

Call for Expression of Interest

Provide Water Supply, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Shelter & Infrastructure, Energy & Environment to refugees and displaced persons in Rwanda.

HCR/RWA/2026/004

1 Timeline

Posted	Jul 30, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Aug 5, 2026
Application Deadline	Aug 31, 2026
Notification of Results	Oct 7, 2026
Start Date	Jan 1, 2027
End Date	Dec 31, 2027

2 Locations

- A Rwanda
 - a Southern
 - b Southern

3 Sector(s) and area(s) of specialization

- A Food Security
 - a Agricultural inputs
- B Shelter
 - a Shelter construction and reconstruction
 - b Shelter-related non-food-items (NFIs)
- C WASH and Environment
 - a Basic sanitation
 - b Energy
 - c Hygiene
 - d Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNHCR

5 Project Background

As of 30 April 2026, Rwanda hosted 138,882 refugees and asylum seekers. Of this, 116,820 are refugees whilst 15,563 are asylum seekers. Most of the refugees and asylum seekers, notably 91%, are residing in 5 refugee camps while 9% are living in urban centers, including at the Emergency Transit center (397 individuals). Children constitute 47% of the refugee/asylum seekers population in Rwanda while women and children account for 75% of the population, 5% are elderly and 21% are youth. The refugees and asylum-seekers are mainly from DRC and Burundi and a smaller number from other countries. In collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and partners, UNHCR provides protection, assistance and solutions to forcibly displaced persons in Rwanda pursuant to UNHCR guidelines and policies. As of April 2026, most of the refugee population reside in refugee camps while a smaller number 9% are living in urban centres mainly in Kigali, Nyamata, Muhanga and Huye. Within this context, the provision of basic services in the technical sectors of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter and Infrastructure, and Energy and Environment Management is critical to ensuring dignified living conditions, safeguarding public health, and enhancing protection outcomes for refugees and host communities alike. The increasing pressure on existing infrastructure, environmental degradation caused by prolonged camp presence (e.g., deforestation for cooking fuel), and evolving refugee demographics necessitate a more sustainable, resilient, and integrated service delivery approach. Current UNHCR Rwanda multiyear strategy (2023-2027) aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Rwanda's Vision 2050 and the second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), seek to transition from humanitarian dependence to sustainable solutions. This vision is guided by key principles, including: (i) targeted and needs-based assistance to ensure efficient and equitable service delivery; and (ii) the promotion of self-reliance through economic inclusion, livelihood opportunities, and empowerment, underpinned by robust protection monitoring. Importantly, all refugee interventions are designed with a strong emphasis on inclusion of and benefits to host communities, fostering social cohesion and shared development outcomes. The desired project proposal will adopt an integrated, area-based approach that enhances service quality, expands access, improves operational efficiency, and promotes environmentally sustainable practices. Interventions must prioritize climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy solutions, efficient water systems, improved waste and wastewater management, and durable shelter solutions, while simultaneously building the capacity of refugees and host communities to manage and maintain these services. By addressing immediate humanitarian needs while advancing longer-term development objectives, the project proposal should focus on contribution to improved living conditions, reduced vulnerabilities, and enhanced self-reliance of over 138,000 refugees and asylum seekers and over 20,000 individuals from host communities, in line with national strategies and global commitments to leave no one behind. Against this backdrop, this Call for Expression of Interest is to solicit interest from national and/or international non-governmental Organizations (existing or prospective partners) with necessary expertise to implement technical sectors aiming to strengthen and sustainably deliver basic services across WASH, shelter and infrastructure, and energy and environmental management interventions in refugee-hosting areas and inclusion into local systems. The willingness of partner for additional resources contribution to operation and maintenance (O&M;) of WASH systems, shelter and infrastructures services delivery, clean energy and environmental protection interventions will be highly considered.

6 Expected Results

To ensure the adequate protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR requires partners to adhere to applicable sector standards outlined within UNHCR's areas of specialization with at least following expected results:

