

UPDATE FOR THE CONGO REFUGEE EMERGENCY

December 4-Dec 17, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 675 new Congolese refugees sought safety and protection in Uganda these last two weeks all citing insecurity.
- In Kisoro, a total of 541 Congolese refugees were received at Nyakabande Transit Centre (TC) with an average of 39 individuals per day. A total of 1,056 individuals were relocated to various settlements leaving the current refugee population at the transit centre at 749 individuals as of 14 December 2015.
- In Kyaka II, 35 new Congolese refugees arrived at Swese Reception Centre from Kisoro (7) and Kampala (25). They mainly fled from the North and Southern Kivu province areas of Ishasha, Kiwanja, Rutshuru, Uvira and Bukavu and Ituri citing violence from armed groups. The reception centre currently has 350 individuals.
- The inter-agency Contingency Plan for the DR refugee influx has been finalized with a worst case scenario of 300,000 refugees (87,000 new arrivals over the coming year).



Refugees preparing to board the buses from Nykabande TC on 3 Dec 2015 for relocations to settlements. © CAFOMI/ S. Abio

KEY FIGURES

29,553

Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers received in Uganda in 2015 (as of 16 December, 2015).

Further breakdown of the above figure:

6,995

Refugees received in Nakivale

1,836

Refugees received in Kyangwali

2,403

Refugees received in Kyaka II

8,822

Refugees received in Rwamanja

5,401

Urban refugees received in Kampala

350

Refugees received in Arua

3,746

Refugees received in Kisoro

**statistics are provided by the Government of Uganda Office of the Prime Minister*

PRIORITIES

Quick settlement of new arrivals to avoid overcrowding at transit centres.

Community sensitization on malaria prevention and control plus hygiene and sanitation- especially at transit centres.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- In Kisoro, some 541 new arrivals received a package of Non Food Items which included blankets, sleeping mats, cups, plates, soap and sanitary kits for women in reproductive age at Nyakabande TC.
- In Kisoro, border monitoring was conducted in the three border entry points of Bunagana, Nteko and both Kyesehero and Butogota in Kanaungu district. In Bunagana a total of 161 refugees were recorded to have returned spontaneously to DRC.
- In Nakivale, the inter-agency (American Refugee Committee, UNHCR and Office of the Prime Minister) physical head count at the reception center showed that the total population stands at 512 individuals-a slight decrease from 536 people reported last week; of which 58 individuals are Congolese.

Relocations:

- In Kisoro, OPM/UNHCR relocated a total of 1056 individuals to the settlements (Rwamwanja- 656, Kyangwali- 357, Nakiavle -35, Kyaka II-7 and Oruchinga -1). This brings the total number of refugees relocated to the settlements since January 2015 to 14,029 individuals (6,096 families). The transit centre currently has five functional communal shelters that can accommodate up to 1,250 refugees.
- In Nakivale, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) relocated a total 36 Congolese new arrivals on 10X15m plots of land for construction of shelter in Kabazana "A" village.
- In Kyaka, a total of 350 individuals were relocated to different settlements. Current refugee's population at the TC as of 14 December 2015 at the TC was 749 individuals.

Protection

- In Nakivale, OPM conducted two-day Refugee Eligibility Committee interviews (REC) with a total of 774 individuals (344 households) out of which 610 people (284 families) were granted status.
- In Nakivale, ARC received one protection case of torture/medical which occurred in the country of origin. The case received psychosocial counselling and was referred to Medical Teams (MTI) for further management.
- In Kyaka II, the protection house currently shelters five families, three families on SGBV concerns, one on medical reasons and one unaccompanied minor. During past case management meeting it was agreed that these cases be given land and resettled in villages near the base camp and that a foster parent be identified for the said UAM.

PSNs

- In Kisoro, a total of 79 PSNs were identified at Nyakabande TC. PSN interviews were carried out to identify their social needs so that they could be supported when they reach the settlements. They included security, medical and other cases. A case file was opened for each individual PSN which will be sent to the settlements during the relocation.
- In Kyaka II, DRC assessed 39 PSNs who were removed from the food log but were vulnerable. This was during their regular home visits. The individuals have been re-considered for the January general food distribution.

