8 (running from Oct 2023 to Oct 2024) does not include them yet. UNHCR continues, to engage the GoR through the National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda (NISR) and line ministries on the possibility of including refugees and asylum seekers in national surveys and analysis.

Aside from national efforts, joint surveys by UNHCR and WFP identified in May 2023, 63 per cent of households as highly vulnerable, 26 per cent as moderately vulnerable and 10 per cent least vulnerable, showing no significant changes compared to the situation assessed in April 2022.

In 2023, refugees and asylum seekers continued to live in physically safe and secure settlements with access to communal basic facilities in camps. UNHCR continued improving the shelters in camps through construction/rehabilitation whereby the percentage of households living in adequate dwelling increased from 80 per cent to 83 per cent during the year. 100 per cent of refugees had access to water supply within a 200-meter distance, and 80 per cent of latrines were within a 50-meter distance in camps. Routine troubleshooting and development of backup systems ensured uninterrupted supply. Generally, access to water met quantity, quality, and equity standards in camps.

Efforts have been made by UNHCR and partners to promote and enhance energy access to power refugees' homes, businesses, and communities through on and off grid solutions. In 2023, over 10,096 refugee households procured solar home systems for lighting and running small businesses in all camps through Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R II) project. Based on the World Bank Energy Survey data in Rwanda, including refugee camps, 43 per cent of refugees and asylum seekers have access to Tier 1 electricity which provides electrical energy for lighting and small appliances. All refugee camps have also been connected to the national grid and all public facilities such as offices, hospitals and some schools have been connected to the grid.

Regarding access to health services, refugees in camps continued to access free primary health services and referral targeting emergencies. GoR and UNHCR supported the enrolment of urban refugees in community-based health insurance (CBHI).

Under five mortality and crude mortality rates were kept respectively around 0.2 and 0.1 deaths/1000

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Refugees and asylum seekers and other affected populations in Rwanda enjoy educational, livelihood and economic opportunities.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.52%	85.84%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.86%	48.69%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Others of Concern		100.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.65%	100.00%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Returnees	96.78%	100.00%

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) has a conducive policy framework that allows all refugees the right to decent work, freedom of movement and access to refugee IDs required to pursue formal employment opportunities. There are, however, limited self/ wage employment opportunities not only for refugees but also for the general population. UNHCR continued to work in collaboration with the GoR, development actors, financial service providers and private sector to advocate for more decent work opportunities for refugees, access to financial services and business skills needed for self-employment. In 2023, around USD 10 million were invested by various partners in the livelihood sector to support refugees and host community members access business development skills, finance resources, productive assets and graduate out of poverty.

Refugee children have access to the national education system from early childhood education to primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. As of the end of 2023, the recorded gross enrolment rate was over 91 per cent of children and young people enrolled in schools including 70 per cent in early childhood education, 119 per cent in primary and 70 per cent in secondary education, while 6 per cent attended higher education (TVET schools and university level education). It is important to mention that 33 per cent of students enrolled in primary and 29 per cent in secondary were over-aged for their respective levels. In addition, UNHCR and partners supported the enrolment of over 1,500 children and youth from refugee camps in various boarding schools and learning institutions across the country, which provided specific education for high achievers and children with disabilities.

Government of Rwanda (GoR) ensures safety and overall security in the country including all refugee locations. During the Participatory Feedback Session, however, refugees and asylum seekers voiced a need for increased street lighting and in bathroom areas. During the reporting period, 634 streetlights were installed in all camps representing about 40 per cent of the overall needed streetlights mostly in communal spaces to prevent and mitigate further exposure to GBV risks

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Increasing number of refugees in Rwanda realize their desired durable solution.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,274	325
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,677	7,826
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	131	123
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	216	313

UNHCR in collaboration with other stakeholders continued to implement comprehensive durable solution approaches for refugees and asylum seekers. In close coordination between UNHCR and the Governments of Rwanda and Burundi, voluntary repatriation for Burundian refugees was implemented at a low scale due to reduced expression of interest to return. In 2023, 325 individuals were supported to voluntarily return to Burundi in safety and dignity, compared to 932 repatriated in 2022. Cumulatively, 30,782 Burundians have returned to Burundi through UNHCR organized return convoys since August 2020. In addition, a further 172 individuals requested to cease their refugee status for self-organized return to Burundi, a 7 per cent decrease compared to the previous year.

UNHCR is implementing a multi-year durable solutions strategy that pursues resettlement for the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers evacuated from Libya, and refugees with serious protection needs. Resettlement is strategically used to pursue solutions for protracted Congolese refugees. Furthermore, UNHCR and partners have advocated for increased access to complementary pathways for refugees in Rwanda.

In 2023, 7,826 refugees (DRC 7,226, Eritrea 290, Sudan 188, Burundi 85, and other nationalities 37) departed for resettlement to ten resettlement countries (USA, Norway, Canada, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Australia and New Zealand). Of those departed, 514 were from the Emergency Transit Mechanism centre (ETM), while 123 refugees were supported to access complementary pathways (mainly family reunification). The majority of the recorded departures were to the USA, with an overall 112 per cent increase in the number of departures compared to the previous year.

27 refugees acquired alternative legal status, a 7 per cent decrease from the previous year. Further 286 individuals obtained Rwandan nationality as a durable solution. 95 per cent of these cases were through confirmation of nationality, as they were legally entitled to Rwandan nationality (mainly through parental descent), while the rest were naturalized owing to marriage with Rwandan nationals. The number of refugees with confirmations/ acquisitions of nationality increased by 13 per cent compared to 2022.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2023, UNHCR continued to face challenges in achieving results for refugees often driven by a lack of funding. The mid-year prioritization exercise saw many services and assistance cut or reduced. This often resulted in frustrations and challenges for the refugee community. During the year, 93 per cent of feedback and enquiries from refugees in camps were related to health care.

In the protection space, despite continued advocacy and engagement with the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR documented 7 refoulement incidents involving 11 individuals, attributed to discrepancies in the interpretation of international protection by the Government of Rwanda. Funding shortfalls also hindered overall refugee protection delivery with limited legal professionals and interpreters.

