



Families fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are sheltering at a school in Cibitoke Province, northwestern Burundi. © UNHCR/Bernard Inwari

Burundi Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan (Summary)

Overview

This inter-agency emergency response plan for the influx from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Burundi outlines the initial inter-agency response and activities to support Burundi's efforts to protect and assist Congolese refugees and Burundian returnees. It includes financial requirements for six months for 16 partners (including UN agencies, and national and international NGOs), to respond to the crisis, working in support of the Burundian authorities. This response plan has been incorporated into the Democratic Republic of the Congo Regional Refugee Response Plan (DRC RRP), which addresses both the 90,000 pre-existing Congolese refugee population in Burundi and the anticipated 90,000 new refugee arrivals in 2025.

The refugee influx into Burundi reached a critical point in February 2025, with thousands of individuals fleeing conflict and instability in the DRC. The country is facing a significant humanitarian challenge as it struggles to accommodate a growing number of refugees arriving at various sites and transit centers. These refugees, displaced by violence and insecurity, require immediate assistance, including shelter, food, medical care, and protection.

As the situation worsens, the burden on Burundi's resources intensifies, compelling international organizations and humanitarian actors to step in and provide support. The scale of the crisis highlights the urgent need for comprehensive solutions, both in terms of emergency relief and long-term strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of the displaced population.

The situation remains fluid, with new arrivals continuing to pour in, making it imperative for both national and international actors to respond swiftly and effectively.

Since the beginning of the year over 100,000 people from the DRC have sought protection in neighboring countries, including 69,000 individuals in need of international protection in Burundi.

Prior to this latest influx, Burundi was already hosting 89,000 Congolese refugees



16
INTER-AGENCY
PARTNERS



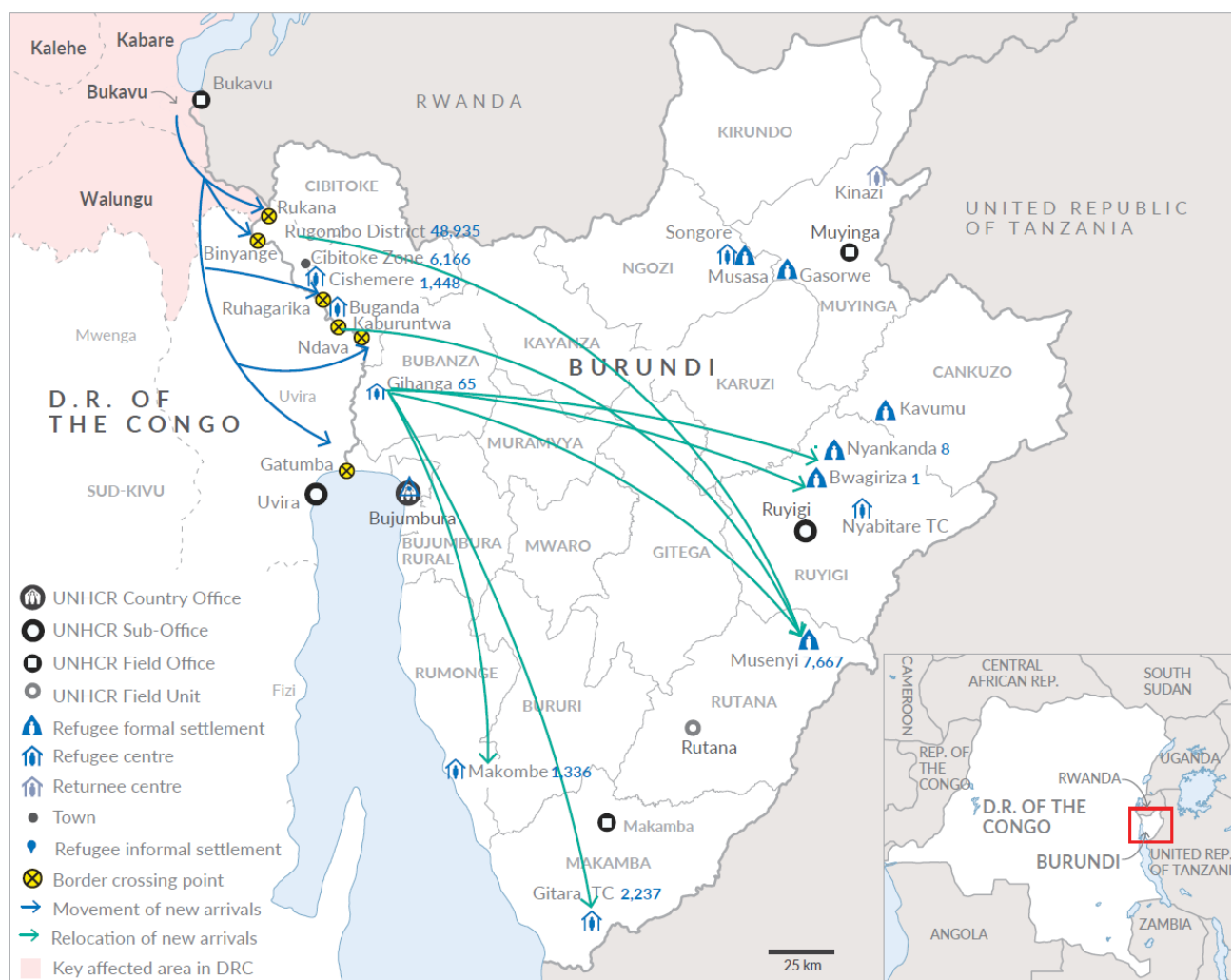
110,000
PROJECTED NEW
ARRIVALS
(REFUGEES,
REFUGEE
RETURNEES,
THIRD COUNTRY
NATIONALS &
MIGRANTS)