(SECTOR {S}) Energy & Environment Management (SECTOR OBJECTIVE {SO}) Natural resources and shared environment better protected (EXPECTED OUTPUT and OUTCOMES {EOO}) • Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) are systematically developed prior to any major development in the camps and properly monitored. • Refugees and host communities' awareness and ownership in terms of protection of their direct environment/ ecosystem increased SOME OF KEY ACTIVITIES • Vegetation-cover to mitigate/ prevent soil erosion. • Prevention of additional gullies formation in the camps. • Awareness raising and sensitization on environmental protection. • Establishment and upkeep of tree nursery beds (SECTOR OBJECTIVE {SO}) Refugee population has access to clean and sustainable source of energy for both cooking and lighting needs (EXPECTED OUTPUT and OUTCOMES {EOO}) • The reliance of refugees on firewood as main source of cooking energy reduced. • Access to clean and environmentally friendly source of lighting made affordable to refugees, • Support transition to clean cooking models in refugee sites, SOME OF KEY ACTIVITIES • Identification and promotion of alternatives (to firewood) source of cooking energy. • Identification of clean and sustainable sources of energy for households, public lighting, and infrastructure. (SECTOR {S}) Shelter and infrastructures (SECTOR OBJECTIVE {SO}) Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained (EXPECTED OUTPUT and OUTCOMES {EOO}) • Long-term/ permanent shelter provided, upgraded and sustained. • Access roads constructed, repaired and maintained • Drainage, gullies and retaining walls constructed and maintained, • Public infrastructures are constructed, repaired and maintained. SOME OF KEY ACTIVITIES • Construction /Maintenance and repair of shelter infrastructures. • Capacity building and support of the community members in family

shelter repairs/ rehabilitation and construction, • Construction/ Maintenance of camp public infrastructures i.e. buildings; access roads; drainage works, CFS/YFS and playgrounds. • Physical site planning and mapping, • Reinforcement of community-based approaches in shelter activities management, (SECTOR {S}) Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (SECTOR OBJECTIVE {SO}) Supply of potable water increased or maintained (EXPECTED OUTPUT and OUTCOMES {EOO}) • Access to safe and sustainably produced clean water • Water management communities are supported and monitored SOME OF KEY ACTIVITIES • Maintenance of varied distribution systems from production to end-user points across all locations. • Operation and maintenance of water treatment plant and pumping stations. • Distribution of clean water to refugees and surrounding host communities, • Undertaking water quality control and management. • Collaboration with local authorities for water services integration. (SECTOR OBJECTIVE {SO}) Population lives in satisfactory conditions of sanitation and hygiene (EXPECTED OUTPUT and OUTCOMES {EOO}) • Access to improved community sanitary facilities constructed, maintained, • Community WASH groups are supported and monitored. SOME OF KEY ACTIVITIES • Construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities, • Community hygiene promotion and education activities maintained, • Adapting community based environmental health promotion model, • Enhance safe waste management and disposal, • Reinforce community based approaches in WASH systems management, • Enhance collaboration with Government to participate in District WASH boards.

7 Indicative Budget

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8 Other Information

Estimated budget for the first 12 months of the partnership (partnership framework agreement).

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	Sector expertise and experience: The required specific skills, sector specialists, performance, knowledge, material and human resources. Knowledge of relevant protection, humanitarian principles and the approach to Age, Gender, Diversity (AGDM), especially in management of water supply systems, operation of water pumps and treatment plants, shelter and infrastructure development and management, in promoting transition to clean energy access & environment management. Approach to the participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the Programme Cycle. Partner's PSEA capacity self-assessment and data protection and information security self-assessment have been completed and submitted (where relevant to the partnership). Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action.	30
Project management	Project management: Ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes, and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management; adequate control over procurement, of assets and inventory (if applicable).	15

Local experience and presence	Local experience and presence: Ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; participation in inter-agency coordination fora, engaging forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the programme cycle; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; feedback and complaint mechanisms for affected communities; self-organized groups of forcibly displaced and stateless persons; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the affected communities and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	20
Cost effectiveness	Cost effective: Evidence of a methodology for allocation of shared costs to project activities. Evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes while also ensuring that resources are also directed to activities that ensure project risks are being appropriately managed.	15
Contribution of resource	Contribution of resources: Evidence and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. co-funding, human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) to supplement UNHCR resources. The extent to which the partner contributes own resources is an indicator of commitment, ownership and sustainability of the intervention.	10
Experience working with UN	Experience with UNHCR and/or other UN agencies or Past Performance in Refugee, returnee or host community Partner capacity, experience, and past performance would be assessed based on prior engagement with UNHCR and/or other UN agencies, demonstrated effectiveness in implementing programmes for refugees, returnees, and host communities, knowledge of relevant policies and standards, and the strength of partnership and implementation capacity, ranging from strong and proven experience to limited or no relevant experience.	10

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Call for Expression of Interest_Provide Water Supply, Sanitation & Hygiene	Download the document here
Statistics as of 30.04.2026	Download the document here
Detailed budget template	Download the document here
CONCEPT NOTE	Download the document here

11 Concept Note Template

[Download the document here](#)

12 For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit

[UN Partner Portal](#)