In refugee camps, aging infrastructures and housing continued to pose a major challenge. The formation of gullies and ravines also posed a safety risk for populations. Limited land availability in areas where camps are located also was a barrier for development. Similarly, aging water and sanitation systems incur huge resources required for daily operation and maintenance. Many of them need reconstruction to ensure continued services to forcibly displaced people. The impact of climate change, such as through more intense rainfall, leading to the formation of gullies and ravines, is also impacting infrastructure in refugee camps in Rwanda.

Although refugee children are included in the national education system, many challenges remain hindering enrolment and retention in schools as well as performance of the children. Access to quality education is hampered by shortage of basic school facilities. In addition, two schools in Kiziba refugee camp are still not fully integrated in the national system.

In terms of livelihoods, although Rwanda has inclusive economic policies towards refugees and a progressive approach to self-reliance, refugees living in Rwanda still struggle to access work, as do many Rwandans in an economic context that presents hardships for all.

Limited private sector engagement and access to markets also poses a challenge especially in the energy sector where UNHCR is trying to facilitate a transition to clean energy for cooking. Refugee incomes are often unstable with limited access to formal employment and financial services which impacts their ability to meet their basic needs resulting in dependency on humanitarian aid.

Interest for local integration among refugees remains limited. Voluntary repatriation of Burundians was only 10 per cent of the planned target, with security and reintegration conditions in Burundi cited as the main reasons cited for reduced interest. An anticipated "Go-and-See Come-and-Tell" visit could not materialize in 2023 due to funding shortfalls.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2023, UNHCR continued to coordinate the refugee response in Rwanda in partnership with the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA). This centered around ensuring the implementation and coordination of the annual Rwanda Refugee Response Plan (RRP). In 2023, 17 organizations (INGOs, national NGOs, development actors and academia) were a part of the RRP appealing for \$139 million. As of the end of 2023, partners had received \$65 million (47 per cent) of funding against the appeal.

For 2023, 10 partnership agreements were signed with 9 partners (1 government, 6 International NGOs and 2 local NGOs), while 1 private sector company was engaged to manage a major water treatment plant that served refugees and host communities.

To facilitate the coordination of the RRP, UNHCR played a catalytic role in organizing three high level refugee coordination meetings (RCM) throughout the year whereby country directors and representatives of organizations working in the refugee space in Rwanda attended for a strategic level discussion. The RCM also served as a forum to highlight opportunities and challenges arising in the coordination and implementation of the refugee response. In addition, regular sector working group meetings were held, with the protection sector and child protection/GBV sub-sector working groups revitalized during the year. Regular coordination meetings were also held at a field level in all refugee camp hosting locations. In addition, in response to the influx from DRC, three emergency high-level coordination meetings were organized by MINEMA and UNHCR at the beginning of the year to set the path for coordinating the emergency response.

To further the refugee inclusion agenda, UNHCR worked closely with key government institutions such as MINAFFET, DGIE, NIDA, MoE, MoH and RSSB. UNHCR also worked closely with key government counterparts to facilitate the implementation of pledges made by Rwanda at the GRF and as outlined in the GCR. This resulted in the Government of Rwanda making an additional pledge at the 2023 GRF for the inclusion of all refugees in CBHI.

UNHCR continued to expand its work with development partners such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank and strengthened collaboration with UN Agencies through the UN Country Team working on a number of joint proposals and partnerships. In addition, UNHCR played a key role in discussions around the development of the new CCA and UNSDCF, to ensure refugee populations are included.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Refugees, asylum seekers and stateless populations have access to registration and documentation

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.31%	100.00%	96.35%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.12%	100.00%	96.48%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Others of Concern	33.88%	100.00%	38.73%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	72.33%	100.00%	77.52%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR in Rwanda recorded an influx of over 12,000 asylum seekers from DRC. The registration process for asylum seekers took place from June following government authorization. By the end of 2023, the government facilitated the transfer and registration of 7,290 asylum seekers from the DRC to various camps: 1,138 in Kiziba Camp, 5,500 in Mahama Camp, and 652 in Nyabiheke Camp for registration. As of the year's end, 4,682 new asylum seekers from DRC are pending Level 2 registration, representing 3.47% of the displaced population.

The GoR issues refugee identity documents to refugees aged 16 and above. In 2023, the annual biometric capturing exercise was carried out jointly by MINEMA, DGIE, NIDA and UNHCR from August to September in all refugee camps. Renewal of expired and lost IDs is carried out routinely through DGIE in all locations. In Kigali regular biometric capturing took place, based on demand. At the end of 2023, the proportion of eligible refugees with valid identity document stood at 96.2%. However, only 87% of the IDs are recorded in proGres, with additional 11% of those recorded in proGres being expired.

UNHCR in collaboration with its legal partner, Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) and respective sectors in refugee hosting districts, redoubled efforts in 2023 to address the late birth registration backlog among protracted refugees. These efforts are part of the commitments made by the Government of Rwanda on civil registration during the Global Refugee Forum and the High-Level Segment on Statelessness. Through these joint efforts, the birth registration rate among the over 45,000 refugees born in Rwanda irrespective of their age, has successfully increased from 74% at the end of 2022 to 93% by end of 2023. Further, as since 2020 birth registration is carried out directly at health facilities through the digital Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system, the birth registration coverage among refugee children below 5 increased from 91% at the end of 2022 to 96.5% by the end of 2023. Additionally, all new-born refugee babies across all five refugee camps had their births registered in 2023. No data is available to UNHCR for birth registration coverage among returnees and stateless persons- the latter have not yet been conclusively identified in Rwanda. Others of concern in Rwanda are refugees having at least one Rwandan parent. Upon reaching the age of 16, they are requested to contact the Sector for the issuance of a Rwandan ID. Unfortunately, a significant number of these individuals fail to report back to UNHCR regarding the issuance of their identification, and the government does not provide a list of IDs issued for Rwandans.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum seekers have access to efficient status determination.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00	90.00	98.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	73.00%	57.79%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Rwanda, all asylum claims are assessed through an individual status determination process by government authorities, apart from at the ETM where UNHCR carries out RSD case processing.

For asylum claims to the national system, UNHCR provides legal counselling and advice in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda. In 2023, 412 households comprising of 1,001 individuals were provided with legal advice to complete their asylum applications with the national Refugee Status Determination Committee (RSDC). Legal representation during the initial screening and first instance refugee status determination process, however, is not currently permitted in Rwanda.

