

	RWANDA Country Refugee Response Plan (CRP)
Cover photograph: Rwanda. First Burundian refugees return home after brepare to board a bus in the Rwandan border town of Nemba to return	

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2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

109,422

PROJECTED REFUGEE POPULATION BY 2021

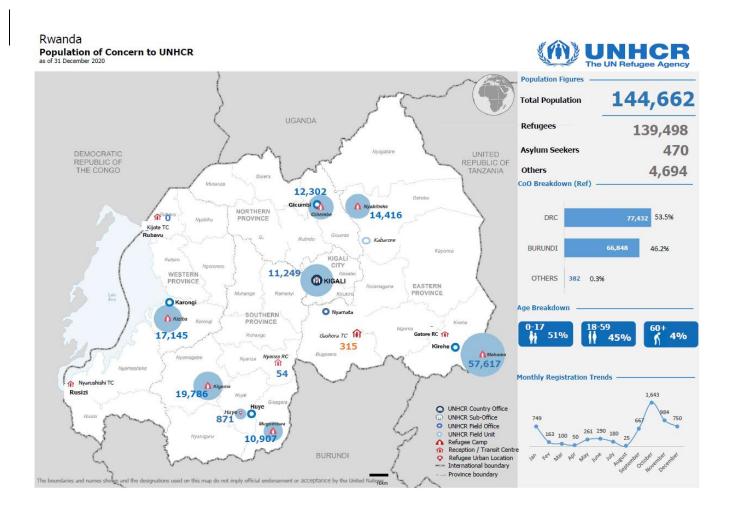
US\$ 143M

REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021

17 PARTNERS

INVOLVED

3,000 ESTIMATED RWANDAN RETURNEES IN 2021 **125,000** ASSISTED HOST POPULATION





Background and Achievements

Overview

Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for over two decades. By the end of 2020, Rwanda hosted 144,662 individuals, 143,853 individually registered as refugees, from different nationalities (Congolese camps (74,556), Burundian camp (57,617) and urban settings (11,365) as well as 315 persons of concern evacuated from Libya under the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). Some 809 individuals are pending registration and pending national asylum procedures.

For the Congolese situation, the verification exercise was completed in Rwanda's Congolese refugee camps in 2019. Some 13,000 Congolese refugees expressed the desire to voluntarily return to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from the exercise. Since the beginning of 2018, attempts have been made to organize a Tripartite meeting between Rwanda (GoR) and the DRC. However, this meeting has not taken place to date, although UNHCR continues to advocate for such a meeting. In the meantime, increasing bilateral cooperation between both countries is noticed, including strengthening security in bordering areas. On 17 April 2019, technical discussions were initiated with the organization of a technical Level Coordination Meeting in the 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 DRC Government (CNR). The meeting agreed on several action points, including facilitating go-and-See visits and reviewing the current return process. Go-and-See visits have been proposed at the Goma level. However, such activity to be coordinated at the Kinshasa level is currently on hold. While options were under consideration, the COVID-19 outbreak and fights in the eastern regions of DRC have affected voluntary repatriation's positive steps. While Rwanda has embarked on the GCR (Global Compact for Refugees) and adopted the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which emphasize the socio and economic inclusion of refugees in national systems, the resettlement of Congolese refugees to the third country from Rwanda, mostly from the oldest camps - Kiziba, Gihembe, and Nyabiheke, remain the only viable, durable solution available.

Given this information, the Congolese refugee population's planning figure in Rwanda for 2021 is estimated to some 80,103 individuals.

In 2020, 674 new Burundian refugees fled into Rwanda for the Burundian situation, with an average of 224 new arrivals per month within the first three months of 2020 and then almost no new arrival afterward. This considerable decrease in the number of new arrivals is mainly due to the difficulty of using land borders after the COVID-19 lockdown in Mid-March 2020 and the political changes in Burundi marked by the Presidential election of May 2020. As of December 2020, Rwanda accommodated over 66,000 refugees

(46%) from Burundi who fled insecurity and unrest due to the political situation. About 76 percents are women and children, and the vast majority (57,617) live in the country's largest refugee camp, Mahama. The remaining Burundian refugees live in urban areas, mainly in Kigali and Huye, and others spread between other camps and reception centers. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners cover urgent, lifesaving needs. However, now that the Burundian refugee population has been in Rwanda for five years and continues to grow slowly, emergency facilities established in 2015 are deteriorating and need rehabilitation. The verification exercise in Mahama was completed on 17 January 2020 with a show rate of 96% of all refugees. The exercise showed a pretty stable population. About 2,500 refugees were no shows (resulted in inactive status) in the exercise, and some cases were scheduled for adjudication as they continuously returned to the camp.

Since 2019, 1,359 Burundian refugees have spontaneously returned to Burundi without the assistance of UNHCR. In July-August 2020, following the increased political stability in Burundi, some refugees in Rwanda shared with UNHCR their intentions to return to their home country and requested to be assisted in the process. UNHCR engaged both governments, Burundi and Rwanda, through meetings and secured the governments' commitment to the principles and provisions of the 2005 Tripartite Agreement for the return of Burundian refugees in Rwanda. Between August and December 2020, UNHCR had registered 21,324 Burundian refugees in the return program, including 7,895 (37%) who had returned and 13,429 (62%) on a waiting list. Most of the returnees are from Mahama camp (7,633) and a small number from urban areas (262). It is expected that in 2021 UNHCR will facilitate the return of 40,000 refugees who wish to do so. UNHCR is not promoting repatriation to Burundi. Instead, it will continue to assist all refugees expressing their willingness to return to make an informed decision and voluntarily return to their country of origin, Burundi, in safety dignity.

By the end of 2021, it is anticipated that the Burundian refugee population will be approximately 28,919. Meanwhile, the use of space and basic infrastructures in Mahama camp is being rationalized and welcomed a growing number of DRC refugees relocated from areas at risk of landslides in Congolese camps.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (EMT): In addition to the inter-agency Regional Response Plans for Congolese and Burundi situations, UNHCR has recently started to support refugees and asylum seekers from Libya to arrive in Rwanda as part of an Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). The evacuation followed a Memorandum of Understandingsignature (MoU) with the GoR, the African Union (AU), and UNHCR on 10 September 2019. Since the MoU signature, Rwanda

has received three flights in 2019 supporting the evacuation of 306 refugees and asylum-seekers and two flights in 2020 facilitating an additional 209 refugees and asylum seekers from Libya to Rwanda. Since then, two deaths and five new births have been recorded.

The 515 people of concern are from 6 nationalities -Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Nigeria. The evacuee population's average age is 23 years old, and around 50 percent are unaccompanied minors. Before evacuation from Libya, more than half of them were in detention centers, others in UNHCR Gathering and Departure Facilities, and few in urban areas. Thanks to the generosity of the Rwandan Government and the Rwandan people, the evacuees from Libya can enjoy a good protection environment in Rwanda and get access to essential 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 a safe refuge, including freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities. As part of finding durable solutions to them, More than 200 persons were resettled to Sweden, Canada, Norway, France, and 315 are still pending in the ETM center waiting for the implementation of durable solutions.

