



# IOM RWANDA COUNTRY OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2021



RWANDA

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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KG 632 Street, Gasasa, Rugando Cell, Kimihurura  
Kigali, Rwanda  
Tel.: +250 788 389 723  
Email: [pir@iom.int](mailto:pir@iom.int)  
Website: [www.rwanda.iom.int](http://www.rwanda.iom.int)

Cover photo: IOM staff conducting awareness raising sessions on Trafficking in Persons. © IOM Rwanda/2021

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>API</b>	Advanced Passenger Information
<b>AVRR</b>	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>ETM</b>	Emergency Transit Mechanism
<b>EVD</b>	Ebola Virus Disease
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>IPC</b>	Infection Prevention and Control
<b>IPRCs</b>	Integrated Polytechnic Regional Colleges
<b>IRIS</b>	International Recruitment Integrity System
<b>LMM</b>	Labour Migration Management
<b>MHAC</b>	Migration Health Assessment Center
<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support
<b>MINAFFET</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
<b>MINEMA</b>	Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>OSBP</b>	One Stop Border Post
<b>PDO</b>	Pre-departure orientation
<b>PoE</b>	Point of Entry
<b>PNR</b>	Passenger Name Record
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>RCCE</b>	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
<b>RMM</b>	Resettlement and Movement Management
<b>RP</b>	Rwanda Polytechnic
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TIP</b>	Trafficking In Persons
<b>TVET</b>	Technical Vocational Education and Training
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

## FOREWORD



IOM RWANDA CARRYING OUT HYGIENE PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS, AS PART OF COVID-19 RESPONSE. © IOM Rwanda 2021

In 2021, IOM Rwanda continued to operate in a challenging, dynamic environment. On one hand, this year saw the beginning of a strong economic recovery, fueled by the Government's Economic Recovery Plan, a robust vaccination campaign and the pickup in industrial production. On the other, the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's lives remained significant. This particularly affected vulnerable populations, including migrants, refugees, and border communities.

In order to address these challenges and assist people in need, IOM, in consultation with the Government, had to adapt its interventions. IOM programmes evolved with the obstacles and opportunities they encountered, in a context of fast-changing operational circumstances and emerging needs. Whilst diverse in nature, all IOM interventions had one feature in common: they put people at the center and promoted national ownership and buy-in.

The IOM Rwanda 2021 Annual Report aims to capture IOM's work and achievements across its main areas of interventions. These included the COVID-19 response, the

promotion of sub-regional economic integration and social cohesion of cross-border communities through integrated border management, diaspora engagement in support of the country's development, the provision of resettlement services and humanitarian assistance as well as counter trafficking initiatives.

As we share this report, we wish to express our utmost gratitude to the Government of Rwanda, our donors, and partners. Common challenges do call for collective efforts: the results presented in this report would have never been achievable without your continuous collaboration and generous support.

A final, massive thank you to all those who contributed to IOM Rwanda's work, first and foremost to the people we serve. Your stories, voices, and resilience inspired and encouraged us to do more, to do better.

**Helene Fors** | Chief of Mission - IOM Rwanda

## ABOUT IOM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners.

IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

### IOM IN RWANDA

IOM first provided humanitarian assistance in Rwanda in 1994 during the months after the Genocide against the Tutsi and continued to operate until 1999. IOM re-opened its office in 2008 and its presence in Rwanda has grown ever since.

IOM Rwanda supports the Government of Rwanda in sound migration management. Through the promotion of national ownership and in close collaboration with the Government authorities, UN agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, civil society and local communities, IOM Rwanda contributes to uphold the rights of people on the move by offering migration management services in the following areas:

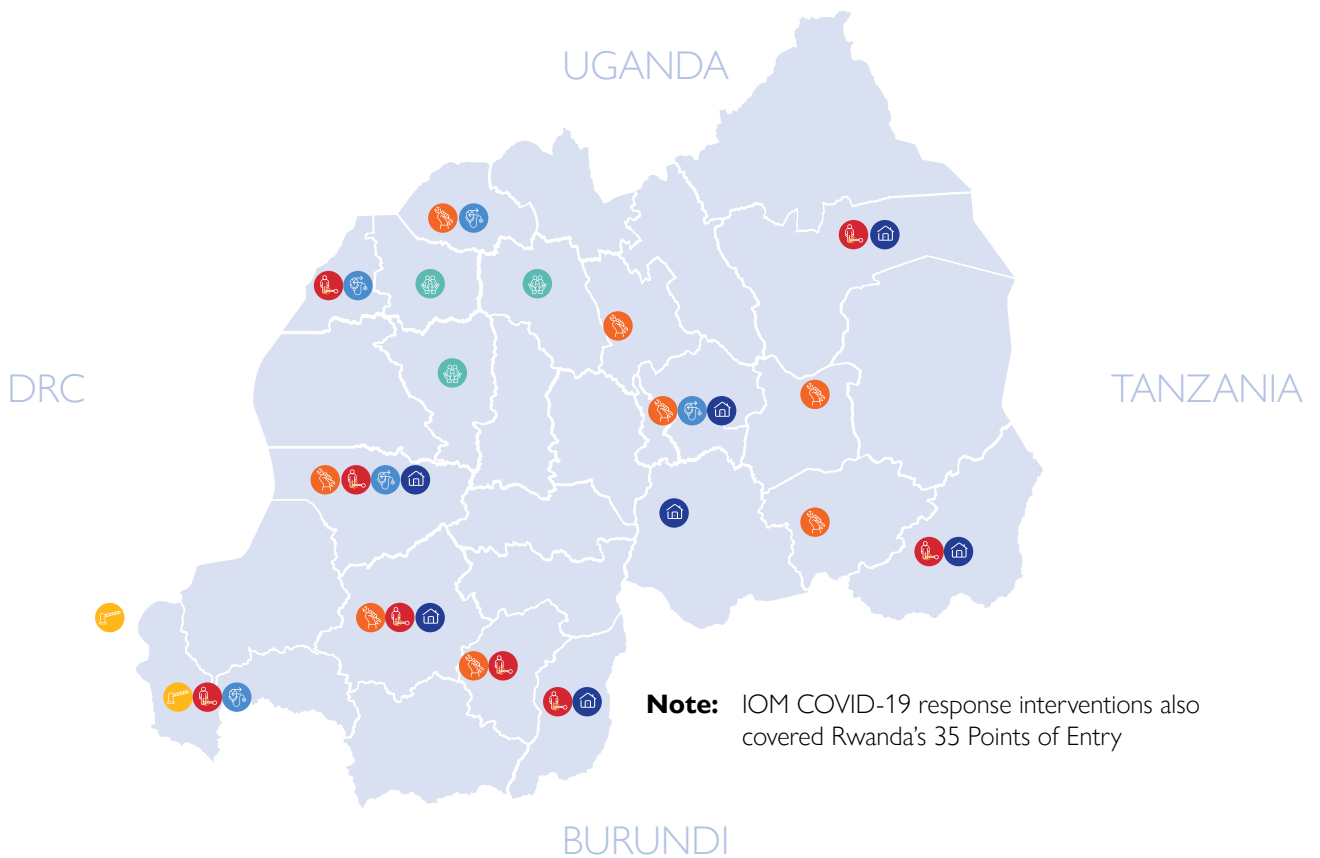
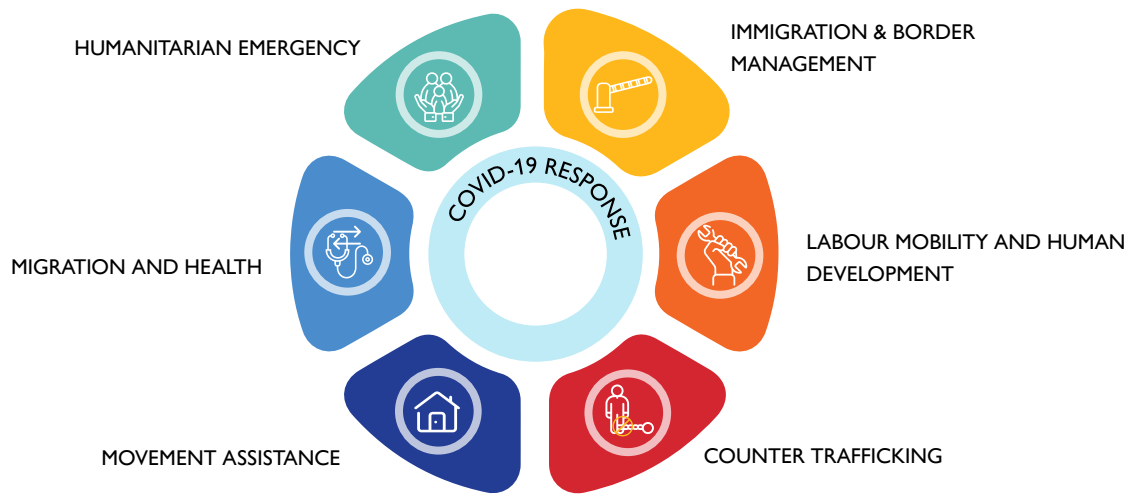
- Border management
- Labour mobility and human development
- Counter trafficking
- Migration and Health
- Movement assistance, including refugee resettlement
- Humanitarian emergencies.

IOM Rwanda's work is rooted in the principles and priorities of international and regional frames such as:

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2018 – 2024
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)
- The IOM Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)
- The IOM Regional Strategy 2020 – 2024 for East and Horn of Africa.