In addition, UNHCR supported 121 asylum seekers to file an appeal after first instance rejections by the RSDC, including a further 8 cases whose appeals were filed with the High Court. Among these 8 cases, UNHCR and PFR supported 3 of them to file a further appeal to the Court of Appeal following negative decisions of the High Court. Final decisions were pending as of the end of 2023.

At the ETM, the average processing time for UNHCR carrying out mandate RSD was 119 days. The average processing period of claims undergoing the National Asylum system was 407 days.

Legal representation is available to those undergoing RSD case processing at the ETM. In 2023, however, no asylum seekers at the ETM requested legal representation during the RSD process.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Prevention and response to Gender Based Violence is improved

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Others of Concern	Unknown	50.00%	63.64%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.52%	80.00%	83.44%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Returnees	48.39%	50.00%	100.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.86%	80.00%	98.06%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Returnees	95.45%	100.00%	100.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	80.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services are available and known to most refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern in Rwanda. The 2023 Participatory Assessment feedback confirmed that most of the refugees in urban settings opt for services at the national level. They also confirmed that they are satisfied with the services received. Host communities also receive services at national level.

In 2023, a total of 638 incidents of GBV were reported, out of which 20.62 percent cases were children and 79.38 percent were adult survivors. 4,190 persons at risk of GBV and survivors received case management services throughout the year. This number includes existing open cases from the previous year and survivors accessing more than one service. The services opted for by survivors were provided by UNHCR and implementing partners.

Community-based approaches and awareness raising campaigns such as men's engagement, girls', and women's platforms, SASA! (SASA! stands for Start, Aware, Support and take Actions- a methodology to prevent GBV and behaviour in the communities), 16 days of activism, international women's day, international day of the girl child, PSEA, were conducted and reached about 86,813 refugees and asylum seekers and 735 returnees as part of GBV prevention programs in camps, transit centres and urban settings.

37 community-based committees and other community activists continue to work on GBV prevention. The goal of the community-based approach is to reinforce people's dignity, self-esteem and empower all actors to support refugees in exercising and enjoying their human rights.

12,943 women and girls participated in targeted empowerment activities as part of GBV prevention programs including SRH education, life skills, livelihood interventions including entrepreneurship, financial literacy, record keeping and running Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). 104 GBV survivors were supported to return to school.

Through the various empowerment platforms, 669 community volunteers were trained on GBV prevention and response. 80 percent of GBV prevention activities were led by women. 832 refugees and asylum seekers were trained on safeguarding, PSEA/SH and COC. In the reporting period, 288 UNHCR, partners and Government staff were trained in GBV prevention, case management and data collection through proGres.

Rwandan returnees are guided to available services as soon as they arrive at the transit centres and directly followed up with by the national authorities through MINEMA, NIDA and DGIE shortly after they leave to their return areas. The information on available services includes, among others, GBV information, referral pathways and contact information during emergencies. With the reduction of funds in 2023 there were no monitoring visits conducted to assess the situation of returnees and no complaints were received regarding accessibility to GBV services.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Child Protection mechanisms are strengthened and functioning as per standard operating procedures.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Others of Concern	Unknown	100.00%	100.00%
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.36%	90.00%	100.00%
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Returnees	Unknown	100.00%	100.00%

5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Host Community	Unknown	100.00%	50.00%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.76%	100.00%	99.00%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Returnees	22.95%	30.00%	22.95%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Others of Concern	Unknown	50.00%	100.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, there were 65,210 displaced children in Rwanda, of which 1,386 were unaccompanied, separated children (UASC) and children at risk. UNHCR and partners continued to provide child protection services, linking relevant services to all UASC as well as other refugee, asylum seekers, and other children identified as at risk in camps and transit centers.

In 2023, there were 304 child protection related incidents, excluding GBV cases of children that are reported under GBV. Children at risk benefited from Best Interest Procedures (BIPs). 1,068 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were completed, including for children at risk, those under alternative care arrangements, UASC as well as for voluntary repatriation and family reunification considerations. 306 Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) were completed for children under voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and family reunification considerations. Additionally, 135 children were reunified with their families during the year. Child protection committees, community mobilizers and other structures including foster families were trained by UNHCR and partners.

24 UNHCR staff were trained on proGres with the aim of rolling out Child Protection Module with the support of partners, in 2023. Partners continued to implement Child Protection programs to support children and parents, including Parenting Without Violence, Better Life Options and Opportunities Modules (BLOOM), Child and youth resilience program etc. International events including World Refugee Day, Day of African Child (DAC), International Day of Girl Child, and the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV were utilized for mass awareness.

Further, 23,844 adolescents participated in several targeted programmes such as Parenting under Pressure and Choose a Future program. Plan International constructed 3 Adolescents Girls Safe Space in Kiziba, Kigeme, and Nyabiheke and renovated the existing one in Mugombwa Refugee Camp. SCI constructed a teen mother daycare in Mahama Refugee Camp where teen mothers can leave their children and go to school. SCI further constructed a girls' room in Mahama Refugee Camp where girls playing in CFS/YFS can go when they need sanitary materials while playing. UNHCR and partners continued advocacy of refugees to be included into national systems such as the National Children Development Agency (NCDA) and National Children Summit (NCS). In 2023, 7 refugee children took part in the national children's summit where they meet children's representatives from all sectors and districts of Rwanda to discuss on children's rights and presented their request to be included in different national systems. Several refugee children at risk were identified and referred under the existing structures: Inshuti z'umuryango (IZU) and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) at camp levels throughout 2023.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to tailored support services

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Rwanda generally adheres to the non-penalization principle outlined in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and in 2023, no cases of arrest or detention related to legal status were observed. In Rwanda, asylum seekers and refugees have legal status, and recognized refugees can access legal employment. This has significantly reduced the risk of detention due to irregular status.

For asylum claims to the national system, UNHCR provided legal counselling and advice in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda. In 2023, 412 households comprising of 1,001 individuals were provided with legal advice to complete their asylum applications with the national Refugee Status Determination Committee (RSDC)

In 2023, UNHCR through its legal partner PFR provided legal assistance to 53,610 refugees and asylum seekers across the country, this included legal representation before national courts of law for those undergoing court cases for civil, commercial, and criminal matters.