Rwandan returnees: Between 1994 and now, around 3.5 million Rwandans have repatriated, mainly from the DRC. From January to December 2020, some 794 Rwandans have voluntarily repatriated through Kijote and Nyarushishi Transit Centers. Returnee monitoring missions were conducted, and border monitoring/crossborder meetings took place parallel to the Transit Centers' management and the provision of essential humanitarian assistance services. These include reception, registration, provision of health insurance, cash and food assistance, Water Sanitation and (WASH) services, and transportation assistance to their areas of return. In 2021, the planning figure for Rwandan returnees is 3000 persons.

Operating environment

Rwanda has a National Asylum Law that complies with international standards, and refugees are included in the national birth registration system, decreasing 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 Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) framework, there have been some key

achievements toward refugees' social and economic inclusion and their integration in the 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 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 Education and Health's national system. 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, Switzerland, offering a critical opportunity to build momentum implementation of the GRF 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 selfreliance, and search for solutions. The GRF provided an opportunity for the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to showcase its achievements and mobilize support from a wide range of stakeholders towards its national refugee response. Building on these achievements, the GoR presented renewed pledges in health, education, documentation, refugees' socio-economic inclusion, and one new commitment to energy and environment sectors.

Achievements and gaps

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the UNHCR team deployed all necessary efforts to maintain a favorable protection environment for all Congolese refugees and continued advocating for services such as registration and documentation and prevention of refoulement, lifesaving assistance, including food and nutrition, healthcare, shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation services, education, livelihood and self-reliance and targeted support for the most vulnerable and those with specific needs.

Refugees in camps continued to receive cash for food assistance, and all refugees (100%) receive CBI assistance for NFI. Supplementary feedings were provided to all children under five years of age and other vulnerable groups, including people with chronic illness.

Response partners continue to provide health services to those in need with prioritized attention to the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant and lactating women, people with chronic illness, and the elderly (60+). All Primary Health Care services were accessible and free of charge to both refugees and local communities through the seven health centers/posts in the six refugee camps. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some health programs and activities were affected. The essential health services continued and followed strict infection prevention and control measures aligned with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO protocols. Outpatient consultation services were available to all refugees. Some five percent of the total outpatients were from the host community. The secondary and

tertiary medical referrals were also available through a referral mechanism between the camp-based health posts and referral or district hospitals. Immunization campaigns for children under-5 have continued with the observance of physical distancing and other infection control measures and achieved high coverage (100%) of measles vaccination. Congolese refugees had access to reproductive health and HIV/AIDs programs. All (100%) persons living with HIV were on antiretroviral therapy. Zero maternal death recorded, with 99% of child deliveries assisted by trained health staff. Outreach programs continued to engage refugees and raised awareness, primarily on preventing COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and positive behavioral changes, such as prompt health-seeking behavior in the event of an illness through the Community Health Workers (CHWs).

UNHCR and partners conducted training on COVID-19 for health care workers, CHWs, procurement of COVID-19 medicines and supplies, and establishment of quarantine and isolation facilities supported in collaboration with the district health teams. Moreover, refugees were recently integrated into the national viral hepatitis management by the Ministry of Health (MoH), hepatitis B and C screening, including treatment, were conducted and continued in all camps. Refugees in urban settings had access to the national Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) and accessed health services in public hospitals like nationals.

Even though COVID19 restriction measures resulted in school closures for over eight months in 2020, campaigns promoting schooling resulted in a slight increase in enrolment. Over 36,000 refugee students were integrated into national primary and secondary schools alongside the host community. This is number increased by 23,000 in 2020. In the meantime, local schools' capacity continues to be expanded through the construction of additional classrooms, the provision of school equipment and materials, and hiring and training of additional teachers. To further support refugees' access to education and their inclusion in national schools, UNHCR is developing 2021 a partnership with Profuturo/LaCaixa Foundation to provide access to connected learning in line with the Government of Rwanda Policy. This multi-year, innovative project will be aligned with the Government of Rwanda, Ministry of Education, to improve education quality using Information Community and Technology (ICT) to access connected educational learning materials of the national primary education curriculum. The project will benefit 14 national schools hosting refugee students.

Care arrangements for unaccompanied children, family reunification, friendly spaces for children and youth at risk remain limited. SGBV is one of the most significant protection concerns for refugee women and children. UNHCR and partners continued to work together to avail adequate child and youth-friendly spaces and equipment in all the camps. In 2020, one child-friendly space was built in every five Congolese camps to give children a safe space for development and leisure.

With the launch of the Voluntary Repatriation program for Burundian refugees, UNHCR assists refugees willing to opt for this durable solution and go back to their country of origin.

While refugees enjoy a generally favorable protection environment, the refugee camps' poor situation and lack of livelihood opportunities maintained a high dependency on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

Refugees registered in camp locations face arrest and detention risks if they move outside the camp without the requisite documents such as refugee IDs or Proof of registration and a letter authorizing their absence from the camp. Thus, there is a need for legal assistance and detention monitoring, and advocacy for greater freedom of movement of camp-based refugees.

In 2020 and early 2021, WFP faced again recurrent challenges to maintain the food pipeline, and should the funding levels not increase, ration cuts will occur as of March 2021 and might trigger tensions among refugees due to the existence of high dependency on humanitarian assistance and might lead to a push factor to increase the number of refugees returning to their home country, especially Burundian refugees in Mahama camp. In the meantime, UNHCR and WFP continued working on the targeting pilot project. The results of the profiling exercise conducted since 2020 should allow getting information on the refugee population's socio-economic profiling enabling better use of humanitarian assistance, including food and efficient livelihoods programming.

Most schools lack necessary infrastructures, like classrooms, libraries and laboratories, teachers, and supplies. All urban refugee children have the right to be enrolled in different national schools in and out of Kigali. By the end of 2020, we observed a gap of 200 classrooms in all the locations.

Most shelters in Congolese camps are very old, and camps are congested with no space for the camp extension, resulting in inadequate access roads or no fire breakpoints. Environmental damage and continuous erosion have resulted in the development of giant ravines that put refugees' shelters in "unsafe" conditions in Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Gihembe, and Kigeme camp. By the end of 2020, around 80% of refugees had adequate shelters. The operation focuses on relocating refugees whose shelters are in areas at risk of landslides to vacated shelters in Mahama camp voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees. So far, 942 refugees were relocated from Kigeme to Mahama camp between October 2020 and February 2021.

The supply of water remains below standards in Nyabiheke, Kigeme, and Gihembe camps. Advocacy efforts and investments are needed to upgrade and improve the reliability of water supply systems. Meanwhile, most of the access to sanitation facilities should be adapted for people with disabilities.