Furthermore, IOM Rwanda's interventions align with the strategies and objectives of the Government, donors, and other key actors within the sphere of migration.

# IOM RWANDA'S RESPONSE IN BRIEF



**Note:** IOM COVID-19 response interventions also covered Rwanda's 35 Points of Entry

IOM Rwanda's interventions support the implementation of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

- 276**  
Hand-Washing Stations procured and installed
- 489**  
community members provided with annual health insurance (mutuelle de santé)
- 1.6 million +**  
people reached through COVID-19 awareness raising and hygiene promotion campaigns

- 2 million +**  
people screened at 35 PoEs
- 1**  
Population Mobility Mapping report published

## Immigration and Border Management

- 1st**  
stone of the OSBP Rusizi II/Bukavu laid jointly by Rwanda/DRC authorities
- 1**  
governance structure for the management of the OSBP Rusizi II/Bukavu established

- 210**  
direct beneficiaries of psycho-social support interventions in Rwanda
- 13**  
institutions and agencies of the Government of Rwanda involved in the OSBP governance structure

## Labour Mobility and Human Development

- 1**  
Benchmarking exercise on LMM between the Governments of Rwanda and Mauritius facilitated
- 19**  
diaspora professionals mobilized in the Health and TVET sectors
- 1**  
young innovators competition launched, and 10 business ideas fostering local development implemented, with the support of diaspora professionals

- 10**  
hospitals in Rwanda supported by diaspora health professionals
- 8**  
IPRCs in Rwanda supported by diaspora TVET professionals



## Counter Trafficking



6  
refugee camps and 3 border districts involved in awareness raising initiatives



192  
Government officials and protection actors trained on TIP



1.2 million +  
people reached through awareness raising campaigns on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)



96%  
of officials and protection actors trained by IOM reported an increased capacity to identify TIP situations

## Movement Assistance



106  
PDO sessions facilitated for 1,174 refugees



70  
family-class applicants supported



2,598  
refugees resettled

## Migration and Health



5,654  
people benefitted from pre-migration health assessments



2,366  
people vaccinated

## Humanitarian Emergency



1,981 households, corresponding to 9,905 flood victims provided with shelter assistance



61 people with disabilities provided with extra shelter support

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic has heavily affected countries and societies. Its impact has been harshest on groups who were already in vulnerable situations before the crisis, such as people on the move.

Since the onset of the pandemic, IOM Rwanda collaborated with the Government of Rwanda – particularly, the Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Biomedical Center – as well as with relevant partners and stakeholders to implement the Government of Rwanda’s COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and provide people in need with adequate support.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

IOM provided Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and procured Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to refugee population, host and border communities, healthcare, and frontline workers.

More specifically, IOM installed 66 durable Hand-Washing Stations for refugee population and host communities in Kirehe, Gatsibo and Gicumbi Districts and 210 Hand-Washing tippy taps stations for students from refugee camps and host communities as well as for refugees hosted at the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Gashora.

IOM donated and distributed washable face masks to refugees and host community; surgical masks, gowns, and gloves to healthcare workers in district hospitals, refugee camps, and Isange-One Stop Center personnel; and 25 sets of PPE to the COVID-19 treatment center for refugees in Nyamasheshe district.

In order to ensure adequate access to healthcare, IOM provided 489 community members in Gashora with annual health insurance (mutuelle de santé).

### RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

IOM conducted sensitization sessions and hygiene promotion campaigns for truck drivers and hospitality industry workers in Kigali as well as for refugee population and host communities across

the country. The risk communication and community engagement equipment used for the campaigns – including megaphones, radios, posters, banners, printers, microphones, and flyers – was handed over to the refugee camps.

Collaboration with local radios in the four border districts of Rusizi, Rubavu, Karongi and Musanze allowed IOM to reach out to marketplaces and bus stations, this way amplifying the coverage of COVID-19 and viral diseases’ prevention awareness raising campaigns.

Last, IOM distributed COVID-19 awareness raising posters to ONE UN and the main UN partners in Rwanda and translated informative brochures on COVID-19 into Kinyarwanda and Kiswahili to be disseminated through UN media channels and website.

### POINTS OF ENTRY (PoEs)

In order to improve surveillance, prevention and early detection of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and COVID-19 cases, IOM assisted 350 healthcare and frontline workers of the country’s district hospitals in performing arrival and departure screenings at PoEs, through the provision of incentives, and trained 58 border officials on COVID-19 prevention measures.

IOM conducted and published the first-ever Population Mobility Mapping in Rusizi District. The report aimed to determine mobility patterns having health-related impact and identify strategic PoEs as well as vulnerable congregation points at risk of public health threats with a view to informing evidence-based viral diseases and COVID-19 preparedness and response measures.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE

IOM partnered with UNHCR, the Government of Rwanda and the local-based NGO Maison Shalom to distribute 20,000 reusable face masks in the Mahama camp, home to over 60,000 refugees.