In November 2023, UNHCR was granted access for only 10 calendar days by the Commissioner General of correction through MINAFFET to visit correctional facilities. During this limited period, in collaboration with PFR, UNHCR managed to visit 378 who were in detention by November 2023 across all detention centres nationwide. UNHCR has submitted a request for an extension of the detention monitoring authorization asking for approval for a year-long access to conduct detention monitoring activities in accordance with the 2015 Detention Monitoring Guidelines. The request is still pending.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment are improved and supported

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	99.58%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.34%	50.00%	33.33%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners established diverse protection channels: email, protection desks, helplines, community meetings, complaint boxes, notice boards, SMS, and instant messaging to ensure effective communication and feedback with refugee communities in Rwanda. UNHCR also strengthened its help website during the course of the year to ensure refugees have access to up-to-date information about different services and assistance available. A mobile outreach program was initiated in 2023 to two urban locations, Nyamata and Muhanga, aiming to bring services closer to where refugees live. Rwandan Sign Language (RSL) training sessions were conducted for deaf refugees and humanitarian workers to improve communication with people with disabilities.

In 2023, the Rwanda operation devised a concept note for its localization strategy, aligning with the Global Localization strategy by prioritizing formal partnerships with Refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and local organizations which will be implemented in 2024. Additionally, partnerships with and capacity building for local organizations are emphasized as priorities under Program and Project Agreements (PPAs) with international NGOs.

To address low female participation, PFR proposed digital counsellor training exclusively for women and girls in 2024, aiming to enhance digital literacy and leadership skills.

In 2023, 4,847 refugee inquiries were made to UNHCR, with 92.77 percent being health-related, followed by resettlement (2.76 percent) 23 percent of enquired were made in Kigali and the rest in field locations. Only 32 percent of the individuals accessing feedback mechanism are female, and 15 percent are individual with specific needs (39 percent of whom are elderly).

In refugee camps, refugee participation is facilitated through community-based protection activities, engagement with community leadership structures, focus group discussions, mass meetings, and other community outreach including home visits.

Detained refugees (0.4 percent of population) face challenges accessing UNHCR due to limited phone access and detention monitoring restrictions. In 2023, UNHCR was granted only 10 days of access to detention centres.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Refugees and asylum seekers have improved access to basic needs

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	100.00%	91.05%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Returnees	98.24%	100.00%	100.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.14%	75.00%	63.87%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Returnees	93.89%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Rwanda, UNHCR provides a range of assistance to help refugees meet their basic needs primarily through cash-based interventions where possible.

Multipurpose cash grant was provided to Asylum seekers in Gashora Emergency Transit Mechanism. The intervention supports basic needs to asylum seekers through monthly multipurpose cash.

In 2023, UNHCR supported refugees living in camps to meet their energy needs for cooking through both in-kind gas distribution (in Mahama and Mugombwa refugee camps) and cash assistance for energy (in Kiziba, Kigeme and Nyabiheke refugee camps).

In total, 64 percent of refugees and asylum seekers had access to LPG and Tier 4 and above cooking stoves. Providing LPG not only helps reduce deforestation and climate change, but it is also a vital protection tool and supports refugee self-reliance. Although, the achievement was less than the target set (75%), in comparison to the national population, the proportion of Tier 5 households is higher than the national average (4.2%) (World Bank Energy Survey, 2022).

Due to a lack of funding, cash assistance for energy was only distributed until June 2023. This assistance is designed to support refugees access energy from the market such as pellets and other biomass fuel. Pellets were supplied through a market-based approach by the Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R II) project, funded by SIDA.

In addition, UNHCR provided LPG for Kijote and Nkamira transit centres. 100% of Rwandan returnees have access to clean cooking, LPG, at such transit centres. UNHCR also provided energy for cooking to Early Childhood Development centres to support school feeding, while the Government took over responsibility for energy for school feeding in primary and secondary schools.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Refugees, asylum seekers, have access to sustainable housing and settlement with adequate environment and energy

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	85.00%	83.00%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.56%	50.00%	42.89%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR and its partner continued providing shelter support to refugees living in the camps and new arrivals from DRC. Nkamira transit was established in January 2023 to receive new arrivals where 45 communal hangers and the associated WASH facilities were constructed to accommodate a total of 7,200 individuals.

In terms of improving the refugee living condition in the camps, 3,945 individuals received shelter support across the camps through rehabilitation of 791 shelters and construction/upgrading of 305 shelters. These interventions have resulted in increased shelter adequacy from 80 percent to 83 percent by the end of the reporting period.

Efforts were also made by UNHCR and partners to promote and enhance energy access to power refugees' homes, businesses, and communities. By the end of 2023, over 10,096 refugee households procured solar home systems for lighting and running small businesses in Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa, Mahama and Nyabiheke camps through Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R II) project. Based on the World Bank Energy Survey data in Rwanda, including refugee camps, 43 percent of refugees and asylum seekers have access to Tier 1 electricity which provides electrical energy for lighting, phone charging, and small appliances, such as radios. This leaves a 57 percent gap to reach Rwanda's modern energy access target (100%) by 2024. In addition, 100% of the returnees have access to electricity at the reception/transit centres.

UNHCR also utilized on-grid and off-grid systems for Productive Use of Energy (PUE) initiatives to improve the incomes of refugee's businesses, boost entrepreneurship and long-term job creation opportunities, and empower women. Throughout the year, 300 business entrepreneurs were supported through a mentorship program under the RE4R II project.

In 2023, Practical Action, Alight and UNHCR concurrently prioritized the installation of an additional 654 streetlights in all camps including the newly established Nkamira transit centre, making a total of 921 streetlights in all camps, which resulted in the revolutionizing the way refugees live and work in camps by enabling them to keep their businesses open after dark, empowering residents to feel safer to move around and aiding refugee children to study after dark.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

By 2025, more refugees, asylum seekers have access to quality and sustainable health and nutrition services

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	94.83%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.43%	100.00%	99.29%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR together with the Government of Rwanda and health partners continued to provide primary health care services in refugee camps and cover the cost of referrals health to secondary and tertiary levels in 2023. Additionally, UNHCR supported urban based refugees through enrolment in CBHI.