Access to electricity in shelters in camps remains very low, and more than 95 percent of households have

access to Tier 0-2 electricity services only. Reliance on candles and mobile phones for lighting were most common, and only a minority of families had access to either solar lanterns or solar home systems.

There are many business activities in the camp whose growth is constrained by a lack of energy access. The amenities most demanded by refugee households, lighting, entertainment, and mobile phone charging, are essential services provided by most solar home systems.

On 6 July, UNHCR was informed that two Congolese refugees from the Kigeme refugee camp had been tested positive for COVID-19. Three months later, 308 Covid-19 cases had been identified among refugees in Rwanda. Among the Congolese camps affected, we counted 93 cases, Kigeme (53), Kiziba (23), Nyabiheke (09), Mugombwa (07), and Gihembe (01). Of the identified cases, 98 percent of the affected Congolese refugees have recovered, and have two casualties had been recorded. As part of government prevention measures, the Kigeme refugee camp was placed in extended lockdown between March-May and July-August 2020.

With COVID-19, the schools have been closed since mid-March 2020 and re-opened in November 2020 following the Ministry of Education's expected decision. Suspension of education activities, child-friendly spaces, and community awareness due to COVID-19 has led to increased child neglect cases, SGBV related issues, and drug abuse among youth.

By the end of 2020, this protracted refugee population remains mainly dependent on humanitarian assistance due to limited livelihood opportunities. Almost the entire population is settled in congested refugee camps with aging health, WASH, and shelter infrastructure, which increase the risk of the spread of the virus.

The National Asylum Law provides refugees with the right to work, freedom of movement, and documentation access. Refugees can own property and engage in contracts, including land leases. In 2016, the GoR announced four commitments, including promoting refugees' economic opportunities 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 favorable 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 2020, only 16,975 refugees were engaged in income-generating activities. Due to the effects of COVID-19 on the regional economic situation, refugees were hit hardest, considering that they have only limited livelihood opportunities in hosting areas.

However, even though limited, UNHCR prioritizes this sector, which remains part of the GoR commitment presented at the GRF and has shown since 2019 concrete steps towards refugee socio-economic inclusion. As part of the Misizi Marshland project, funded by the IKEA Foundation, UNHCR collaborates with WFP, FAO, and MINEMA. The GoR improved food security, social cohesion, and income of 1,427 farmers by developing 55ha marshland availed by the Gisagara district. UNHCR, in conjunction with the partners, has identified an additional 100 Ha of lands with the authorities and received funding from the Government of Denmark for the replication of this project in two other districts hosting refugees, Gatsibo District for Nyabiheke camp and Nyamagabe District for Kigeme camp. In parallel, UNHCR is working with the GoR on revising the joint strategy on refugees' socio-economic inclusion 2017/2022.



Beneficiary Population

	Population as of end of December 2020	Planned Population as of end of 2021		
Assisted Refugee Population				
Refugees from Burundi	66,039	28,919		
Refugees and Asylum Seekers from DRC	77,432	80,003		
Evacuees - ETM Rwanda	315	1,500		
Total	143,786	109,422		
Rwandan returnees	794	3,000		
Assisted Host Population	125,000	125,000		

Planning assumptions for the Burundi situation

- 50 average new arrivals per month Better security situation after elections hence few people fleeing
- 4% natural population growth
- 40 RST departures for protection referrals.
- 40,000 facilitated voluntary returns anticipated.

Planning assumptions for the Congolese situation

- 3.6% population growth rate
- Borders remain closed No onward movers received from first countries of asylum besides from the "In situ" category
- RST departures of 1000 individuals
- VolRep & deregistration 500

Planning assumptions for the ETM Rwanda

The MoU signed with the GoR, and the AU for creating 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 2021

Planning assumptions for Rwandan returnees

- 3,000 returnees per year.
- Significant delays in the screening process may continue to be experienced.

Host community and other refugee groups:

- Also, 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
- Some 470 individuals, who mainly arrived in 2016, are pending registration and/or pending national asylum procedures. There are also 4,668 children of mixed refugees, and Rwandan parents are recorded as others of concern, and 809 Rwandan spouses of refugees are recorded as not-of-concern. Rwandan spouses of refugees are registered as not-of-concern while, and their children are recorded as others-of-concern.

Needs Analysis

Needs Analysis Overview

With the implementation of the VolRep of Burundian refugees, it is expected that the refugee population will decrease and reach around 110,000 individuals by the end of 2021. The majority of refugees live in camps (92%), and a small number are settled in urban areas. About 76 percents of the population are women and children. Over 22,000 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.).

Fundamental rights are generally respected, with most refugees recognized on a prima facie basis during major refugee influxes. In 2020, given the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the limited capacity of the national RSD committee, many asylum seekers were still awaiting their decisions.

Since 2015, 5,922 Burundian refugees spontaneously returned to Burundi without the assistance of UNHCR. Following the peaceful elections in Burundi, a group of Burundian refugees in Mahama camp wrote a letter in July 2020, expressing their wish to return to Burundi. While UNHCR does not currently promote the voluntary return to Burundi, it facilitates the returns for PoCs who wish to return to Burundi voluntarily. UNHCR ensures that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions and that returns take place in safety and dignity. The first repatriation convoy of Burundian refugees assisted by UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda was on 27 August 2020. As of December 2020, 7,895 individuals (99% of the 2020 target) had returned, and 13,429 individuals were pending processing for return. Efforts must be sustained as the UNHCR Rwanda operation projects an additional 40,000 Burundian refugees returning to Burundi in 2021.

Following the reduced admissions ceiling for resettlement to the USA, a revised solutions strategy focusing on self-reliance and integration for those who meet the eligibility criteria is envisaged in 2021 and beyond. Resettlement will continue to be pursued as a durable solution for refugees with specific vulnerabilities.

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

The Burundian emergency resulted in high numbers of urban refugees and created a de facto out-of-camp reality. More and more urban refugees have exhausted

their savings and cannot sustain themselves anymore and seek relocation to the camp. A situation aggravated by the negative economic impact of COVID-19. Urban refugees enjoy more freedom of movement than those in camps who need the authorization to leave camps.

Camp-based refugees from DRC, those who have been in Rwanda for over 20 years with no prospects for return, are demotivated to take the initiative to improve their future and only consider resettlement as the solution to their plight resettlement quotas have significantly reduced.

In this context, a comprehensive inter-agency gender assessment conducted in 2016 showed that women and children in this protracted dependency context are at higher risk of resorting to negative coping strategies and being exposed to SGBV and human trafficking to meet basic needs.

The impact of COVID-19 on access to basic services, including health, education, documentation as well as legal and physical protection, livelihood/sustainability, and PSEA, was extensively discussed with PoC as the main themes of the 2020 Participatory Assessment to assess the initial impact of COVID-19 in the lives of refugees and their coping mechanisms.

