

# Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities

## Tackling the root causes of displacement – reintegrating refugees

### The challenge

Due to persistent political instability and numerous conflicts in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region, Rwanda has been a destination for refugees for decades, especially from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and more recently, from Burundi. Given the unstable political situation in their countries of origin, it is unlikely that these refugees will be able to return home in the near future. Indeed, the number of refugees is steadily rising.

Although basic needs, including food, primary health care and access to schooling are met, further reaching services such as professional upgrading, support for business start-ups, entrepreneurship training and advisory services, promotion of employability, income-generating measures and support for professional integration are often subject to practical obstacles and challenges. As a result, the economic inclusion of refugees and inhabitants of selected neighbouring communities is often inadequate.

The project aims to improve the economic inclusion of refugees and host communities through a combination of measures to enhance the framework conditions at national and local levels, the promotion of the local economy and start-ups of MSMEs, the expansion of entrepreneurial activities and professional upgrading.

### Our approach

The methodological approach of our project consists of four interdependent areas of activity: (1) Improvement of the framework conditions at national and local level, (2)

Business start-ups and expansions particularly in the refugee camps and surrounding areas, (3) Professional Development for young refugees and young women and men from the neighbouring communities, and (4) Psycho-social support for those in need.

In all of our measures, special attention is paid to ensuring equal access for refugees and host communities according to our “Do no harm principle”, for women and men, while also taking care to involve vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, single parents and unaccompanied minors). In our work with the target group, activities are, furthermore based on a trauma- and conflict-sensitive approach.

The focus of the capacity development strategy of the project is on developing the skills of refugees and inhabitants of the neighbouring communities (human capacity development level). Organisational development is used, where necessary. At a societal level, cooperation relations are strengthened and political and administrative framework conditions are improved.

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Com-misioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project re-gion	Rwanda
Lead execut-ing agency	GIZ
Duration	01.09.2018 – 30.08.2023



## Our partners

To implement our strategy, we work very closely with two key partners. The Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), is responsible for the political steering of legal and administrative affairs concerned with refugees. MINEMA receives advisory support from UNHCR, which is responsible for the protection of refugees, as well the coordination of humanitarian aid for refugees in Rwanda. Within UNHCR, there is a livelihood unit, which provides advisory support for the economic inclusion of refugees.

## A few of our interventions

A few of our interventions, which began in 2019: Approximately 800 beneficiaries from the refugee and host communities will receive vocational training in fields such as carpentry, tailoring and masonry. Furthermore, another 75 beneficiaries will receive entrepreneurship and business skills training. The project is also preparing a joint economic forum with UNHCR for members of the refugee and host communities, which shall take place in the near future. A special fund aimed to establish and realise various types of development partnerships with national or international investors or existing companies is also currently being set up.

## What we expect

The stated objective is to improve the economic inclusion of residents of the Mahama, Mugombwa and Kigeme refugee camps and neighbouring communities, as well as urban refugee communities in Huye and Kigali. It is expected that 2000 people from refugee camps and surrounding host communities have found employment or started a business, 40% of whom are women. In addition, we aim to provide psychosocial support to 600 refugees, 5% of whom are persons with disabilities, single mother or father with one or more children or unaccompanied minor children.

## Further elements

The Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities Programme is a joint Rwandan–German Development Cooperation Programme implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

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