\$76.5M
TOTAL INTER-
AGENCY
REQUIREMENTS

Population Planning figures

Refugee and Returnee Population Planning Figures (new arrivals 2025)	
Population Group	Response Planning Figure
Refugees and asylum-seekers	90,000
Refugee Returnees	16,000
Other arrivals (including third-country nationals and migrants)	4,000
TOTAL	110,000



Inter-agency partners are responding to the refugee emergency

Since January 2025, over 69,000¹ people in need of international protection have arrived in Burundi from the DRC. Most arrivals are Congolese from Uvira, Walungu, Bukavu, Sake, Minova, and Goma, where the situation is deteriorating. The displaced include rural and urban populations fleeing conflict, people who had been internally displaced people in the DRC, and some Burundians returning from transit or cross-border work.

Together with the authorities, inter-agency partners are scaling up their response in Burundi to meet the urgent needs of the new arrivals. Populations seeking refuge in Burundi are screened and registered at the entry points by government authorities. Arriving individuals are provided with information on inter-agency partner registration

¹ Figures as of 19 March 2025.

and available services. After a certain period of stay in one of the transit centres, refugees are relocated to designated refugee sites.

Joint government and inter-agency partner teams have been established in the transit centres. Rapid multisectoral needs assessments are conducted to identify people with specific needs, including unaccompanied minors and separated children. An initial health and nutrition screening is also conducted, with referrals made as necessary. Women and girls' safe spaces, gender-based violence (GBV) case management mechanisms, and referral standard operating procedures (SOPs) are being established. Efforts are underway to mobilize tents, emergency shelter supplies, and non-food items.

Referral pathways for GBV survivors, refugees with specific needs, and child protection cases have been activated, including updates to national and settlement site-based SOPs, service mapping), and complaint and feedback mechanisms. Reporting mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) are in place. Advocacy is ongoing to ensure the inclusion of refugees in national health and education systems.

Protection and Population Needs and Response Priorities

This inter-agency emergency response is guided by the following **strategic objectives**:

Strategic Objective 1: Ensure protection environment

Efforts will focus on strengthening the protection response capacity to provide timely and inclusive life-saving assistance, particularly through registration, border monitoring, and the identification of individuals at heightened risk. Specialized protection interventions will be reinforced to support those in need, including child protection measures and targeted assistance for survivors of GBV and SEA, ensuring a survivor-centered approach.