Needs analysis by sector

Favorable Protection Environment

Rwanda has adhered to all major international conventions and human rights instruments, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocols and the 1969 OAU Convention on specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. Additionally, Rwanda ratified both the 1954 and the 1961 Statelessness Convention. Given Rwanda's role at different regional forums on statelessness, most notably at the ICGLR and at the African Union level, it is anticipated that Rwanda will be among the first AU Member States to ratify the very progressive Protocol on the Right to Nationality and Eradication of Statelessness in Africa once adopted by the AU Executive Council. Overall, Rwanda is committed to respecting its international obligations. However, access to the asylum continues to remain challenging for individuals other than prima facie recognitions. In 2021, efforts must continue to build MINEMA and the RSD Committee's capacity via continued cooperation and advocacy. COVID-19 pandemic resulted in border closures since March 2020 stopped the arrival of any potential asylum seeker to the country.

The 2016 inter-agency gender assessment revealed a heightened risk of refugee women and children driven by poverty to engage in survival sex and begging, making them easy targets for human traffickers. IOM

launched a multi-year project targeting trafficking in refugee settings, and recommendations are expected to be implemented during 2021.

The result of the 2020 Participatory Assessment revealed that SGBV, survivor sex, begging, child defilement, and teenage pregnancy were the main concerns of the refugee women and youth in all locations indicating the negative coping mechanism of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on PoCs. Given the effects of COVID-19, and the limited ability of RRP partners to intervene, it is expected that protection risks for the vulnerable groups are heightened and require specific focus in 2021.

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

Registration in Rwanda is a joint activity between the Government Ministry in charge of emergency management (MINEMA), Directorate of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE), and the UNHCR, forming the Continuous Registration Panels that adjudicate and litigate all cases of refugees who are eligible for registration. UNHCR is sharing jointly collected biographic and biometric refugee data with the GoR. The GoR, with the support of UNHCR, is providing refugee ID cards to refugees aged 16 years+. UNHCR also supports refugee documentation by issuing Proof of registration (PoRs), which protects refugees against refoulement, facilitates access to UNHCR and its partners' services and assistance, and supports mobility. The GoR is issuing MRCTDs, and UNHCR is monitoring the implementation of MRCTDs through different complaint channels.

Family tracing and reunification are being respected and facilitated with the support of ICRC. Improved referral systems and the presence of a local legal protection partner had significantly improved access to civil registration, including birth registration with almost 100% of refugees (age one day - 4 years) issued with birth certificates.

As GoR continues to issue refugee IDs, refugees will be able to access the online public service system (IREMBO), where they can register their children and/or obtain other civil documentation such as divorce and 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 birth registration access.

Given the GoR's recent commitments made to eradicate statelessness in 2019, UNHCR will continue to support the GoR in the birth registration campaigns in 2021 (under commitment 6) in all refugee camps to ensure that all refugees have a birth certificate and, most notably, the late birth registration backlog is reduced. UNHCR is to strengthen its cooperation with UNICEF and work closely with the district offices during those campaigns.

With the GoR's direction towards the digital Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system in the country, in 2021, all refugees will be on a similar footing as nationals as all civil registration instances will be made electronically at health centers.

The national asylum process for new asylum seekers remains cumbersome. In contrast, the provision of documentation for asylum seekers is delayed/denied causing protection risks to this vulnerable population who cannot access basic services.

Security from Violence and Exploitation

In general, most security problems linked to Child Protection and SGBV stem from harmful 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, power imbalance between husband and wife on decisions related to family financials, inadequate lighting in and around camps and transit centers, and lack of lifesaving information or safe and confidential reporting channels. According to the 2020 PA, SGBV incidents are believed to have increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A spike in child defilement/ rape has been reported, while the overall reporting frequency has decreased compared to the previous years. Though SGBV prevention and response services are in place in all refugee settings, there remained challenges of limited knowledge and awareness (on the available mechanisms, including remote management during the lockdown) of the community on such issues, difficulty collecting or preserving evidence for justice mechanisms, and delayed or lack of reporting. Extend lockdowns periods in camps and limited access of UNHCR and partner staff to PoCs during the pandemic intensified the security incidents and response shortcomings. Refugees also reported challenges related to managing household resources, particularly since the rollout of cash, leading to increased intimate partner violence and child neglect. These issues were intensified as a result of COVID-19 and the deterioration of the socio-economic situation of PoCs in Rwanda. Under these circumstances, families, including women and young girls, are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence, such as sexual exploitation and abuse, resulting in exposure to HIV and early/unwanted pregnancies/conditional pregnancies,

Reported child protection risks were predominantly child neglect, child abuse, child pregnancy among adolescent girls between 14 and 18. COVID-19 has intensified the situation.

Operational challenges include inadequate funding to support SGBV/Child Protection staff recruitment in all camps and to ensure qualitative and specialized services. Moreover, a significant gap is the lack of sufficient children and youth-friendly spaces for both where services can be provided while supporting children and youth's resilience. 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 underreported due to different reasons such as cultural constraints, neglect of the children's needs, lack of knowledge on children's rights and insecurity.

Basic Needs and Essential Services

In 2021, considering the refugee response's protracted character and the severe shortfall of humanitarian funding for the refugee response to Burundi and the Congolese situations in Rwanda, the overall assistance program must initiate a progressive shift from blanket to more targeted and prioritized assistance. The refugee response will move towards the basic needs approach and incorporate multi-purpose cash grants (MPGs) as the most favorable approach to deliver assistance to cover part of refugees' basic needs in various sectors. In 2021, CBIs will be scaled up, and the 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 under the national standards. In collaboration with development partners, refugees' inclusion 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 the 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 2021, additional effort is needed in livelihoods for refugees in urban areas and their integration into the existing nationals' cooperatives to avoid putting extra pressures on the infrastructures and services of already congested refugee camps.

Soil erosion remains the main cause of the communal infrastructures' degradation, including access roads and

family shelters in the camps. The status of shelters established many years ago (some more than 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 the area of WASH, advocacy efforts and investments are needed to upgrade and improve water supply systems' reliability and 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 meager funds. Health posts in Mugombwa and Kigeme require upgrading the centers in structure, staffing, and logistics. Rehabilitation of Kiziba, Gihembe, and Nyabiheke health centers is needed. The inclusion of urban refugees, including students in boarding schools away from camps into a community-based health insurance system was implemented in 2020 with the hope of extending it to refugees in camps in the coming years. The health component of the COVID-19 response is being mainstreamed into the CRP, and sustainable efforts must be maintained so RRP partners can continue supporting the National Coronavirus Prevention and Response Plan.