The masks were produced by a group of 34 women living in the Mahama camp within the frame of an income generating project aiming to improve their livelihood.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



276  
Hand-Washing Stations procured and installed



2 million +  
people screened at 35 PoEs



489  
community members provided with annual health insurance (mutuelle de santé)



1  
Population Mobility Mapping report published



1.6 million +  
people reached through COVID-19 awareness raising and hygiene promotion campaigns



A BENEFICIARY USING ONE OF THE 19 HWFS BUILT IN THE BORDER DISTRICTS OF BUGESERA, KIREHE, MUSANZE, NYAGATARE, RUBAVU AND RUSIZI. © PH FLICK-STUDIOS LTD



IOM TEAMS DELIVERING INFORMATION ON COVID-19 PREVENTION TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES. © IOM RWANDA 2021

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# ACHIEVEMENTS BY PROGRAMMATIC AREA

# IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

## OVERVIEW

Well-managed borders are a key component of an effective and orderly migration governance.

In 2021, IOM worked closely with the Government of Rwanda to support the strengthening of the immigration and border management approach in the country. This ranged from migration management related legislative development to cross border coordination, social cohesion in border areas and border disease surveillance.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### SUPPORT TO LEGAL AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive, adequate legal and policy frameworks are essential to ensure that border management interventions are well-structured, coherent and in line with national and international standards and commitments. In 2021, IOM supported the Government of Rwanda in the development of the national Law on Advanced Passenger Information (API)/Passenger Name Record (PNR) system in Rwanda, to streamline traveler identification management and facilitate border management, and the development of a border management framework for the establishment of a One-Stop Border Post (OSBP)<sup>1</sup> at the Point of Entry (PoE) Rusizi II/Bukavu (see map).

### INTER-AGENCY, NATIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION

Border management is a multidimensional reality, involving several actors and stakeholders. Their coordination is therefore key to ensure that border management follows an integrated, holistic approach. IOM supported the setting up of a project coordination structure between border authorities and other key stakeholders from Rwanda and The Democratic Republic of The Congo (DRC) involved in the establishment of the OSBP Rusizi II/Bukavu and will further assist in strengthening longer term joint border management. This multi-layered governance system included: 1) a bilateral Steering Committee tasked with providing the strategic lead on the establishment of the OSBP; 2) project oversight committees, gathering key institutions at national level and tasked with project monitoring; and 3) technical subcommittees overseeing thematic issues. Besides facilitating coordination, these mechanisms are meant

<sup>1</sup> OSBPs are designed to facilitate the movement of goods and persons across borders by creating a single stop for border control, which reduces waiting times and increases cost efficiencies.

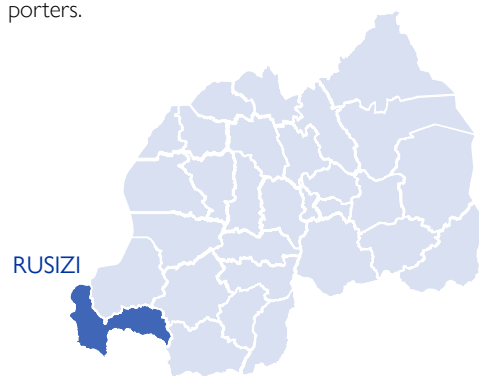
to ensure full ownership of the process by national authorities and that a sustainable governance system is in place beyond the project lifecycle.

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Border facilities such as OSBP support cross-border trade, boost economic development, facilitate bilateral dialogue and promote regional stability through cross-border communities engagement. IOM continued to support the upgrade of the infrastructure at the PoE Rusizi II/Bukavu to facilitate its transition towards the OSBP mode, ahead of its operationalization in 2023. As a milestone achievement, in November 2021, the Governor of the Western Province (Rwanda) and the Deputy Governor of the South Kivu Province (DRC) laid together the first stone of the future OSBP of Rusizi II.

### SUPPORT TO SOCIAL COHESION IN BORDER COMMUNITIES AND PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) TO CROSS-BORDER TRADERS

Cross-border trade can be a powerful multiplier of wealth. However, too frequently small-scale cross-border traders and border communities encounter major challenges in benefitting from it. Between 2019 and 2020, IOM conducted a baseline assessment to identify the obstacles that cross-border traders and porters, particularly women, experienced in their daily life and work as well as the criticalities of their psycho-social distress. Based on the outcome of this exercise, in 2021, IOM and its implementing partners designed and implemented a set of MHPSS interventions to support the most vulnerable actors at the border. Activities included training sessions for community psycho-social workers; individual, couple and group counselling; and meetings with relevant authorities to raise awareness on the challenges faced by cross-border traders and porters.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



