

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

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KEY FIGURES

34,984

Number of Burundian refugees who have sought asylum in neighboring countries since the beginning of April 2015

24,795

Number of refugees in Rwanda

7,189

Number of refugees in DRC

3,000

Number of refugees in Tanzania

PRIORITIES

- Relocation of refugees to safety from border areas
- Preparation of refugee sites allocated by governments of host countries
- Life-saving emergency protection and assistance interventions including in the sectors of registration, shelter, domestic items, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, health.
- Identification and protection of children including family tracing, family reunification and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children.
- Prepositioning of relief items for anticipated mass outflows into neighboring countries

Highlights

- The number of new arrivals from Burundi into neighboring countries is approaching the 40,000 mark, with more than 70% seeking refuge in Rwanda.
- The European Commission is releasing EUR 1.5 million to meet the immediate needs for assistance and protection of Burundi refugees in neighboring countries. The funding is part of the EUR 47 million of total humanitarian aid foreseen for the Great Lakes region for 2015, and follows the increase in number of refugees from the country in the last weeks. EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, said "Such sudden and massive displacement is a humanitarian tragedy and a serious challenge to neighboring countries' capacities to accommodate refugees. It is a serious concern in an already fragile region."

Rwanda

- On 29 April, the UNHCR Representative accompanied the Honorable Minister MIDIMAR to Mahama to assess the progress made in establishing the new camp, together with the UN Resident Coordinator, Vice Mayor of Kirehe District, Provincial Army Commander, Police and other government officials. While pleased with the progress, the Minister urged a speeding up of tent construction and request safe play areas for the children.
- Ambassadors of donor countries continue to visit Burundian and interact with refugees in Rwanda, and to observe construction of shelters, health center, WASH facilities, communal cooking, distribution of relief items and storage/warehouse facilities.



*Hon. Minister MIDIMAR in Mahama with UNHCR Representative, Saber Azam, on a visit to assess progress in establishing the new Mahama refugee camp.
[Photo: UNHCR]*

For more information, please contact:

RWANDA: Martina Pomeroy, pomeroy@unhcr.org OR Erika Fitzpatrick, fitzpat@unhcr.org

DRC: Celine Schmitt, schmitt@unhcr.org OR Chiara Cavalcanti, cavalcan@unhcr.org

GENEVA: Karin de Gruijl, degruijl@unhcr.org1

Operational Context (Rwanda)

- UNHCR has noted a downward trend in the rate of arrival. Based on information received from refugees, there are claims of systematic checks in Burundi where those suspected to be leaving the country are either detained or asked to pay money.
- UNHCR is leading the preparation of an inter-agency *Refugee Response Plan (RRP)* for the region under the auspices of the *Refugee Coordination Model (RCM)*. In parallel, UNHCR is preparing a *Supplementary Appeal* to cover its operational needs relating to Burundian refugees in the region as well as to possible IDPs in Burundi.



Protection

- Referral pathways for women and children at-risk as well as persons with special needs are now in place in Bugesera and Nyanza Reception Centres, while in Mahama they will be finalized shortly. 54 volunteers have been recruited and are being trained to support child protection, youth engagement, and SGBV prevention and response activities.
- 772 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified. 759 were identified in Reception Centres while 13 unaccompanied children who did not pass through Reception Centres were identified in Mahama camp. 148 unaccompanied and separated children have been reunited with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- Five cases of sexual and gender-based violence have been identified and supported by UNHCR's protection partner, Plan International.
- Child-friendly spaces are established in Bugesera and Nyanza Reception Centres, while three child-friendly spaces have been identified in Mahama and will be developed as soon as possible, even as Plan International facilitates recreational activities for 70-130 children in Mahama daily. In Mahama, Plan International facilitated discussions with children on safety in the camp and risk factors including snakes, crocodiles and hippos. About 170 children participated.



Shelter and Site Planning (Mahama refugee camp)

- 22 = number of communal hangars constructed, each with a capacity to accommodate 100 persons
- 798 = number family tents erected
- 5,050 = number of expected family tents ordered from emergency stockpiles in the region (Isaka, Nairobi)



Water and Sanitation (Mahama refugee camp)

- 308 = number of latrines constructed (42 refugees per latrine)
- 200 = number of showers constructed (61 refugees per shower)
- 11 = number of litres of potable provided per refugee per day