Child protection

- In Kisoro, some 33 children at risk were identified at Nyakabande TC - 13 unaccompanied, 15 separated children and five other children at risk. Best Interest Assessments were conducted for all of them and individual case files were opened and will be sent to settlement during the relocation for follow-up. This brings the total number of separated children identified since January 2015 to 255 separated and 287 unaccompanied children plus 58 other children at risk.
- In Nakivale, ARC conducted Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for four newly arrived Congolese children (one unaccompanied minor and three separated children). All the children were supported with clothes and referred to Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) for school support in 2016. Uganda Red Cross Society was contacted to embark on family tracing.

- In Kyaka II, one 11-year-old boy was reported missing. His body was later found dumped in the nearby bush near Bukere Primary School playground. A murder case was opened up at Bujubuli Police Post and investigations are on-going.
- In Oruchinga, ARC identified 12 unaccompanied minors, 15 separated children, and nine other children at risk. They arrived on the latest Convoy 99. Best Interest Assessments were conducted for all of the unaccompanied minors from Nyakabande Transit Centre to be updated at Rwamwanja Settlement. All UAMs were referred to the Community Services department and OPM for registration while one of the eight separated children was reunited with at least one of the family members upon arrival at the settlement.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- In Kisoro, ARC identified nine cases of SBV survivors at Nyakabande TC. They received psychosocial counselling and medical services. This brings the total number of SGBV identified and supported since January 2015 to 133 cases. Individual case files were opened and will be sent to the settlements during the relocation for monitoring.
- In Kyaka II, DRC, AHA & WTU coordinated activities to *commemorate '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence,'* concluding their community activities at Bujubuli Primary School playground on Human Rights Day. Most of the activities were related to the campaign theme for this year, *"From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!"* They included community sensitizations in Kakoni and Byabakora on the importance and power of education in uplifting the girl child as well as the wider society. There were also theme-centered sports, art, songwriting, poetry composition. The refugee community and participated. *"16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence"* is a global campaign observed from 25 November- the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December- Human Rights Day, to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.
- In Rwamwanja, 15 cases of SGV survivors were received-all involving rape in country of origin. They were provided with the necessary support such counselling and referred to MTI for medical care



Health

- Kyaka, there are high admissions of malaria patients at the health center due to prolonged rainy season. Yet medical supplies are in meagre quantities. There was shortage of blood at Bujubuli HC hence many referrals were made Fort Portal regional referral hospital for transfusion, including pregnant mothers with severe anaemia.
- In Kisoro, MTI immunized a total of 210 children against polio, 270 against measles and 250 were dewormed, at Nyakabande TC.
- In Rwamwanja, Mahega health outpost continues to attend to the new arrivals in Mahega village and records 100 to 160 patients daily with Malaria being the main diagnosis. Village health team structures have been established to help in the sensitisation of the community on the best health practices. This has been a very effective approach as the hygiene and sanitation has greatly improved.

Education

- Schools countrywide closed on 4th December for third term (end of year) holidays and will reopen on 22nd February next year according to the Uganda Ministry of Education Calendar.
- In Nakivale, a total of 1,027 Congolese children were in school (607-in early childhood development centres, 374-in primary and 43-in secondary school by the end of third term.
- In Kyaka II, 2015 saw an increment in enrolment of primary school pupils in the seven schools from 6075 in 2014 to 6617 learners.
- In Nakivale, the District Local Government and UNICEF conducted a Joint review meeting with 36 Early Childhood Development caregivers at Kashojwa Primary School to discuss their progress, achievements and some of the challenges affecting functionality of the ECD Centers. The main issue highlighted was congestion at the ECDs and the need for additional care givers. UNHCR and UNICEF will be meeting before the schools re open in February 2016 to discuss the possibility of increasing an additional care giver in each of the ECDs.

