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Rwanda to Resettle Migrants from the United States Under Bilateral Agreement

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Rwanda has agreed to accept up to 250 migrants from the United States, following the formalisation of an agreement signed between the two countries in June. The arrangement, confirmed by both governments, is part of the U.S. government's broader strategy to manage the flow of undocumented immigrants.

According to a report by *Reuters*, U.S. authorities have already submitted a list of ten individuals as potential candidates for relocation. The initial group is expected to be part of a larger wave, with officials from both nations indicating that the total number may increase depending on future negotiations. Those accepted into the programme will not be obligated to remain in Rwanda permanently and may have the opportunity to relocate to third countries.

The Rwandan government clarified that it will not accept individuals currently serving prison sentences in the United States. Since no legal framework exists between the two countries to allow incarcerated individuals to complete their sentences abroad, eligibility for relocation is limited to those who have completed their sentences, have no pending criminal charges, and have no history of child abuse offences.

Rwanda's government spokesperson, Yolande Makolo, emphasised the nation's understanding of displacement, citing the country's past experience with conflict and forced migration. "Rwanda has agreed with the United States to accept up to 250 migrants, in part because nearly every Rwandan family has experienced the hardships of displacement, and our societal values are founded on reintegration and rehabilitation," Makolo stated.

She added that under the agreement, Rwanda retains the authority to review and approve each case individually. Approved migrants will receive support including workforce training, health care, and housing assistance. These resources are intended to help individuals establish stability and contribute economically. Makolo also noted Rwanda's economic growth, highlighting the country's rapid development over the past decade.

As part of the deal, the United States will provide financial support to assist Rwanda in hosting the migrants. However, officials have not released specific details about the amount or format of the funding.

This relocation initiative reflects ongoing efforts by the U.S. to address the challenges posed by undocumented immigration. These policies have been a key focus in recent years, particularly during the administration of former President Donald Trump, who made reducing unauthorised immigration a central priority of his domestic agenda. While the current administration has adjusted certain approaches, managing border security and resettlement remains a pressing issue.