**1st**  
stone of the OSBP Rusizi II/Bukavu laid jointly by Rwanda/DRC authorities



**210**  
direct beneficiaries of psycho-social support interventions in Rwanda



**1**  
governance structure for the management of the OSBP Rusizi II/Bukavu established



**13**  
institutions and agencies of the Government of Rwanda involved in the OSBP governance structure



BILATERAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) FOR THE OSBP RUSIZI II/BUKAVU PROJECT TAKING PLACE IN RUSIZI ON 29 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2021. © RBA MEDIA 2021



CROSS-BORDER TRADERS AT RUSIZI II POE MEETING WITH THE RWANDAN AND DRC AUTHORITIES. © EU DELEGATION IN DRC 2021

# LABOUR MOBILITY & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## OVERVIEW

Sound labour migration management benefits countries and migrants alike. It is conducive to structural transformation and economic growth and contributes to ensure that the rights of migrant workers are upheld.

IOM interventions in this area were implemented in close cooperation with the Government of Rwanda and revolved around three axes: 1) building local capacities in labour migration management, 2) mobilizing highly skilled Rwandan diaspora members as actors of local development, 3) providing evidence-based migration data to inform the Government's policies.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### CAPACITY-BUILDING INTERVENTIONS

IOM implemented capacity building interventions for the Government officials, private sectors, and Civil Society Organizations on labour migration management. More specifically, IOM conducted a training on "IRIS: Ethical Recruitment" – the IOM's flagship initiative to promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers – for the Government, civil society and private sector representatives.

Furthermore, IOM facilitated a benchmarking exercise for the Governments of Rwanda (19 officials) and Mauritius. The exercise allowed the exchange of good practices on safe labour migration policies as well as on skills development and improvement. As part of this activity, IOM also delivered a training session on TIP.

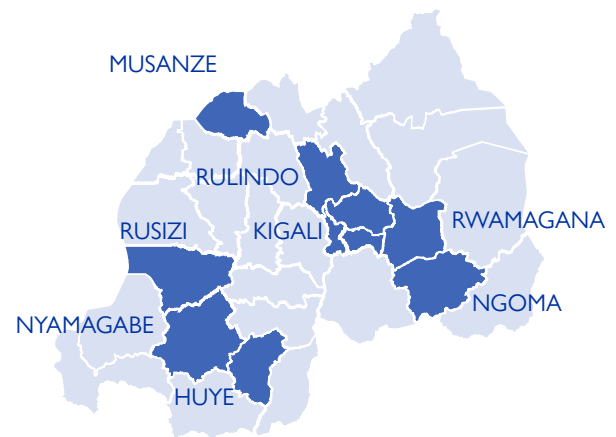
### DIASPORA MOBILIZATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Rwandan diaspora plays a key role in the country's growth. IOM worked with the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MINAFFET), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Education through Rwanda Polytechnic (RP) to engage the Rwandan Diaspora in the country development, specifically in the Health and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sectors. To reach out to diaspora members, IOM designed and implemented awareness raising interventions

and (virtual) outreach initiatives, including testimonies and human-interest stories of Rwandan diaspora professionals who travelled back to Rwanda to support the country's growth. IOM mobilized 19 diaspora members that returned temporarily to Rwanda to transfer their skills into the Health and TVET sectors. Health professionals supported 10 hospitals across the country, whilst TVET experts collaborated with the Integrated Polytechnic Regional Colleges (IPRCs) so to strengthen TVET professors/trainers' and students' skills. Moreover, IOM launched the innovators competition, designed to reward ten innovative project ideas developed by IPRCs' trainers and students to boost local development in the agriculture, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), mechanics, electrical engineering, and energy sectors. The selected innovators received an economic prize and benefitted from coaching and mentorship from diaspora professionals, who supported the projects implementation phase.

### DATA AND RESEARCH: DIASPORA MAPPING

To better orient diaspora mobilization and engagement strategies, and inform skills transfer schemes, IOM initiated two mapping exercises aimed at mapping the Rwandan Diaspora in the United States of America and Canada.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



1 Benchmarking exercise on LMM between the Governments of Rwanda and Mauritius facilitated



10 hospitals in Rwanda supported by diaspora health professionals



19 diaspora professionals mobilized in the Health and TVET sectors



8 IPRCs in Rwanda supported by diaspora TVET professionals



1 young innovators competition launched, and 10 business ideas fostering local development implemented, with the support of diaspora professionals



A DIASPORA PROFESSIONAL IN THE HEALTH SECTOR SUPPORTING LOCAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN RWANDA. © IOM RWANDA 2021



WINNERS OF THE INNOVATORS COMPETITION RECEIVING THE GRANT ALLOWANCE TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROJECT IDEA. © IOM RWANDA 2021



# COUNTER TRAFFICKING

## OVERVIEW

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a crime and grave human rights violation.