In the education sector, financial support will be needed to increase host community schools' absorption capacity in the vicinity of camps by constructing additional education facilities, such as classrooms, latrines, laboratories, libraries, IT labs, and girls' rooms. Financial support will also be needed to upgrade campbased education infrastructures, where the district will take over the school once the Ministry of Education standards is achieved. Response partners will continue towards ensuring that refugee children enjoy their basic needs, including education, by providing supplies and reinforcing students' welfare with the provision of meals



at school. UNHCR will also initiate a connected learning pilot project in 14 public schools in refugee-hosting areas.

In 2021, UNHCR will use the CRRF context's advantages to integrate as much as possible refugees' access to basic services into the development program. The refugee response must invest in creating more joint programs with other UN agencies to address some basic needs of the refugees.

Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

Rwanda is known for its grassroots and home-grown solutions, which involve accountability from the lowest to the highest levels. Examples of this accountability include the yearly national dialogue with citizens asking direct questions to their leadership and performance contracts signed between the President and the local authorities. Service provision is highly decentralized with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), district authorities, and mayors as key actors cascading down to the lowest administrative levels of villages (Umudugudu)-level authorities working community to identify vulnerable households in a community-based social welfare categorization scheme (Ubudehe). Similar decentralized structures have been replicated in the refugee camps with elected refugee leaders and refugee village representatives. Advocacy has been ongoing since 2017 to avoid parallel systems and align the practice in refugee camps with the national community-based policies and procedures.

UNHCR and partners have prioritized the promotion of peaceful coexistence of the local community and the refugee community through various projects and events, including secondment of GIZ Peace Advisors, ioint Umuganda, ioint celebrations of international days. as well as promoting access of refugees to local facilities and institutions and access of the host community to services in the camp. The 2016 interagency gender assessment and the development of its 2018 Action Plan facilitated access to key government structures such as the Gender Monitor Office, the Ministry of gender and family promotion (MIGEPROF), and the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP). It is hoped that this advocacy will result in the inclusion of refugees in the national campaigns and initiatives for capacity building of leadership structures and hence lead to enhanced community self-management and equal participation.

The 2016 gender assessments flagged weak women's leadership and participation in decision-making. Women leadership among refugees is still weak and should be focused on in 2021. Systematic involvement refugees was sought through multiple initiatives/exercises. such as participatory assessments. awareness-raising campaigns inclusion and Prevention disability of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and implementation and finecommunication of new feedback and mechanisms, though COVID-19 impacted all activities.

The livelihood strategy combined with Community-Based Protection (CBP) initiatives and implementation of recommendations of the gender assessment, participatory assessment, and others and the introduction of cash interventions should continue to lead to increased self-reliance and community self-management in 2021. However, it is expected that COVID-19 will slow down the path to self-reliance. At the same time, UNHCR will continue to address the challenges that refugees are currently facing 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), etc.

UNHCR is taking steps to roll out a network of Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs) which stopped in 2017. The COVs will help identify the most vulnerable, and support in communication with community refugees should be facilitated with the community taking up a greater responsibility in determining better-targeted responses and self-management of community-based structures. By 2021, it is expected to have a well-functioning network of COVs in all locations, including in urban areas, with COVs, specialized in various protection areas. Exchange and capacity building shall be strengthened through a COV peer-network

Durable Solutions

Given the volatile political and security situation in eastern DRC, promoted voluntary repatriation is not envisaged for Congolese refugees. However, those who wish to return voluntarily may be supported by UNHCR to ensure that they benefit from a return package and be included in the returnee monitoring program. This proposal is under discussion for a potential tripartite framework to be developed with the DRC. Cross-border discussions between DRC, Rwanda Government, and UNHCR were held in 2019 at the technical level to discuss options for facilitating return to safe zones in DRC. The discussions could not materialize in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but they will continue in 2021.

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 to facilitate socio-economic inclusion as the solution for most refugees, which would be achieved through the implementation of the AtC policy, selfreliance, advocacy for the prevention of statelessness and access to nationality. In 2019, the USA announced the reduction of the refugee's admissions program from 30,000 to 18,000 worldwide and introduced additional criteria which limit the operations' ability to make new submissions. While departures continue at a lower rate, this has drastically affected the operations' already limited ability to resettle protracted Congolese refugees within the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy's set targets. With the change in administration in the USA, the situation might evolve in 2021.

For Burundians, voluntary repatriation commenced in August 2020 and will continue into 2021, with a projected return of 40,000 individuals. While UNHCR does not currently promote the voluntary return to Burundi, refugees who wish to return to Burundi voluntarily will be supported to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions and that returns take place in safety and dignity. These returns are governed under the 2005 Tripartite Agreement that has been reactivated to manage returns. Technical Working Group meetings with members of both Governments and UNHCR will continue. Also, UNHCR will engage with relevant partners to implement complementary pathways for eligible refugees in 2021.

On possibilities for local integration, refugees have the right to work, start a business, continuing education, and are not subject to an encampment policy. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to engage with high-level Govt, donors, development partners, and UN forum to advocate for refugees' socio-economic inclusion in Rwanda and the humanitarian-development operationalization Nexus. Also, UNHCR will aim to conduct socio-economic profiling for a gradual transition to a protection system and targeted needs-based assistance.

Building on opportunities created by nationality law revision and CRRF approach adoption, opportunities for access to nationality for PoCs will continue to be explored in 2021. Based on available data and nationality law provisions, a large proportion of the refugee population could qualify for naturalization. A

pilot project would advocate for specific categories for which the law is evident and favorable.

Host Population

Refugees and the local population are culturally close and share a high degree of solidarity.

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 2021, advocacy will be continued or initiated to enhance peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community members. The GIZ Civil Peace Service (ZFD) continues to be a key partner in engaging local actors to implement various programs and projects concerning COVID-19 prevention measures. These activities may include educational cinema, participatory theatre, and inter-camp magazine, joint youth activities, a mediation center's construction, and conducting structural peace dialogue sessions among leaders from both communities. These interventions aim to build 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. A significant number of refugees are requested to be assisted to go back to their country of origin through the Voluntary Repatriation program initiated in August 2020. After more than 24 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 the 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 outline refugees' inclusion in the national planning processes instead 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 was being tracked efficiently 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 programs 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 to achieve joint development and humanitarian-oriented results while reducing agency activities' redundancy and overlap. 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 2021 are Protect, Respond, Include, Empower and Solve. These 5 Strategic Directions enforce UNHCR's core mandate to respond and protect and emphasize the need for all CRP partners to empower persons of concern and walk the talk of solving refugee situations fully.

To avoid protracted encampment and overreliance on humanitarian aid, it is critical to focus on the development and implementation of multi-year 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 2021 CRP Strategic Directions in Rwanda are:

- Continue to ensure reception, protection, and assistance for all persons of concern, including new arrivals.
- 2. Provide targeted assistance to the most vulnerable persons of concern, including persons with specific needs and a community-based approach.
- 3. Expand cash-based interventions to gain efficiency and effectiveness and promote refugees' financial inclusion and contribution to the local economy.
- **4.** Pursue the rollout of alternative cooking energy solutions in all camps in line with the national policy banning the use of firewood.
- Reinforce advocacy and strategic development partnerships to include all refugees in national systems health and education, in line with Government policy.
- 6. Support the economic inclusion of refugees and food security to foster refugees' self-reliance and their progressive graduation out of humanitarian assistance.
- 7. Continue seeking 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 productive lives across and supported Rwanda and bv services Government-led and programs, with camps transformed into integrated settlements. short. this vision is **UNHCR** Rwanda's commitment the to people we serve."