Strategic Objective 2: Ensure vulnerable individuals meet their basic needs

Reception conditions will be improved to ensure the safety and dignity of new arrivals by enhancing capacity at entry points, transit centers, and settlements. A multisectoral approach will be adopted to provide essential assistance, including food and other life-saving services, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable individuals, especially those affected by or at risk of GBV. As part of these efforts, site planning and infrastructure will be strengthened to accommodate relocated new arrivals, ensuring they have access to adequate services, protection, and a dignified living environment.

Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen coordination at the National and Sub-National level

Through the Refugee Coordination Model, continue to strengthen existing coordination forums at the National and Sub-National levels to ensure urgent unmet needs are identified through systematic information management tools.

Strategic Objective 4: Enhance operational capacity, including advocacy and resource mobilization efforts

Through a collective approach, ensure advocacy and resource mobilization efforts continue to be a priority to ensure resources that contribute to the refugee emergency response are advocated for through an evidence-based advocacy approach.

Coordination

The coordination of all activities in response to the recent influx of new arrivals is led by the Office Nationale de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (ONPRA), with support from UN agencies and humanitarian partners. ONPRA oversees the management of the transit centres in Cishemere and Makombe.

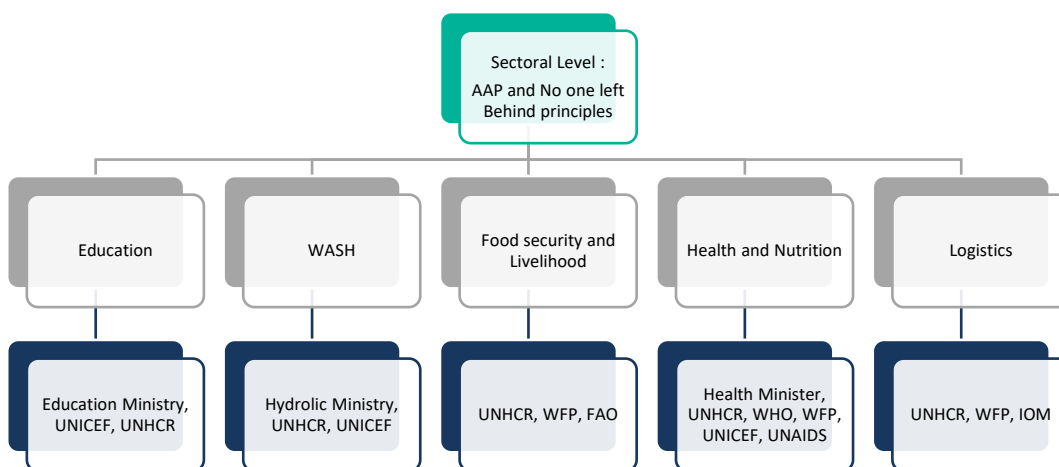
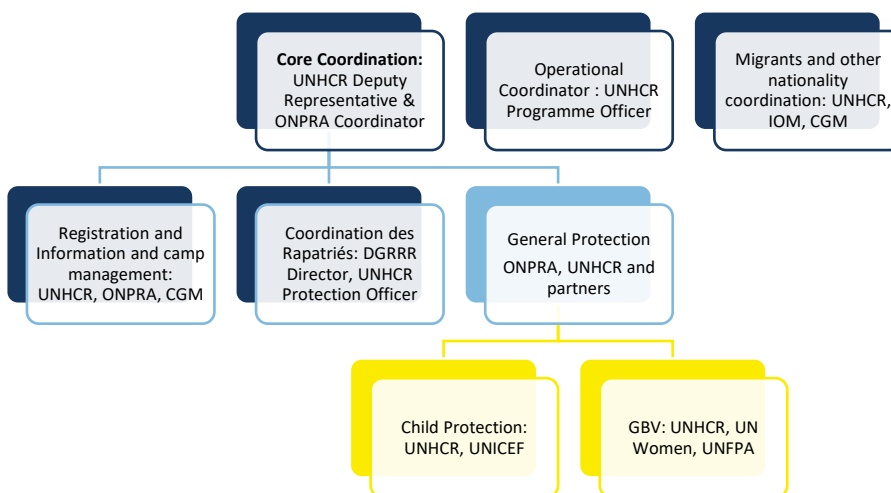
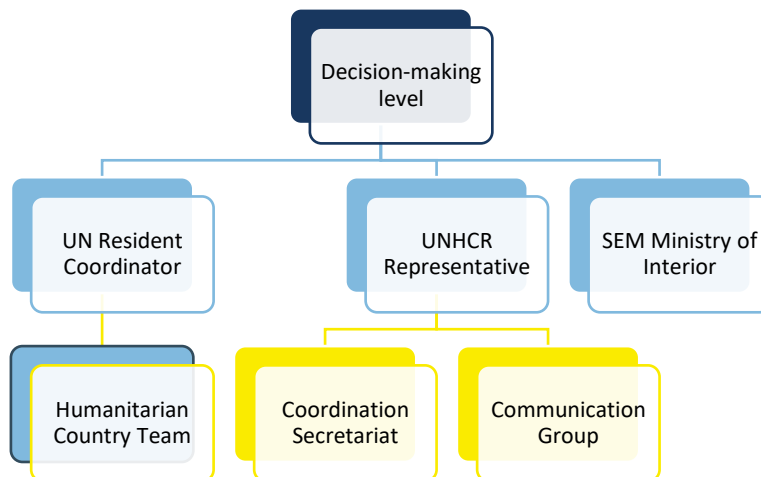
ONPRA and UNHCR are mandated to protect and assist refugees and asylum seekers, in compliance with the Refugee Coordination Model, and lead the coordination of the response to the refugee situation.