During the year, under five and crude mortality rates remained within the standards (0.01 and 0.02 per 1000 people respectively). 99 percent of births were attended by a skilled health personnel and vaccination coverage for children under five was 95 percent.

In total, 317,076 consultations at primary health clinics in refugee camps took place in 2023, 9 percent of which were consultations for the Rwandan host community. The overall rate of consultations per health staff was 48 consultations per day per clinician. In addition, UNHCR supported 6,567 referrals of refugees to hospitals in 2023, with 5,439 and 1,085 at secondary and tertiary levels respectively.

Jointly with WFP, a Standardized Expended Nutrition Survey (SENS) was conducted in May and June 2023. Results revealed an increase of Global Acute Malnutrition to 4.2 percent compared to 2021 SENS with 2.6 percent. Stunting has reduced however, from 21 to 18.8 percent.

Throughout the year, UNHCR and partners continued providing nutrition support to refugees and other displaced populations to prevent malnutrition. 6,556 pregnant and lactating women, 7,117 children between 0-23 months and 1,200 TB-HIV patients, benefited from supplementary feeding programs.

Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases were properly managed in nutrition centres across all the camps and ETM Gashora. In total, 1,208 MAM and 260 SAM cases were assisted with supplementary and therapeutic foods.

75 new HIV positive cases were identified, including 09 pregnant women, and were supported with care and treatment. A total of 1,178 people with HIV continue to receive medication including 77 Rwandan nationals in camp settings. In the HIV program for prevention of mother to child transmission, 84 pregnant and lactating women continued to receive follow-up. 38 HIV exposed infants received appropriate care and timely Early Infant Diagnostic testing at 06 weeks following their birth and no mother to child transmission of HIV occurred during the year as a result.

In mental health, UNHCR and partners provided a range of mental health and psychosocial support at health centres in camps. In total, 7156 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support consultations were conducted and 987 mental health cases including epilepsy, psychosis, stress disorder, alcohol abuse were assisted

11. Outcome Area: Education

Refugee children and youth have access to ECD, primary, secondary and tertiary education with vocational and recreation support

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.87%	6.00%	5.57%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.82%	100.00%	96.26%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugee children in Rwanda have continued to enjoy access to the national education system from early childhood to primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education. In 2023, UNHCR continued its support refugee education through the construction of 28 new classrooms in Mahama camp, and provision of various scholastic materials. The construction of 32 classrooms (8 in Mahama and 24 in Kiziba) in 2022 has also contributed to an improved learning condition in those schools in 2023.

As of the end of 2023, over 96 percent of children and young people are enrolled in national education system. In terms of gross enrolment rate by levels, 70 percent are enrolled in ECE, 119 percent in primary and 70 percent in secondary education, while 6 percent attend higher education (TVET schools and university level education). Gross enrolment rate of above 100 percent in primary is due to many over-aged students for their level. About 33% of students enrolled in primary and 29 percent in secondary is over-aged for their respective levels. The net enrolment rate for primary and secondary is 86 percent and 49 percent respectively. In addition, UNHCR and partners supported the enrolment of over 1,500 children and youth from refugee camps in various boarding schools and learning institutions across the country, which provide specific education for high achievers and children with disabilities. A total of 497 refugees have been enrolled in higher education of whom 80 have graduated in 2023. Out of these, UNHCR, through DAFI scholarship, supported 191 while partners provided scholarship to 306. In addition, partners supported approximately 500 refugees to enrol at TVET schools across the country.

Following the new influxes of asylum-seekers from DRC since late 2022, UNHCR and partners such as UNICEF have mobilized resources and launched education in emergency programme in March 2023. With the construction of 10 temporary classrooms and recruitment of 57 teachers from among the refugees, over 4,400 children and young people had the opportunity to access to education at Nkamira Transit Centre and in existing schools in refugee camps. Out of 4,400 children and youth who were supported through the programme some 3,300 (75%) have since been integrated into national education system following relocation to existing refugee camps in Rwanda.

The continued implementation of Connected Learning Program in primary schools has contributed to strengthening the quality of primary education where over 16,000 refugee and host community students had access to digital tools and online education platforms while some 774 teachers have been trained to improve their digital literacy.

UNHCR, together with education partners, has been supporting the Government in its efforts to realize education pledges made at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019. The implementation of the pledges, which center around enhancing the capacity, quality, and inclusiveness of national education system, has been supported by UNHCR and its partners through the education sector working group.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Refugees and asylum seekers have improved access to systems and facilities providing water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	80.00%	90.17%
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2023, UNHCR and partners ensured provision of basic WASH services to forcibly displaced persons living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda. Focus was placed on increasing access to facilities, ensuring facilities are operated in line with standards, and raising awareness about safe hygiene practices among the refugee population.

The operation and maintenance of water supply systems in all sites has helped to reach 90.2 percent of people in refugee settings using at least basic drinking water services. The water treatment, quality monitoring and testing was conducted for ensuring clean water supply to refugees/ asylum seekers and Rwandans in host communities at average rate of 21.5 litres per person per day. UNHCR also carried out continuous assessments on water loss in distribution systems in all camps to analyse the efficiency of aged water systems and inform the improvement required.

In 2023, the average sanitation coverage was kept at 21 persons per latrine drop hole in the refugee camps. However, the standards for latrine access are not met in Kigeme, Kiziba and Mugombwa Camps. Over 480 communal sanitation facilities were maintained in all the camps and 6 new facilities constructed in Nkamira transit site for asylum seekers.

To improve sanitation and hygiene conditions within the camps, UNHCR and partners ensured the maintenance and daily disinfection of sanitation of facilities. Waste management was implemented through regular faecal sludge collection from latrines septic tanks and solid waste collection/ transportation across all sites and disposed of to the respective waste dumpsites.

