



## An Appeal to Help Burundian Refugees in Mahama Camp, Rwanda

### Wings of Hope for Africa Foundation

**We are a registered Canadian charity dedicated to emergency relief, education, sponsoring children in need, and developing self-sufficiency programs to end poverty in Burundi, East Africa.**

We are appealing for your help. Since April 2015, Burundi's political violence forced over 250,000 of civilians to escape into neighboring countries, as reported by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The refugees are still arriving as of March 2016, as the situation in Burundi remains tense and unpredictable.

The UNHCR requested US\$175.1 million for the humanitarian response in the region, and has to date received US\$7.7 million, *or about 4%*. It is making an urgent appeal to humanitarian agencies world-wide to help with the gap to mobilize additional resources for support, either by money donations, or in-kind support. With only a fraction funded, there are major problems with the refugees' access to education, health care, livelihoods, counselling and more.

Smaller charities like ours are mobilizing what they can to help. With this project, we will be able to purchase and distribute food, water, soap, blankets, sanitary napkins, and other basic necessities in the Mahama camp, the largest camp in Rwanda, currently housing close to 48,000 Burundian refugees. Overcrowding and insufficient food are common challenges all

*Above Image: Mahama Refugee Camp, Rwanda, 2015.  
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Burundi refugees in all reception centres across Rwanda are facing. Women and girls are facing particular challenges linked to sanitation, protection and nutrition.

## **Mahama Camp Refugee Campaign, Project Goal**

We are dedicated to responding to the call for assistance by the UNHCR, and providing Burundian refugees with supplies for the basics of life. **Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$15,000 for the project, and deliver the program starting July 1, 2016.** The donations of supplies will be delivered to Mahama camp by the Wings of Hope for Africa volunteer team in Rwanda.



*Above Image: Mahama Refugee Camp Admissions, Rwanda, 2015.  
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## Project Background

With a population of 10,395,931 on a total land area of 27,830sq km, the Republic of Burundi is a landlocked country in the African Great Lakes, region of East Africa, bordered by Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. Although the country is landlocked, much of the southwestern border is adjacent to Lake Tanganyika. Burundi's capital is Bujumbura.

For decades, Burundi has a complex history of ethnic tension between its Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups and a deep familiarity with traumatic events, including the mass killing of over 200,000 people in 1993, after the assassination of the first democratic elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye. Burundi was trapped in a state of civil war until 2004, after which Julius Nyerere and Nelson Mandela mediated a lengthy and eventually successful movement toward peace. The ARUSHA ACCORDS sealed the peace agreement. Burundi's contemporary era has brought new institutions to the country, including a more open Constitution, which led to the election of a majority Hutu government in 2005, and hence electing Pierre Nkurunziza democratically in 2005.

In April 2015, Burundi's President Nkurunziza was controversially nominated by his party for a third term in office. Since then, his supporters and opponents disagreed as to whether it was legal for him to run again. Anti 3rd term demonstrations to protest potential third presidency of Nkurunziza have led to a total chaos: a failed military coup and a government crackdown



*Above Image: Women and children at the Mahama Refugee Camp, 2015. Photo by EU ECHO Thomas Conan.*

resulting in hundreds of deaths, wounded, imprisonments, shutdown of all private medias, and a declining social–economic life of the country.

Despite recent high-level efforts to engage the Burundi government, there have not been significant improvements in the security and human rights situation on the ground. The deteriorating economic situation is also a cause for concern and could trigger further displacement.

## Project Budget

Wings of Hope for Africa maintains an annual operational budget, which will cover expenses such as communication, and miscellaneous costs. The budget for this campaign is (USD):

	Item	Quantity	Cost
1	Blankets	600	\$1,800
2	Soap	280 (24 units per box)	\$1,800
3	Sanitary Napkins	80 (50 units per box)	\$2,000
4	Rice	200 bags (25kg ea)	\$4,800
5	Beans	200 bags (25kg ea)	\$3,600
6	Transport	1	\$500
7	Unloading Staff	4	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$15,000</b>

## Project Schedule

March 15, 2016: Project Start

March 15 – July 1, 2016: Fundraising activities

July, 2016: Project Delivery (Scheduled to be the week of July 11, 2016)

## Project Delivery and Monitoring

The donations of supplies will be delivered to Mahama camp by Canadian volunteers of Wings of Hope for Africa Foundation, and distributed under the supervision of the UNHCR camp

manager. The United Nations Refugee Agency is the manager and operator of Mahama Camp, and will act as a secondary liaison and observer of the project.

## **About Us, Our Values, and Completed Projects**

Wings of Hope for Africa Foundation is a Canadian registered non-profit organization based in Calgary, Alberta. Founded in 2011, we are dedicated to improving the quality and value of life of children and families in Burundi, East Africa. Our mission is to relieve poverty by implementing agriculture initiatives, providing basic tools for education, and by aiding with health care provisions and medical supplies to persons in need. We strive to create equal opportunities for everyone and to see the poor uplifted from desperate poverty to joyful self-sufficiency.

Since 2011, we have successfully completed over 30 projects in Burundi, ranging from promoting education, to healthcare, income generation, and disaster relief.

Our Emergency Relief Program is designed to provide assistance to individuals or families in personal distress, or who are victims of a physical disaster. In 2014, we provided emergency relief to victims of flooding in Buterere, Burundi, by supplying them with basics such as blankets, clothing, bedding, food and clean water, as well as by creating mitigation plans for affected crops and recouping losses.



*Wings of Hope for Africa volunteers deliver supplies to Buterere flooding victims, 2014*

We are committed to complete transparency and excellence throughout all of our activities. A list of our current and completed projects can be found on [our website](#).

**Please support us in this project. Our programs depend on the generosity of sponsors just like you.**

The Burundian community in Canada, as well as us at Wings of Hope for Africa, are touched by the hardships faced by the Burundian refugees, and are committed to responding to the appeal of UNHCR for more help. We are dedicated to assisting with in-kind supplies to meet basic needs of life, and giving the refugees hope and dignity.

Our deadline for contributions to the Mahama Camp Refugee Campaign is July 1, 2016. We hope to hear from you to see whether we can work together. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Best Regards,

Aline Nzeyimana, President, Wings of Hope for Africa Foundation

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