Strengthening Livelihoods and Resilience

Following the CRRF and GRF commitment to livelihoods, the key priority will be strengthening refugees and their host communities' livelihoods and self-reliance by scaling up the most sustainable and cost-effective interventions. To make this happen, the joint Government-UNHCR Economic Inclusion Strategy 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, the environment, and sustainable development. Existing programs will be expanded. These include:

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

Food security and nutrition: Building on its strong technical expertise and experience to support 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 for 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.

Institutional collaboration (UNHCR with other UN agencies eg FAO):

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

- 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.



Partnership and Coordination

The Refugee Coordination Model in Rwanda is cocoordinated by the Government's Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR. It includes a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners. UNHCR also coordinates sector working groups.

UNHCR coordinates the preparation of refugee response plans and appeals such as the CRP, Rwanda chapters in the RRRPs for Burundi and the Congolese situations, CERF appeals, the COVID-19 emergency appeal, among others, to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

The 17 CRP partners in 2021 are involved in the planning of the refugee response through the contribution to the participatory needs assessment and other interagency assessments, including UNHCR's country operation plan.

They attend the Refugee Coordination Meeting (RCM) every two months for information exchanges and brainstorm collectively to respond to challenges and define the way forward. CRP partners also attend field coordination meetings to follow up on sectoral activities.

UNHCR works closely with refugee leaders and refugee community groups and conducts regular protection monitoring through focus group discussion and household visits to ensure that humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered safely, accessible, accountable, and participatory.

CRP partners will continue to engage with the private sector in the areas of energy, construction, and livelihoods in 2021.

The private sector is a core of Rwanda's national development strategy and a pillar for its self-reliance strategy.

Partners in the response

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Africa Humanitarian Action

Alight

Humanity and Inclusion

Practical Action

Plan International

Prison Fellowship Rwanda

Save the Children International

The Legal Aid Forum

UN - Food and Agriculture Organization

UN - International Organization for Migration

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 2021

Response to Refugee Populations

Protection

Key protection priorities include ensuring access to territory and asylum, registration, national documentation, promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and preserving asylum's civilian character. These priorities will be pursued through advocacy, protection monitoring, capacity-building for authorities and partners, and community-based protection networks' continued strengthening 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 in terms of prevention and response, moving beyond facilitating recreation activities to facilitate 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 Government's participation and various child protection actors in Rwanda.

Furthermore, community-based mechanisms and structures will enhance the community's knowledge on child protection issues and help identify 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 with learning difficulties, articulation problems, child abuse, separated children, domestic violence, and out-of-school children. UNHCR and RRP partners will continue working to protect 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 partners' capacity building in the past few years, which has led to more timely identification of cases and hence more quality multi-sectoral response, including in the urban setting. In 2021 this will be further reinforced through ongoing technical support and capacity building for NGO partners and government institutions, law enforcement, UN agencies, etc. Community outreach and awareness-raising teams with community-based protection mechanisms will be created and reinforced. The focus will be on strengthening the national level of coordination among all stakeholders, including the Government, and advocacy interventions will be conducted to integrate refugees into national structures.

CRP partners in collaboration with MINEMA, will strengthen the community outreach, also by advocating for integrating refugees into the national "Inshuti (IZU)"¹ structure z'Umuryango (supported MIGEPROF, UNFPA, and UNICEF) to increase mass campaigns awareness-raising on sexual 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 combat trafficking. empowerment and mainstreaming, launched at the end of 2018, in all sectors will be ensured by providing technical support to 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 codified in locally agreed information sharing protocols.

- 100 percent of children under 12 months old have been issued birth certificates by the authorities.
- 52,600 identity documents issued for refugees in 2021.
- 100 percent of persons of concern living in areas accessible to humanitarian workers.
- All identified SGBV survivors receive appropriate support.
- 2,150 PoCs trained on SGBV prevention and response.
- 15,800 adolescents including First Time Young Mothers (FTYMs) participating in targeted programmes.
- 90 percent of registered UASC for whom the best interest process has been initiated/completed.
- 5,850 persons with specific needs receive specialized protection support.

Education

In line with the commitment of the Government to integrate refugees into the national education system, refugees are provided with orientation and back-toschool initiatives to prepare them for the Rwandan curriculum and then enrolled in national schools where possible. In 2021, the full integration for the primary and secondary students 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 2021. The learning environment will continue to be improved. Hence classrooms will be constructed to reduce the ratio of children per classroom.

Vulnerable refugee households will be supported financially with expenditures linked to school uniforms, scholastic materials, textbooks, and school feeding. Also, refugee students performing well in the national exam will be supported to enroll in national boarding schools through the 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 to positively contribute to refugee children's future education and inclusion in national systems.

Connected learning programmes will target 17,952 students from grades primary 4 to Primary 6 through this

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.

programme in 14 public schools in refugee-hosting areas to strengthen the quality of primary education, improve teacher ability to manage classrooms and teach using digital tools and online platforms; encourage student participation and generate enthusiasm in classrooms; and improve student enrollment and retention.

- 95 percent of children enrolled in primary education by the end of 2021.
- 70 percent of children enrolled in secondary education by the end of 2021.
- 100 percent of refugee children accessing the national education system by 2021.
- 500 persons of concern who receive tertiary education scholarships.
- 12,380 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 fulfill 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. Given this, partnerships with several specialized organizations are envisaged in entrepreneurship, value chain development, financial inclusion, and access to finance, crowdfunding, technical vocational education, and training. In 2020 and 2021, efforts to support refugees who can 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 2021 will include: access to productive assets and income, enhancing skills, mainly targeting youth, coaching, and mentoring for business entrepreneurship, facilitating better market linkages access to financial services. Targeted support will be provided to the refugees and their host communities to increase income and food production from agricultural enterprises.

In 2021 priority areas will focus on 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 which can be involved in income-generating activities. In parallel, the other key priorities will be to strengthen evidence-based policy advocacy for the refugees' enhanced economic inclusion. Efforts will be made to increase their access to jobs and employment (including owning a business and facilitating their enhanced mobility) and greater access to public services such as health, education, safety nets, and financial services.

- 9,390 persons of concern provided with cash/vouchers for livelihoods provisioning.
- 25 percent of refugees will be employed by the end of 2020 and 25 percent by 2021.
- 85 percent of persons of concern have formal access to work opportunities in the host country.