Over 106,336 refugees and asylum seekers benefited from hygiene activities that were implemented across the camps and transit centres through structured manner according to the Government model of hygiene promotion enrolled in the camps known as Community based environmental hygiene promotion program (CBEHPP). The continuous distribution of liquid soap was ensured for public handwashing and other cleaning practices to stave off diarrheal and other water-borne diseases in all sites.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Refugees and host communities access economic opportunities

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.16%	100.00%	80.38%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.36%	11.00%	9.40%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	80.00%	85.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2023, refugees in Rwanda continued to benefit from policies promoting the inclusion of refugees into the local economy and national social safety nets. In addition to inclusion of refugees into the National Financial Inclusion Strategy by the National Bank of Rwanda, refugees have also been included into the National Financial Education Strategy (2023-2027) and the National Savings and Credit Groups' (SCG) Digitization Strategy (2023-2027), thus furthering refugee financial inclusion.

In this regard, 2,015 refugees and members of the host community received loans from different financial institutions and partners to expand their businesses as well as business skills training and business advisory services in 2023. Additionally, 1,099 refugee received a matching grant under the Jya Mbere project funded by the World Bank, where more than 4,000 jobs are estimated to have been created for refugees through the project.

According to a report by the National Bank of Rwanda (BNR) published towards the end of 2022, 93 percent of refugees have transactional accounts with formal financial service providers (banks, MFIs, SACCOs) or mobile money, while Rwandan host communities including returnees have 100 percent of financial enrollment. It is worthwhile noting that refugees have been included in the Rwanda 2024 FinScope Survey which will shed more light on refugee financial inclusion in Rwanda.

In 2023, UNHCR and partners working in the livelihoods sector continued to implement various projects to promote economic inclusion and self-reliance among refugees and their host communities. The main objectives of these programmes were to (1) enhance social protection among the most vulnerable refugee households through monthly transfers for basic needs (7,000 RWF per each household); (2) promote livelihood opportunities through training refugees and host communities on business development and providing an 800,000 RWF cash grant for starting/expanding businesses; (3) ensure the financial inclusion of refugees, displaced populations and host communities by linking them with financial institutions and encouraging saving through SILCs; and (4) ensure social empowerment by training households on positive behavior change and social cohesion methodologies.

In relation to programmes directly implemented by UNHCR, 2,036 households (1,304 Rwanda host community and 732 refugees) also benefited from the climate-smart agriculture project funded by the Danish government which provided support on two marshlands neighboring Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps.

According to the Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Report carried out by WFP and UNHCR, refugee income has increased in all camps between April 2022 and May 2023. This reflects positive progress towards refugee self-reliance as outlined in UNHCR and MINEA's joint strategy on the economic inclusion of refugees and host communities (2021 – 2024).

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees enjoy safe and dignified return to their Country of Origin

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Returnees	89.98%	50.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continues to facilitate the return of Rwandan refugees primarily from DRC and systematically register returnees in proGres database at transit centres. In 2023, out of 1,570 returnees, biometric capturing for Rwandan ID was done for 616 returnees aged 16 and above as per the national procedures to issue documentation for individuals over 16 years old. UNHCR collaborates on this process with the National Identity and Documentation Agency (NIDA) who are present at transit centres to jointly verify the returnees against the national citizen's database. Returnees who arrive by air also have access to NIDA for

verification and issuance of Rwanda IDs.

Returns also supported through cash-based interventions to ensure their integration in locations of their origin. The reintegration grant is 250 USD per adult and 150 USD per child. They receive 20 percent of the reintegration grant at arrival and the remaining 80% is provided in their place of return once verified and identified by MINEMA.

Returns also access to legal remedies to deal with issues related to health, property rights or access to land.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Deserving refugees have access to resettlement to third countries

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,314	6,000	6,388
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,172.00	365.00	386.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	131	70	123

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR in Rwanda continued its inclusive protection and solutions approach in 2023 by implementing a multi-year durable solutions strategy aimed at pursuing resettlement for the most vulnerable and protracted Congolese refugees mainly living in Kiziba, Mahama and Nyabiheke camps. In addition, resettlement remained a key intervention for refugees evacuated from Libya under the Rwanda Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). For Burundian Refugees resettlement and complementary pathways continued to be explored for limited cases with protection and medical needs.

In 2023, UNHCR Rwanda received quotas from various countries such as the USA, France, Canada, Finland, Norway, and Denmark. For submissions to the USA, UNHCR Rwanda continued to implement group processing modalities for Congolese refugees as well as regular Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) submissions where applicable.

Since the inception of the ETM in 2019, 16 evacuation convoys of 2,059 vulnerable asylum seekers have been evacuated from Libya. Four of these evacuations were organized in 2023, bringing in a total of 606 individuals from Libya. All evacuated refugees and asylum seekers were supported with protection, assistance, and access to solutions. The overall quotas for resettlement for refugees accommodated at the ETM continued to decrease in 2023. Moreover, UNHCR observed that evacuated asylum seekers stayed longer at the ETM facility due to longer resettlement procedures and delays in departures.

Throughout the year, various selection missions, both virtual and in person, took place in Kigali and in the camps. France, Finland, Norway, Canada and the USA fielded in-person selection missions, with Norway receiving full logistical support directly from UNHCR for their two selection missions.

With support from Canada, UNHCR partnered with Save the Children International to pilot the Economic Mobility Pathways Program (EMPP) in Rwanda as a complementary labour pathways solution. Save the Children is partnering with TalentLift to help match eligible applicants to Canadian employers. UNHCR also supported exit formalities for refugees departing through complementary pathways in close collaboration with DGIE.

Overall in 2023, 6,388 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration (DRC 5,595, Eritrea 300, Sudan 197, Burundi 173 and other nationalities 53) and 7,826 refugees departed for resettlement. 125 refugees were supported to access complementary pathways.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Refugees and stateless populations enjoy integration opportunities

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.15%	100.00%	22.75%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.35%	100.00%	8.09%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Legal integration is available to refugees who meet the eligibility criteria as provided by the 2021 Nationality Law. Primarily this would be due to having spent over 25 years in Rwanda, being married to a Rwandan or having a parent with Rwandan descent. As per UNHCR estimations, 7,684 refugees in Rwanda have an arrival date prior to 1998, 696 are registered as having a Rwandan spouse, and 6,253 individuals are registered as others of concern (children born of a refugee and Rwandan national). Nevertheless, interest for local integration among both Congolese and Burundian refugees has, to date, been limited.