In Rwanda, IOM's interventions aimed to assist the Government and relevant counter trafficking entities in developing and implementing effective, evidence-based counter trafficking policies as well as strengthening victim identification, investigation, and prosecution of trafficking offenders. Furthermore, IOM Rwanda enhanced awareness on Trafficking in Persons among the refugee population, host community and staff operating in refugee settings.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### AWARENESS RAISING FOR REFUGEE POPULATION, HOST AND BORDER COMMUNITIES

IOM, together with the local-based NGO "Prison Fellowship Rwanda" and in collaboration with UNHCR and the Rwandan Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), implemented awareness-raising campaigns in the 6 refugee camps of Kigeme, Mugombwa, Gihembe, Nyabiheke, Mahama and Kiziba, and related host communities. The sensitization sessions took place in the main congregation points, such as food, gas, and water distributions sites (in the refugee camps) and markets (in the host communities).

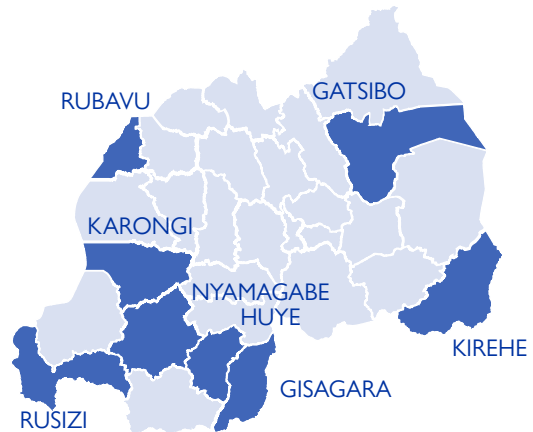
Furthermore, in partnership with the Rwandan NGO "Easy and Possible", IOM conducted 3 one-week awareness raising campaigns in the border districts of Huye, Rusizi, and Rubavu. The campaigns had a two-fold purpose: to equip border communities, with a focus on women and girls, with a better understanding of TIP and related risks; to enhance their capacities to spot trafficking situations and

<sup>2</sup> Isange One-Stop Centers provide holistic assistance (shelter, legal assistance, healthcare, and psychosocial support) to victims of GBV, child abuse and trafficking.


refer victims to relevant protection services. IOM collaborated with local radios, and one-hour radio programmes spreading the campaigns key messages were broadcasted daily, every 5 hours, throughout the campaigns' duration. To reach out to young people, IOM engaged "Queen Cha" – a widely-known Rwandan artist – who interacted with the audience to raise awareness on TIP through live interviews, calls, and social media.


## CAPACITY BUILDING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROTECTION ACTORS


Active engagement from national and local authorities and stakeholders is key to effectively combat TIP. Moving from this assumption, IOM implemented dedicated capacity building interventions for protection actors. More specifically, IOM carried out 6 two-day training sessions on TIP for Isange One Stop Center counsellors<sup>2</sup> and staff of NGOs working at Kigeme, Mugombwa, Gihembe, Nyabiheke, and Mahama refugee camps, and 3 two-day training sessions on TIP for Huye, Rusizi, and Rubavu district officials. These activities contributed to bring together relevant counter trafficking actors in Rwanda, fostering exchange and collaboration.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

 **6** refugee camps and 3 border districts involved in awareness raising initiatives

 **192** Government officials and protection actors trained on TIP

 **1.2 million +** people reached through awareness raising campaigns on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

 **96%** of officials and protection actors trained by IOM reported an increased capacity to identify TIP situations



A GROUP OF WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN THE AWARENESS RAISING SESSIONS ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. © IOM RWANDA 2021



SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TARGETING LOCAL MARKETS. © IOM RWANDA 2021

# MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE

## OVERVIEW

The safe and dignified movement of migrants requires a comprehensive, rights-based, and humane approach, that recognizes the interdependencies of travel, health, and the potential for integration as key components of the movement process. These essential elements of IOM's movement operations benefit both the migrants and the States undertaking the responsibility of receiving them.

In 2021, IOM Rwanda, in collaboration with Government authorities and other partners, continued to provide movement assistance to refugees and migrants.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement is a protection tool to meet the specific needs of refugees. It's a durable solution for refugees as it gives them the chance to begin life anew. IOM assisted refugees in preparing for their transfer and settling down in their new country through the provision of the following services: 1) support to selection missions from relevant receiving governments, to identify people eligible for resettlement; 2) facilitation of pre-departure orientation (PDO) sessions, to provide refugees with information on life and facts in the receiving country so to help them develop skills and attitude facilitating their integration; 4) migration health assessments and travel health assistance (see page 21); 5) travel documents and visa facilitation; 6) movement assistance from Rwanda to the receiving country.