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 soil erosion. Also, 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 stormwater control.

In 2021 priority areas will focus on 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, and returnees 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 rollout of alternative energy-saving solutions to avoid firewood usage 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 sustainable energy for productive use through a market-based approach attracting companies selling solar home systems to refugees.

- 75 percent of camp-based refugee households will have access to sustainable energy in 2021.
- 148,000 tree seedlings will be planted.

Food

Despite the funding shortfalls experienced by WFP in early 2021 and the consequent ration cuts as of March

2021, food security partners aim to ensure access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food daily for all refugees in camps. In 2021, due to the socio-economic profiling of the refugee population carried out under the joint UNCHR/WFP Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub, 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. According to needs, persons with specific needs or the most vulnerable will continue to receive food rations and other support, including school feeding and nutrition interventions.

New arrivals in reception/transit centers 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 counseling will be conducted proactively.

81 percent of refugees in camps will be targeted with full food rations once the targeted assistance will be implemented (provision of full food rations will be dependent upon the availability of fundingshould critical funding shortages persist, reductions in food assistance will continue).

Health and Nutrition

In 2021, all services put in place will be maintained and adapted to COVID-19 requirements. Rehabilitation of health facilities will be considered to integrate services provided from facilities into the national health programs (Gihembe and Kiziba will be prioritized). The number of health staff will be adjusted to match the needs considering COVID-19 requirements and provide them with the necessary training. Essential medicine and medical supply stock and management capabilities will be ensured for the total refugee population, including the host communities' caseload, through regular monitoring. Referral care to secondary and tertiary levels needs to be supported and limited to lifesaving emergencies following the medical referral SOP and utilization of the medical referral committees. Specialist visits to the camp will be used as another alternative to referral while sensitizing the community on the referral procedures.

Outbreak preparedness and response capacity will be strengthened in collaboration with MINEMA, district authorities, and Rwanda Biomedical Centre. This includes but is not limited to disease surveillance, COVID-19 prevention and management measures, health promotion mainly against diarrheal diseases. If adequate treatment and vaccine are found against COVID-19, UNHCR and partners will advocate WHO, UNICEF, donors, and the Rwanda government to

consider refugees' needs in the national response and make sure that refugees are vaccinated in line with the relevant protocols.

Care for non-communicable diseases will streamlined. Disease surveillance systems through health information systems will be enhanced, and the quality of data will be improved. Mental health and psychosocial support activities will be strengthened. Health activities at reception centers will be continued, including a vaccination program following MoH protocol. Advocacy will continue to integrate hepatitis service into the national health system, including camp-based refugees' inclusions into the national health insurance system. Health education will be strengthened to health-seeking improve community Laboratory services will be ensured for primary diagnostic purposes. Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses services will be provided as usual.

Monitoring and evaluation of the above activities will be conducted through various channels going from more regular field

The nutrition response camps will focus on prevention, screening/detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, especially anemia, 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 behavioral change at the community level will be a continuous process. Nutrition programmes will collaborate with health, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, protection, livelihood, and agriculture sectors.

- 100 percent of urban refugees are enrolled in the national health system;
- 100 percent of live births will be attended by skilled personnel.
- Global Acute Malnutrition Prevalence of maximum 2 percent across the camps.
- 45 percent of women and girls in reproductive health using Family planning methods.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

For 2021, the comprehensive response in Congolese camps will focus on the transformation of all the shelters to corrugate iron sheets; construct family shelters to gradually and smoothly allocate individual shelters to families that have been living in high-risk zone areas, and also for re-designing Kigeme camp to reduce any environmental/safety hazard that may occur.

As part of the Burundian refugee response, the operation will continue assisting the voluntary

repatriation exercise and identify empty shelters in Mahama camp to support the relocation of Congolese refugee families living in high-risk zone areas. Also, the operation will focus on the routine rehabilitation/maintenance of family shelters in all camps.

There is a need for proper drainage systems and fix gutters in all the camp's infrastructures (shelters and public infrastructures) to harvest rainwater and decrease run-off. These should be connected to a comprehensive drainage system. The access roads' situation to and within the camps is eroded due to surface run-off, mainly made of compacted earth roads and needs continual maintenance and rehabilitation.

In 2021, cash distribution will be organized quarterly for camp-based refugees to cover their basic needs (transportation, communication, and essential non-food items. The Cash distributions covering the existing sanitary kit (soap and sanitary napkins) will be maintained for women of reproductive age who get an extra soap. UNHCR will also continue to ensure the distribution of cash to cover the monthly distribution of soap (250g per person per month) given the public health risks associated with poor hygiene and the current COVID situation. On an ad-hoc basis, some NFIs will be distributed in-kind to targeted groups of refugees such as elderly persons, survivors of violence, etc. The Rwanda Operation's vision is to establish a productive, long-term link between these cash transfers for NFIs and the livelihoods activities.

- 95 percent of households living in adequate dwellings
- 1,134 shelters repaired/upgraded.
- 125 structures maintained.
- 90 percent of refugees have access to Multipurpose Cash Grants to meet their basic needs.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

In 2021, the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) response will include working 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. Furthermore, there is a need for backup systems to ensure an uninterrupted supply of potable water. There is a need for rehabilitation/construction, and maintenance of water kiosks in all refugee camps to protect the water infrastructures from vandalism and ensure sustainable water supply to camps and host communities connected to the water network.

The aging infrastructure – that is under strenuous use in the camp is subjected to the need for more additional sanitation structures to be developed. For example, in 2021 in Kigeme, there will be a need for constructing 480 toilets drop holes, fixing the improved handwashing 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 camps. 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 significant challenge is a surface run-off, contributing to spreading disease.

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

- Refugees have access to an average of 20 liters of potable water available per person per day.
- In camps, there are less than 20 refugees per drophole in latrines.
- 5,000 communal sanitary facilities/ latrines constructed.
- 137,975 persons of concern reached by environmental health and hygiene campaigns.

Planned ETM response for 2021

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 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, approximately 60km from Kigali. At Gashora, they are registered and provided with documentation that enables them to access protection services and essential humanitarian assistance. Once in the center, UNHCR and MINEMA proceed with the individual registration of all refugees and asylumseekers. 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 the information on where they come from, their age, the reason for the flight from their country of origin, and the flight paths. UNHCR also documents the known whereabouts of their family members and checks if they were recognized as refugees in other countries, any abuse, and exploitation, among any specific protection needs. This first step allows UNHCR to have comprehensive information in its database for further protection assessment, leading to durable solutions.

Upgrade of the Transit center: Since the MoU signature in September 2019, the ETM Gashora Transit Center improvement works have been conducted through the rehabilitation of accommodation blocks. All the houses are equipped with beds, bedding materials, sitting room chairs, etc. To increase the ETM facility's capacity and meet the WASH humanitarian standards, sex-segregated communal facilities were constructed, including blocks of dischargeable latrines, shower blocks, garbage collection blocks, public laundry slabs, etc. By the end of November, the WASH facilities could provide safe sanitation access within the center for more than 300 individuals. Also, UNHCR has initiated a G+1 and a G+2 building for office space and increased the center's capacity to 500 persons.

