

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #34

February 2017

KEY FIGURES

404,226

New Burundian refugees in asylum countries since April 2015 as of 28 February 2017

FUNDING

USD 214.5 million

Requested by UNHCR for the overall Burundi Situation in 2017

Gap 99%



funded 1%

PRIORITIES

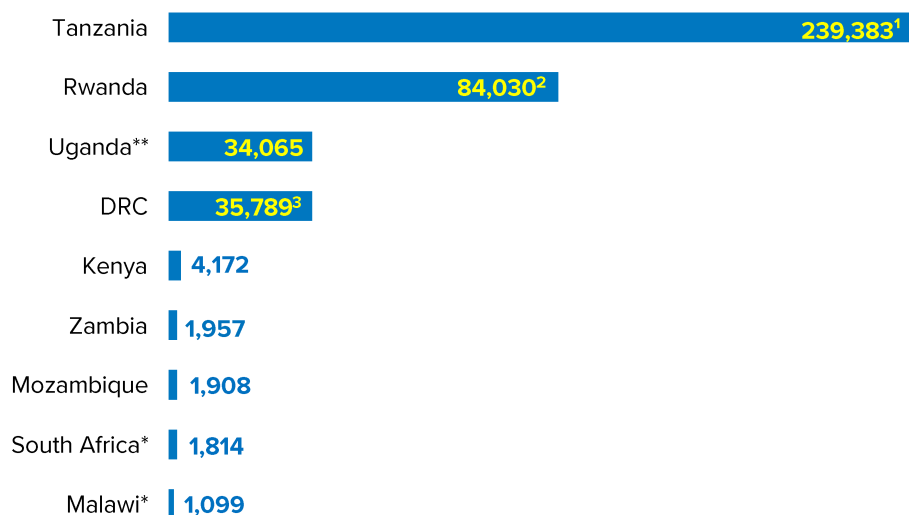
- **Tanzania:** Keep pace with the new arrivals from Burundi, providing them with shelter, WASH facilities and access to health care. New land is needed to host incoming Burundians.
- Follow up with the Government to ensure asylum seekers from Burundi continue to be allowed to freely enter Tanzania, while working with the Government to ensure asylum seekers' cases are processed as soon as possible.
- **Burundi:** Providing emergency assistance to IDPs and returnees.
- **DRC:** Continue to advocate with the Government to allocate more land to expand the capacity of Lusenda Camp or to construct a new site.
- **Rwanda:** Continue to advocate with the Government to allocate new land in order to increase the capacity of Mahama Camp.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Burundi:** UNHCR in Burundi is continuing its border and protection monitoring activities in return areas, as well as preparing for potential voluntary returns in light of the tripartite that will be organized with Tanzanian authorities in March.
- **Tanzania:** Since the lifting of the *prima facie* refugee recognition for Burundian refugees on 20 January, UNHCR has been trying to get clarity from the Government of Tanzania on the RSD procedures that will be put into place. Meanwhile, arrivals from Burundi continue, totalling 13,993 in February 2017 (average daily arrival rate: 500). UNHCR has received reports that some Burundian asylum seekers faced difficulty in entering the country, UNHCR is following up on this issue with the relevant authorities.
- **Rwanda:** As of February 2017, refugees are no longer sheltered in tents as semi-permanent shelters are replacing the emergency shelters. In February 594 new shelters were constructed. New arrivals are hosted in communal shelters. The lack of land in Mahama is still a major concern, as there is not sufficient land to construct new shelters for new arrivals.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Following the rise in the number of new arrivals from Burundi, Lusenda Camp is facing difficulties in hosting additional Burundian refugees. By the end of February, some 1,400 Burundian asylum seekers were staying outside transit centres, due to lack of available space.

Population of concern

A total of **404,226** people of concern as of 28 February 2017 since the influx began in April 2015



¹ Nyarugusu: 132,756 | Nduta: 117,460 | Mtendeli: 50,789 | Transit Center: 351

² Mahama: 53,775 | Urban (Kigali + Huye): 31,067 | Reception Centers: 571

³ Lusenda: 27,057 | Out of camp/RCs: 8,732 |

* Based on Government figures (partially or entirely) | ** Since 1 January 2015

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

For more information on the Burundi situation response in specific country operations, kindly refer to the Burundi refugee portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>.

BURUNDI

Latest developments

- IDPs and spontaneous returnees often find themselves in tough living situations, due to economic hardship, irregular rain fall leading to poor harvests, and lack of access to medical care in the provinces struck by a **malaria epidemic**, especially the northern and eastern provinces. Health experts say more than 700 people have died of malaria so far this year in Burundi, prompting the government to declare the disease an epidemic.
- UNHCR has verified that in total 7,275 former Burundian refugees have returned spontaneously. According to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix (December 2016), there are 141,221 IDPs living in 11 provinces, out of which 42% is linked to the current social-political crisis that started in April 2015. The remaining 58% is linked to natural disasters.
- Refugees entering neighboring countries continue to report a worrying human rights environment inside Burundi, which includes cases of targeted violence, sexual abuse of women (including wives of presumed political opponents) and restrictions on basic human freedoms.