- In Nakivale, Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) coordinated two community meetings in Kabahinda and Ngarama village to discuss fencing of the ECD Centre with Live fence. The community agreed to support the fencing to be done during the holiday period.
- In Rwamwanja, all new arrivals who have settled in Mahega are accessing the temporary primary school which was started recently and there has been a high enrollment (a total of 1313 children) since the opening. FINN church Aid has constructed four permanent classrooms to help accommodate the increasing numbers of school children.

Food Security and Nutrition

- In Kisoro, 250 children were screened for malnutrition at Nyakabande TC and 10 children were found to be malnourished. All the malnourished children were enrolled for therapeutic feeding programme.
- In Kisoro, WFP delivered 5.6 metric tonnes of food comprising of beans, maize flour, cooking oil, CSB for porridge and salt at Nyakabande TC. The food is adequate for population of 700 people for two weeks for.
- In Rwamwanja, Samaritan's Purse with support from World Food Program, OPM and UNHCR served food to some 66 new Congolese arrivals. Prior to the distribution exercise, a sensitization meeting was held to support the food committees to create awareness on the continued absence of Corn Soy Blend (CSB) in the food basket as WFP/Samaritan Purse strive to avail it.

Water and Sanitation

- In Nakivale, The average water access indicator in the villages where the Congolese new arrivals have been settled remained at 17 l/p/d, save for five villages (Kabahinda C 13, Nyarugugu 12, Kabazana A 14.7, Ruhoko 13 and Misiera A) which are at 13.9 l/p/d-below the recommended standard 15 l/p/d due to the ongoing settlement of new arrivals in the villages. The WASH team is upgrading the water system and the piped water in the settlement.
- In Kyaka II, water access stands at 20.6 l/p/d.
- In Kisoro, the average amount of water per person per day at Nyakabande TC in the reporting period was 33 litres.
- In Kisoro, the WASH team conducted three monitoring visits to Nyakabande TC to ensure all individuals in the shelter maintain good personal/household hygiene and sanitation standards as well as cautioning them on the risks or poor hygiene. General cleanliness of shelters was done together with sensitization on identification and appropriate referral mechanism for associated illnesses.
- In Rwamwanja, Water coverage still remains a challenge within the new village of Mahega, especially in the far ends of the village where the new arrivals are being settled. They trek long distances to water points.

Shelter / Infrastructure

- In Nakivale, ARC, OPM, and UNHCR distributed Non Food Items to some 97 Congolese new arrivals settled in Kabazana "A" village. Pre distribution sensitization was conducted to inform the beneficiaries of the missing slabs on the Non Food Items lists. There is high demand of loading trucks as many activities are ongoing in the settlement. ARC is liaising with AIRD and to hire trucks to facilitate the transportation of NFIs.

Community Empowerment, Livelihoods and Environment

- In Kyaka II, NSAMIZI distributed a total of 2658Kgs of free briquettes to some 120 families, bringing it to a total of 2,225 beneficiaries out of the 7, 815 targeted households. The distribution exercise is dependent on family size with 20Kgs given to family size 1-4; 40 Kgs given to family size 5-8 and 60Kgs given to family size 9-12. The briquettes are expected to last the families 24 days. The free distribution is meant to introduce briquettes to the refugees and promote briquettes use in the settlement. Another 3.025 tons of briquettes were given to SACCO for sell at different centers at Mukondo, Sweswe, Kaborogota and Bukere. As of today the SACCO sold off 1 ton in Bukere depot at 300 shs per kg making 300,000 shs and 75,000shs from 250kgs sold from Kaborogota depot.

Working in partnership

UNHCR and OPM work in partnership with:

- In Oruchinga by OPM, HIJRA, WTU, MTI, ARC, PADEAP, R2P and Red Cross.
- In Kyaka II by OPM, DRC, WTU, NSAMIZI, Finn Church Aid, Ugandan red Cross, AHA, AIRD, WFP through Samaritan Purse,
- In Rwamwanja by OPM, LWF, WTU, AHA, Finn Church Aid, Ugandan Red Cross, AIRD, WFP through Samaritan's Purse, Tutapona
- In Nakivale by OPM, ARC, WTU, MTI, AIRD, Ugandan Red Cross, WFP through Samaritan's Purse, Tutapona
- Government partners in all locations: OPM, Arua and Koboko DLG authorities, various technical departments, and Uganda Police Force.
- Koboko humanitarian partners: Danish Refugee Council (DRC) as the main IP implementing WASH, protection, Community services, and infrastructure. ACAV; farmer skills training and livelihood. Koboko District Local Government implementing Health, livelihood and Education sectors, while OPs include SCI for child protection related issues, Kato Echo Farming system for promoting commercial farming and War Child Canada for legal services.

