

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

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KEY FIGURES

26,000

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

22,728

Number of Burundian refugees who entered Rwanda in April 2015

8,789

Number refugees already relocated to Mahama camp

55%-60%

Proportion of children among the refugees arriving in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo

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.

Highlights

- People are reportedly still fleeing Burundi to seek refuge among friends and relatives in neighboring countries. Others are crowding bus stations in order to leave the capital for rural areas amid fears that escalation of the problem could lead to security deteriorating further in the capital. This has caused a sharp increase of transport fares out of the capital.
- No internal displacement has been reported.
- In order to ease tensions between demonstrators and the authorities, the government has appointed a nine-member commission to manage the current crises that characterized by demonstrations and fear in the country.
- The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes, Mr. Said DJINNIT is in Burundi for meetings with government officials and some members of the opposition.
- There are **unconfirmed reports** that lack of transportation is preventing people from leaving Bujumbura. Rwanda and DRC are anticipating to receive high numbers of arrivals in the coming days. Newly arrived refugees claim that police are working openly with youth militia "Imbonerakure" and reporting concerns of systematic checks from police, whereby those suspected to be leaving the country (i.e. caught outside of their home provinces) are detained, asked to pay money, or subjected to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Many refugees are entering Rwanda with nothing or very little in terms of belongings, so as not to give the impression they are fleeing if they are stopped *en-route* inside Burundi.



Registration of refugee children at Bugesera Reception Centre. [Photo: UNHCR]

Rwanda: statistics of Burundian new arrivals in April

Mahama Refugee Camp	Bugesera Reception Center	Nyanza Reception center	Nyagatare Transit Center	Border entry points	Total
8,789	11,938	1,355	346	300	22,728

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Operational Context (Rwanda)

- The UNHCR Representative accompanied the Hon. Minister MIDIMAR and the UN Resident Coordinator to Mahama Camp to assess the progress made in establishing the camp. The Minister is urging an increase in speed of construction of tents and has requested playgrounds for children. Currently there are 489 tents constructed in Mahama, and an additional 1,000 tents arrived in the camp yesterday (dispatched from the UNHCR warehouse Tanzania). More tents are expected in the coming days.
- UNHCR has noted a decrease in arrivals this week, which is likely attributable to reported obstacles. There has also been a change in the profile of the arrivals—with more refugees who appear to be of a higher socioeconomic status, arriving in better condition and with more belongings than those who arrived previously.
- In Rwanda, it was announced to the UNCT that UNHCR will be leading a Regional Refugee Response Plan appeal process.



Protection

- UNHCR has noted a trend in the last two days of more arrivals of young men (aged 18-30) who indicate that they are targeted and in danger. They report being asked to join the “party,” and if they refuse, they are threatened and at risk of disappearance, violence, etc. They men say they left their families behind, as it is them (young men) who are targeted specifically. They also indicate that police are arresting young men.
- Police in refugee sites are screening arrivals to prevent infiltration of Imbonekura. Seven individuals were taken by the police, of those four were cleared and three remain with the police.



Health

- 25% of consultations in Mahama are malaria-related so fumigation is urgently required. UNHCR distributes mosquito nets to all families in reception centers and they bring the nets with them to Mahama. UNHCR distributes nets on-site to the small numbers of refugees who are brought directly from border districts to the camp. Meanwhile, the Government has requested UN pledges to replenish HIV/AIDS treatment medication before they provide treatment to refugees. 57 cases of HIV positive Burundi refugees are currently are not receiving treatment.



Water and Sanitation

- It is necessary to prioritize WASH interventions to stem the risk and spread of diarrhoea and other WASH-related public health risks. 14% consultations in **Mahama** are diarrhoea-related, and there are three reported cases of bloody diarrhoea in the camp. In Bugesera Reception Centre, there is an exponential rise in watery diarrhoea, which refugees “bring” with them to the new camp. WASH standards in Bugesera RC are low due to lack of space and lack of WASH construction materials (available stock is finished), and very high rate of arrivals in last week.



Logistics and Supply Chain Management

- 5,050 family tents have been released from UNHCR emergency stockpiles in Isaka, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya for delivery by road to Mahama refugee camp. In Nairobi, tents are currently being loaded into eight trucks, which all should head out to Namanga (Tanzania) border. All going well, trucks should be cleared into Tanzania tomorrow 1 May, for transit to Rusumo border, Rwanda.