For the public infrastructures, 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 was 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 masonry-built channels. In 2021, the operation shall finalize the expansion of the accommodation capacity allowing the center to function at full (500 PoCs) and welcome an additional 1000 refugees and asylum seekers in 2021.

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 to host up to 320 refugees and 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. The psychological assessments showed that more than 40% of refugees and asylum-seekers suffer from psychological distress, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and depression. In contrast, several refugees and asylum-seekers were diagnosed with a psychotic disorder and were referred to 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, etc.

In health sector, 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 counseling and testing (VCT), PMTCT, antiretroviral therapy (ART), and community awareness will be supported. Moreover, health-related services about SGBV, including the 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, a 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 evacuees' profile that includes many children and youth who went through traumatic experiences during their journey and in Libya, response partners invest in education activities. Literacy and language classes in English and Kinyarwanda have started and accelerated learning programs. As part of the healing process, UNHCR also facilitates their access to leisure and entertainment activities. In this framework, structured sports activities with trainers (football, volleyball, table tennis, and basketball) and dance classes have already been set up, and more activities will be developed in 2021.

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-headed households, 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 ICRC's support) and interventions for the

prevention and response to SGBV. Refugees and asylum seekers will also have access to legal assistance and counseling.

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 initiated 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 food and goods from the local market will allow them to rebuild a sense of normality and ensure that the assistance is adapted to their needs. It will also enable them 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 ensure the maintenance of sanitation facilities and 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, the 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 convenient 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 permitted 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 the most appropriate durable solution, UNHCR prepares resettlement files submitted to third countries for consideration. Following the 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 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 refugees' transport 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. So far, 215 refugees have been resettled to Sweden, Canada, France, and Norway, and efforts will continue in 2021 to pursue le resettlement of a more significant number of eligible refugees.

Voluntary Repatriation: Considering the ETM Rwanda's comprehensive approach to durable solutions, UNHCR will explore the 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 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. 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 asylumseekers to make an informed and voluntary decision on this durable solution. All evacuees who are willing to voluntarily return to their country of origin, in an area where the situation is conducive to dignified repatriation, will receive support from UNHCR Rwanda to facilitate their departure.

Local integration Complementary and Pathways: Enhancing self-reliance and resilience capacities are undertaken with the objective of 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 an effort to ensure that the refugees become self-reliant. This intervention is being planned based on the results of livelihoods assessments. In 2021, livelihoods activities will include a mix of skills training in entrepreneurship and financial literacy, TVET/Vocational training mainly in the areas of trade and ICT, and the allocation of sectoral cash grants allowing refugees and asylum-seekers to start small businesses.

Beyond building the evacuees' resilience capacities and self-reliance, 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 humanitarian admission programs, community or private sponsorship, scholarships, 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. Since 2009, almost 92,000 Rwandans returned to Rwanda. The GoR manages reception and ensures returnees' sustainable reintegration with support from CRP partners. Returnees arriving by land are received in transit centers where they receive basic services before returning to their district of origin and reintegrated into

the community. In 2020, due to COVID-19 and border closures, approximately 800 returnees were repatriated. Rwandan returnees face considerable challenges to their reintegration given the length of their stay in exile, their education level, and difficulty to access adequate shelter and access to livelihood opportunities. The primary basic needs for families include shelter, education for their children, health, and income generation opportunities. All returnees, including those

arriving by air or other land crossings, will continue to have an immediate basic need to access basic domestic items in 2021. All returnees will continue to receive in-kind food rations for three months from WFP to help them during the transition period until they receive Multi-purpose Cash Grants from UNHCR to cover their basic needs, shelter, education, and income generation projects.

2021 Sector Financial Requirements Summary

By Organization & Sector

Organizations	Education	Food Security	Protection	WASH	Energy & Environment	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Resilience	Shelter & NFIs	Grand Total
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	500,000								500,000
Africa Humanitarian Action						130,000			130,000
ALIGHT			779,000			1,520,000			2,299,000
Humanity and Inclusion			1,456,665						1,456,665
Plan International			100,000				35,000		135,000
Practical Action					1,847,390				1,847,390
Prison Fellowship Rwanda			1,000,000						1,000,000
Save the Children International			644,001			1,958,162			2,602,163
The Legal Aid Forum			49,690						49,690
UN - International Organization for Migration			5,600,000			1,500,000	1,500,000		8,600,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	9,706,222		24,033,551	10,259,696	7,125,003	17,846,693	5,750,106	17,567,674	92,288,944
UN - United Nations Population Fund			457,500			1,221,000			1,678,500
UN - UNWOMEN			300,000				150,000		450,000
UN - World Food Programme	797,695	16,794,084				2,106,299	2,539,152		22,237,229
UN- Food and Agriculture Organization					654,085		1,295,644		1,949,729
World Vision International	1,316,833			2,334,495					3,651,328
UN - United Nations International Children's Fund	750,000		500,000	250,000		500,000			2,000,000
	13,070,749	16,794,084	34,920,407	12,844,191	9,626,478	26,782,154	11,269,902	17,567,674	142,875,638

2021 Financial Requirements Summary

By Refugee Population / Situation and Organization

Burundian Refugees	2021 Budget
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	100,000
Africa Humanitarian Action	30,000
ALIGHT	999,000
Humanity and Inclusion	580,000
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	300,000
Save the Children International	2,602,163
The Legal Aid Forum	49,690
UN - International Organization for Migration	6,600,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for	42,073,476
Refugees UN - United Nations International Children's Fund	2,000,000
UN - United Nations Population Fund	738,500
UN - UNWOMEN	100,000
UN - World Food Programme	8,190,636
UN- Food and Agriculture Organization	1,214,729
World Vision International	1,151,328
Total	66,729,523
DDO D-6	T-1-1
DRC Refugees	Total
Adventist Development and Relief Agency Africa Humanitarian Action	400,000 100,000
ALIGHT	1,300,000
Humanity and Inclusion	876,665
Plan International	135,000
Practical Action	1,847,390
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	700,000
The Legal Aid Forum	0
UN - International Organization for Migration	2,000,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for	32,778,339
Refugees UN - United Nations International Children's Fund	0
UN - United Nations Population Fund	940,000
UN - UNWOMEN	350,000
UN - World Food Programme	14,046,593
UN- Food and Agriculture Organization	735,000
World Vision International	2,500,000
Total	58,708,987
Rwandan Returnees	Total
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2,699,900
Total	2,699,900
COVID 19 Response	
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for	
Refugees	2,237,229
Total	2,237,229
ETM Rwanda	Total
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for	12,500,00
Refugees	
Total	12,500,00
Grand Total	142,875,638