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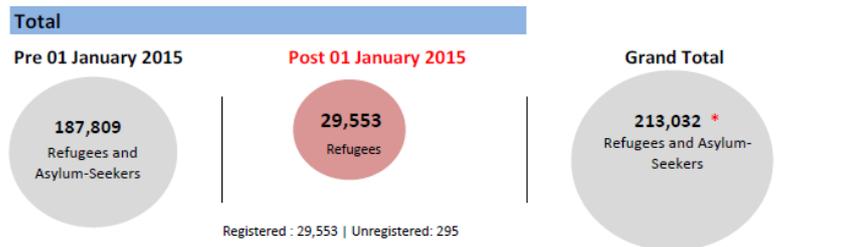
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Links:

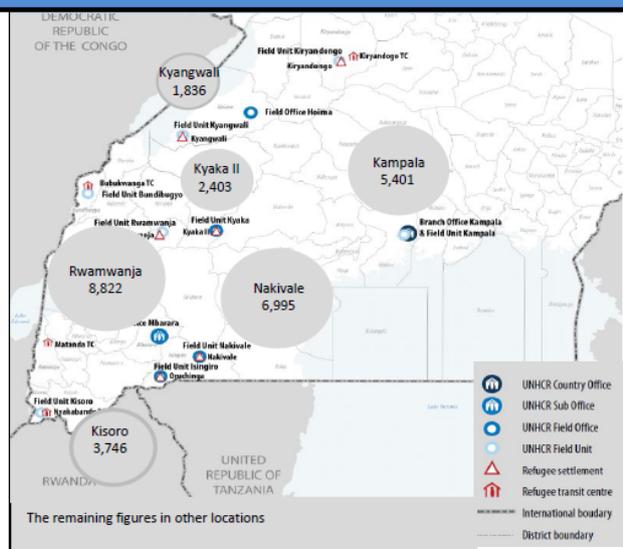
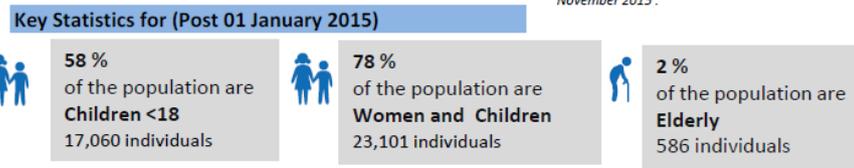
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Uganda - DR Congo Refugee Situation as of (16 December 2015)

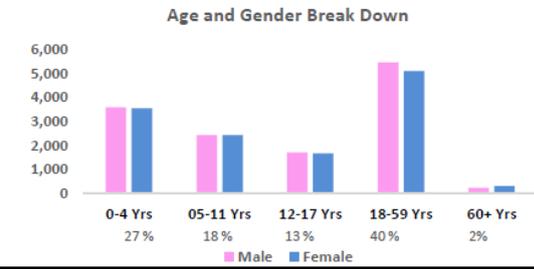
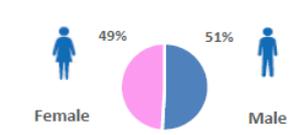
Info-graphic and statistics



* The grand total as it is reported by the Office of the Prime Minister, Refugee Department, on 30 November 2015 .



The remaining figures in other locations



Registered : person of concern who went through level 1/ level 2 registration with government , Unregistered : new arrivals pending registration
 Source : Government , Office of the Prime Minister, Refugee Department, Refugee information Management System (RIMS)
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