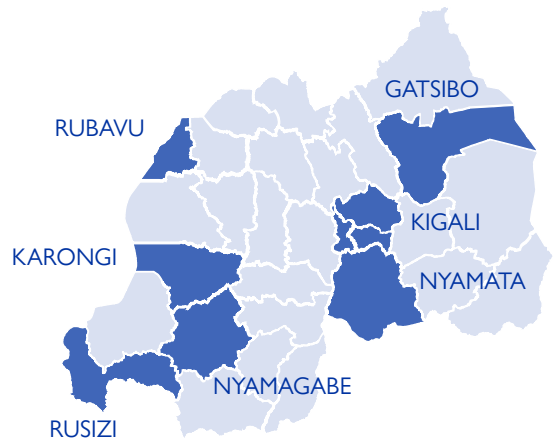
In 2021, IOM continued to provide resettlement assistance to refugee population present in Rwanda as well as to refugees and asylum seekers evacuated from Libya and temporarily accommodated in Rwanda within the frame of the Emergency

Transit Mechanism (ETM). IOM supported the resettlement of 2,598 refugees to the United States of America, Norway, France, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

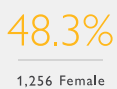
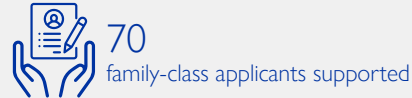
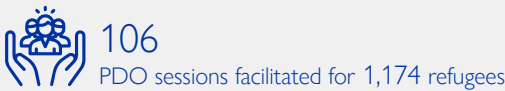
### FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

Prolonged separation from family negatively affects the ability of migrants in destination countries to integrate and thrive. Within the frame of the family-class programme, IOM supported family reunification procedures. More specifically, IOM assisted the Government of Canada in interviewing applicants qualifying for Permanent Residence in Canada as family members of in-Canada refugees. The interviews were carried out remotely; IOM provided, inter alia, interpretation services and logistic support, and facilitated information sharing among authorities and actors involved.

Upon request, IOM continued to provide AVRR services.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS





BENEFICIARIES OF RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE ATTENDING A IOM-FACILITATED PDO SESSION. © IOM RWANDA 2021



A FAMILY PARTICIPATING IN THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SESSION. © IOM RWANDA 2021

# MIGRATION AND HEALTH

## OVERVIEW

Mobility impacts upon people physical vulnerabilities, mental and social well-being. As such, it is increasingly regarded as a social determinant of health.

In 2021, IOM Rwanda remained committed to providing migrants and refugees with comprehensive health care and continued to support the Government's responses to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and COVID-19 disease.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND TRAVEL HEALTH ASSISTANCE

IOM Rwanda's Migration Health Assessment Center (MHAC) continued to provide health assessments and travel health assistance to migrants and refugees transferring temporarily or permanently to another country. At the request of receiving country governments, IOM provides an evaluation of the physical and mental health status of migrants and refugees prior to their departure for the purpose of resettlement, international employment, enrolment in specific migrant assistance programmes, or for obtaining a temporary or permanent visa. These services ensure that people travel in safety and dignity, that those with significant medical conditions are provided with continuous care and that conditions of public health concern are managed.

As part of resettlement programmes, 3,704 refugees benefitted from health assessment services, including preventive and curative treatment and/or referral for specialized care, as needed. Furthermore, 1,950 migrants travelling abroad for international employment, study or enrolment in specific migrant assistance

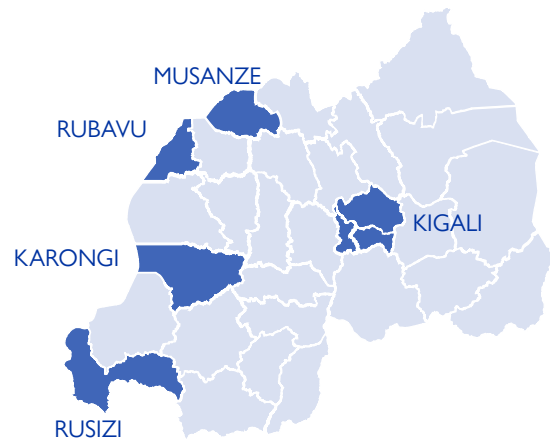
programmes underwent health assessments at MHAC.

Last, IOM vaccinated 2,366 people, in accordance with vaccination requirements established by relevant receiving countries<sup>3</sup>.

The health assessments were conducted by qualified IOM medical staff, based on the health protocols and COVID-19 requirements defined by the receiving countries governments.


## EVD PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

In line with Rwanda's national contingency plan for EVD prevention and response, IOM continued to support the Government of Rwanda in strengthening EVD preparedness and surveillance measures. Interventions targeted identified border districts – namely Rusizi, Rubavu, Musanze and Karongi. In order to amplify messages, and reach a wider audience, these actions run in parallel with hygiene promotion campaigns and COVID-19 related interventions (see page 10).