In 2023, a total of 286 individuals obtained Rwandan nationality as a durable solution. 95 percent of these cases were through confirmation of nationality, as they were legally entitled to Rwandan nationality (mainly through parental descent), while the rest were naturalized owing to marriage with Rwandan nationals. The number of refugees with confirmations/ acquisitions of nationality increased by 13 percent compared to 2022.

Following the eight pledges made by Rwanda at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness, six have been successfully implemented. The two remaining pledges on the comprehensive identification and the ratification of the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality are in progress. The draft Protocol is expected to be ratified in 2024.

The 2008 law governing the registration of populations, as amended in 2018, was revised in 2023 introducing a single digital ID. The revised law includes a specific sub-register for refugees and asylum seekers, foundlings and stateless persons. While comprehensive data is not yet available, an estimated 9,500 individuals with undetermined nationality are expected to be affected.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Rwanda conducted an AGD self-assessment as part of a regional initiative in 2023. Notably, Rwanda scored the lowest among operations in terms of diversity segregation, with only 61% of data segregated based on all AGD criteria. While age and sex were segregated in nearly all data, only protection-related data was segregated based on nationality, disabilities, sexual orientation, and health status. The main reasons contributed to this disparity is that in many instances where data collection is done by external parties, the data were only segregated based on gender, age and location lacking diversity segregation

including disability and health status. Without analysing the diversity of those benefiting from UNHCR's programming, it is hard to assess the inclusivity of UNHCR's services.

Despite this, in 2023, UNHCR in Rwanda has focused on the inclusion of persons with disabilities into UNHCR's programming, prompted by lessons learned from the 2022 participatory assessment results. In Kigali, a pilot Rwandan sign language class for deaf refugees, their families, and community leaders was initiated with support from Rwandan National Association of Deaf Women. 22 refugees were trained, with one graduate securing a job in a school for special children.

UNHCR also collaborated with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to assist refugees with specific needs, yet mainstreaming inclusion across different sectors is lacking. Refugees expressed concerns about their lack of inclusion in humanitarian interventions, particularly livelihood for PWDs and the elderly. Some criticized the maximum age limit (60) to access livelihood opportunities, as they still feel productive.

As such, in 2024, UNHCR aims to intensify efforts, within its limited resources, to mainstream AGD criteria and inclusion across different sectors and with different partners, starting with a mapping of deliberate actions taken to ensure different minority groups can access and benefit from humanitarian services.

Section 3: Resources

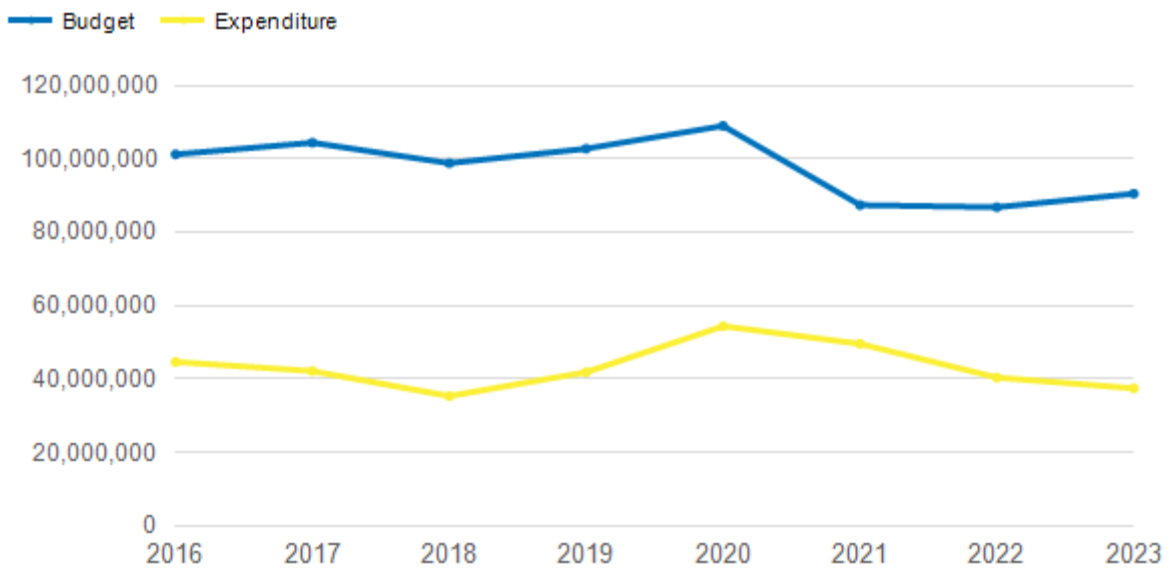
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