As concerns returnees, the Directorate General of Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration (DGRRR) leads the repatriation response, with support from UNHCR and other partners.

Given the mixed population flows (refugees, refugee returnees, and third-country nationals and Burundian migrants), different coordination forums are in place to address specific population's needs.

Government officials (ONPRA, CGM, and DGRRR), UN agencies, partners, and other stakeholders will hold regular meetings at the capital and field levels. These meetings will start from the alert phase to ensure and guarantee a rapid response in the event of an influx.

Country Refugee Response Coordination Structure

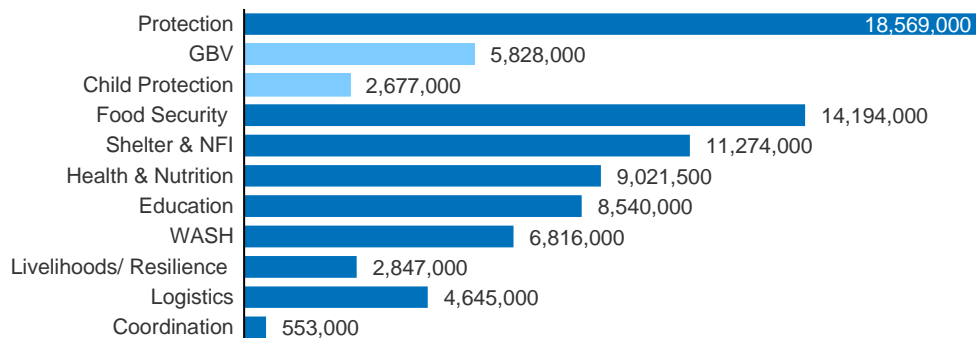


Financial Requirements

Inter-agency partners are appealing for **USD 76.5 million** to cover the initial response period from March to September 2025. The inter-agency emergency response may be revised should the situation further deteriorate or if the number of refugees exceeds the current planning figures before the end of the six-month period.

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD

**Budget Summary by Appealing Partner**

Appealing Partner	Total in USD
National NGOs	
Conseil Pour l'Education et le Développement (COPED)	500,000
International NGOs	
Caritas	150,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	2,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	5,420,000
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	1,099,000
Save the Children International (SCI)	515,000
World Relief Burundi (WRB)	1,036,000
United Nations	
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	688,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	6,900,000
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	100,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	26,162,000
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	1,800,000
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	12,048,500
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	2,200,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	14,566,000
World Health Organization (WHO)	1,275,000
TOTAL	76,459,500

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