<sup>3</sup> No COVID-19 vaccinations administered by IOM.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

 **5,654** people (3,704 refugees and 1,950 migrants) benefitted from pre-migration health assessments

**51.3%**  
2,901 Female



**48.7%**  
2,753 Male



 USA 2,709

 Canada 2,007

 France 411

 United Kingdom 203

 Denmark 196

 Australia 115

 Sweden 9

 New Zealand 3

 Norway 1

 **2,366** people vaccinated



A GROUP OF PEOPLE WAITING TO UNDERGO HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AT IOM RWANDA'S MHAC. © IOM RWANDA 2021



IOM MEDICAL STAFF MONITORING A BENEFICIARY'S VITALS, AS PART OF HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES. © IOM RWANDA 2021

# HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

## OVERVIEW

Disasters, conflicts, armed violence, and other crises force people to leave their homes and communities, sometimes for years or even decades. As part of its humanitarian response, IOM is committed to saving lives, all while strengthening the communities' resilience to disasters and climate change.

In 2021, IOM finalized the provision of shelter assistance to the victims of the floods and landslides that hit the country in 2020. IOM worked closely with the Government, FAO, and affected population, promoting a whole-of-government and community-based approach.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

### EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) ASSISTANCE

In April-May 2020, Rwanda experienced heavy rains that caused floods and landslides across the country, particularly in Nyabihu, Gakenke, and Ngororero districts. Based on the humanitarian situation, needs assessment and beneficiary mapping conducted by the Government, IOM assisted flood victims in Nyabihu, Gakenke and Ngororero districts through the provision of shelter support. IOM provided 1,981 households, corresponding to 9,905 individuals, with iron sheets, nails, cement, and galvanized wire for them to rehabilitate their houses or build emergency shelters. This enabled families to quickly return to their homes or to relocate to semi-permanent emergency shelters. Furthermore, these interventions contributed to ease health risks posed by overcrowding situations in temporary shelter sites, which proved to be essential in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

IOM actively engaged district authorities and affected communities in response implementation. IOM carried out introductory meetings with Nyabihu, Gakenke, and Ngororero district authorities to

introduce proposed interventions, align expectations and coordinate activities. District authorities participated in the distribution of shelter materials and contributed to address community members' feedback and requests for information. Furthermore, IOM ensured that proper feedback mechanisms were in place for affected communities to voice their concerns and seek clarifications. To do so, IOM conducted regular monitoring visits to exchange with affected populations and encouraged community members to reach out to formal and informal structures already present at the local administration (umudugudu) level to report any requests or complaints.

IOM coupled these interventions with thematic briefing sessions for the distribution team on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and COVID-19.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



1,981 households, corresponding to 9,905 flood victims provided with shelter assistance



61 people with disabilities provided with extra shelter support



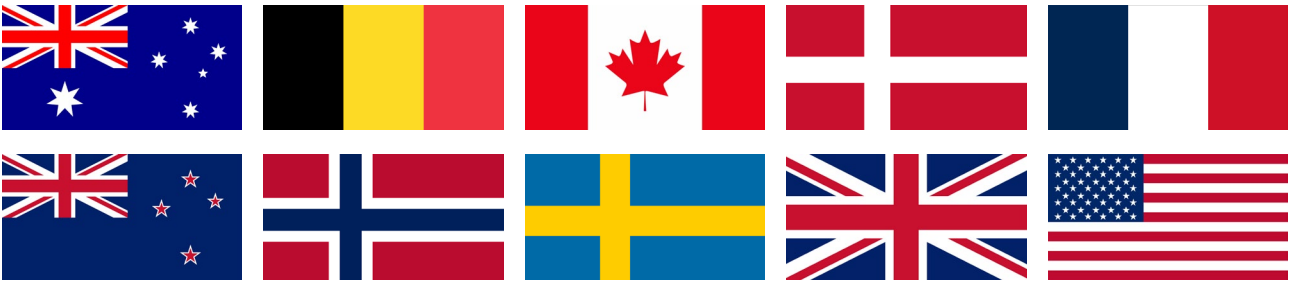
THE IOM-LED DISTRIBUTION TEAM DELIVERING EMERGENCY SHELTER MATERIALS TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS IN NYABIHU, GAKENKE, AND NGORORERO DISTRICTS. © IOM RWANDA 2021



IOM RWANDA ASSESSING AFFECTED AREAS AND CONSTRUCTION SITES. © IOM RWANDA 2021



# OUR DONORS



# OUR PARTNERS







KG 632 St Gasasa, Rugando Cell, Kimuhurura, P.O.Box 1126  
Kigali Phone: +250 252 586710  
Email: [pir@iom.int](mailto:pir@iom.int)