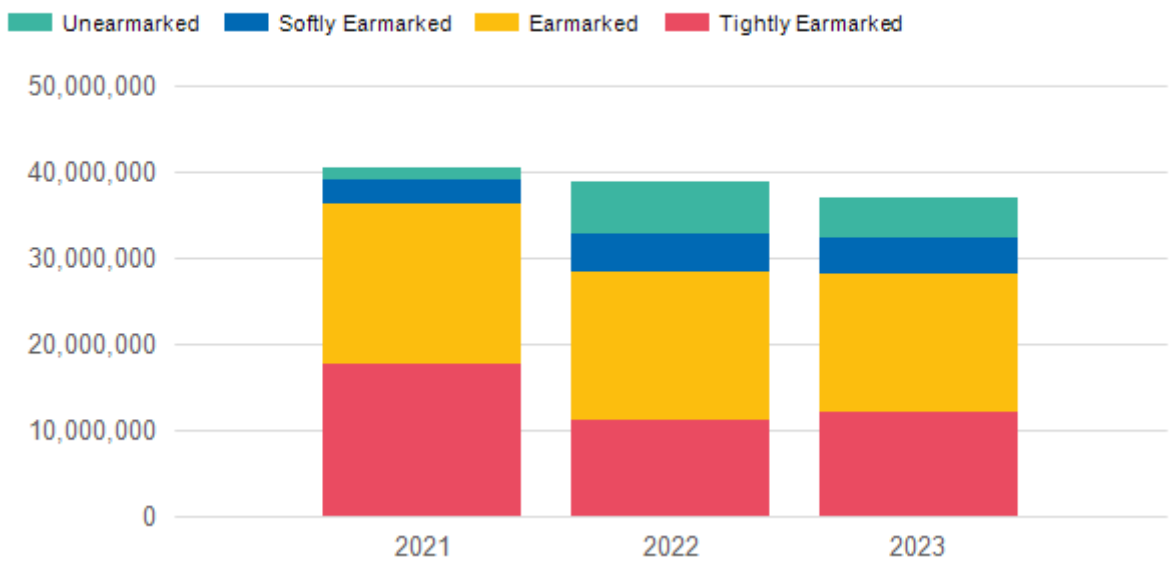
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	18,404,004	8,232,912	44.73%	8,232,912	100.00%
IA2: Assist	40,268,628	18,104,852	44.96%	18,104,852	100.00%
IA3: Empower	21,453,473	7,899,124	36.82%	7,899,124	100.00%
IA4: Solve	10,362,776	3,202,103	30.90%	3,202,103	100.00%
All Impact Areas		1,022,799			
Total	90,488,881	38,461,790	42.50%	37,438,991	97.34%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	4,176,625	2,193,114	52.51%	2,193,114	100.00%
OA2: Status	1,745,170	988,707	56.65%	988,707	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,037,648	1,198,451	39.45%	1,198,451	100.00%
OA5: Children	4,319,164	2,036,531	47.15%	2,036,531	100.00%
OA6: Justice	5,125,396	1,816,109	35.43%	1,816,109	100.00%
OA7: Community	4,189,818	1,448,292	34.57%	1,448,292	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	8,675,330	6,060,779	69.86%	6,060,779	100.00%
OA9: Housing	8,831,288	2,307,069	26.12%	2,307,069	100.00%
OA10: Health	10,560,087	4,113,199	38.95%	4,113,199	100.00%
OA11: Education	10,992,483	3,650,019	33.20%	3,650,019	100.00%
OA12: WASH	6,744,303	2,790,715	41.38%	2,790,715	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	6,271,173	2,800,813	44.66%	2,800,813	100.00%
OA14: Return	5,693,922	996,937	17.51%	996,937	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,939,789	1,530,655	38.85%	1,530,655	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	729,066	674,510	92.52%	674,510	100.00%
EA18: Support	5,457,621	2,833,089	51.91%	2,833,089	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		1,022,799			
Total	90,488,881	38,461,790	42.50%	37,438,991	97.34%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2023, UNHCR appealed for \$90.5 million to support its operations in Rwanda. As of the end of the year, only 41 percent of funds had been received.

The main donors in 2023 were the USA, EU, Denmark, Germany, ProFuturo, Japan, Usine Foundation, Norway, Canada, and Switzerland. Additional in-kind donations of clothing were received from private sector donors in the USA.

UNHCR Rwanda prepared and submitted 26 proposals to donors. Out of these proposals 7 were successful, 8 rejected and 11 are still pending. Most of the successful proposals were to governments and majority of rejected were to private sector and UN sources. Overall Government donors contributed 94

percent of the available funds to UNHCR in Rwanda in 2023 despite a concerted effort to expand resource mobilization efforts to other funding sources.

To support resource mobilization efforts and strengthen relations with donors, the operation engaged several activities which included: engagement with new Government donors such as Korea, Gulf countries, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland, prioritizes proposals to non-Government donors (PSP, UN pooled funds) to enable OL increases for key areas such as energy, health and CBI, advocated for UNHCR to be included in more UN pooled fund opportunities (Health4Life fund, Peacebuilding Fund), further engagement with development donors such as World Bank and AFDB, support NGO partners to get funding from a wider range of donors (that UNHCR doesn't necessarily have access to) as part of the RRP coordination, held quarterly donor meetings with international community and facilitation of field missions in Rwanda.

As a result of the funding gap, the operation had to cut critical services such as cash assistance for NFIs and cash assistance for energy which was stopped as of June 2023. In addition, the referrals of refugees to advanced health care were limited to lifesaving and emergency cases only as UNHCR did not have enough funds to cover the cost of treatment. It is expected that this reduction of services and assistance will continue into 2024 if more funds are not received.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

UNHCR in Rwanda is increasingly being requested to do more with less funding. Evaluations undertaken in 2023 on livelihood projects provide some key recommendations on how this can partly be achieved while ensuring sustainability and impact.

The annual review process consisted of joint MFT field visits to evaluate results vs targets for partner and UNHCR projects, review of partner annual indicator reports, and the strategic moment of reflection with all stakeholders who are part of the multi-year strategy. Some key takeaways during the different components included allocate more time to events, strengthen engagement with operational partners during project evaluation including establishing MoUs with partners who express interest. Sensitize and orientate partners and UNHCR results managers to utilize the 'Activity Info' platform which serves as a quantitative tool to report results throughout the year and avoid the hitches faced with data collection during the annual assessments.

The strategic moment of reflection saw the participation of 25 stakeholders and over 100 participants including funded and operational partners, donors, private sector, UNHCR and UN sister agencies. In future sessions, the operation will consider the inclusion of refugees and more representation of partners in the presentations. Invite donors to attend specific sessions only (e.g., vision for 2024 was useful to most but perhaps not the retrospective to 2023). An "assessment/ evaluation registry" is an action point which will guide as reference to the SMR reflections.

A UNHCR/WFP Joint Post Distribution Monitoring conducted in 2023, highlighted increased vulnerability and capacity to meet basic needs (from 59% in 2022 to 63% in 2023). Despite the increasing donor fatigue and budget cuts, vulnerable persons were provided full ratio of food and NFI assistance.

On coordination: To ensure realization of the multi-year strategy in 2024 and complementarity, UNHCR Rwanda plans to hold regular technical coordination meetings with partners including operational partners.

Administratively, the operation successfully negotiated lower rents in Kigali, Kirehe, and Kabarore, reduced missions, minimized TA recruitments, and lowered communication costs by 61% overall. Additionally, the fleet was appropriately downsized in 2023 through the disposal/auction of vehicles and ICT equipment, generating income to procure other essential items. UNHCR Rwanda also received modern VSAT equipment from HQ, expected to further reduce internet costs in 2024.



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