Achievements and Impact

- The consultations with the Burundian and the Tanzanian authorities for a tripartite meeting on voluntary return of the Burundian refugees are ongoing. Two UNHCR internal cross border meeting have been organized in Burundi and in the DRC as well as visits in Nduta (Tanzania) and Mahama (Rwanda) Burundian by UNHCR Burundi Officials/ A joint Government/UNHCR technical commission to assess the conditions of return is being established.
- The emergency response funded through the CERF has been extended into the first quarter of 2017. The CERF project covers six provinces including Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura rural, Cibitoke, Makamba, Rumonge and Kirundo, assisting a total of 30,974 individuals (IDPs and spontaneous returnees).
- The construction of the new transit center in Gatara in Makamba Province is nearing completion, which will facilitate potential voluntary returnees.

Countries of Asylum

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- The population in Nduta Camp has reached 119,042 individuals as of end of February 2017. UNHCR and partners continue to ensure basic and dignified living condition for the arriving Burundian asylum-seekers. The number of new arrivals occupying the limited space at the reception area in Nduta Camp stands at 7,324 individuals or more than three times of its maximum absorption capacity. UNHCR and partners are constructing an additional reception facility to decongest the communal shelters in Nduta Camp. **The camp's revised maximum capacity of 127,000 is nearly reached.**
- UNHCR continues to seek clarity from and has initiated discussions with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on the new modalities and procedures for the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for all Burundian asylum-seekers who entered the country as of 20 January 2017. In addition, UNHCR continues to closely monitor and coordinate with the Immigration and District Officials at all border entry points to ensure that all Burundian asylum-seekers continue to exercise the right to seek asylum in Tanzania.
- The need for a decision on new camp sites by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is urgent given the average daily arrival rate, putting severe strain on service delivery. UNHCR together with partners continue to advocate with the Government to urgently allocate additional camp site/s.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** UNHCR protection staff had a meeting with the District Commissioner and immigration authorities in the Ngara District following reports of some ad-hoc screening activities conducted by immigration Officers at

border posts in the district where some asylum-seekers were reportedly facing challenges in entering Tanzania. The implications and concerns were shared with the UNHCR Dar es Salaam Representation Office which has then initiated a formal communication with MHA in Dar es Salaam.

- Basic training on Code of Conduct and the **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** was provided to members of the Community Watch Team (CWT) which was established recently in Nduta Camp. The CWT was established to work with the police in order to enhance physical safety and security of refugees at the zonal level across all camps.
- The Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Sub-Sector Working Group (Sub-SWG) in Nyarugusu Camp has developed an action plan for an adolescent support's intervention strategy. The action plan is anticipated to be rolled out in March 2017. Initial assessment is expected to inform further program development on SGBV and to enhance coordination on sexual and reproductive health.
- A total of 79 Burundians were assisted to reunite with their respective family members from Nduta Camp to the Mtendeli Camp under the non-vulnerable adult family reunification arrangement. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided the logistical/ transportation support for this exercise.
- **Education:** The National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) has communicated the new schedule of the examinations for Burundian students to take place from 14 to 17 March 2017 across all camps in Kigoma region. The examinations will be administered by NECTA to 1,666 candidates from the 2015/2016 intake.
- **Health:** Throughout the reporting period, a total of 63,006 refugee patients were treated at the health facilities across Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli Camps out of which some 6,460 patients received in-patient treatment. Meanwhile, over 726 babies were born at the health facilities across the three camps with a 95 percent institutional delivery rate. Malaria remained the leading cause of morbidity representing 33 percent of the Crude Proportional Morbidity.
- The construction of a new surgical facility in Mtendeli Camp has been completed, where currently equipment is being installed. A post-operative ward is under construction to host those patients coming out of surgery.
- **Food Security:** During the reporting period, the World Food Program (WFP) has conducted a post distribution monitoring exercise for the Cash Based Transfer (CBT) pilot initiative in Nyarugusu Camp. The activity is aimed at analysing the immediate outcomes of cash assistance on targeted refugee households and to monitor food security and livelihood trends of vulnerable groups in the camp. The final report is anticipated to be shared before the end of April 2017.
- **WASH:** The water distribution rates in Nyarugusu and Nduta Camps stand at 20.24 litres and 20.26 litres per person per day respectively. The water distribution rate in Mtendeli Camp is slightly improved to 16 litres from 15 litres per person per day as compared to the previous reporting period. The Lake Tanganyika Water Basin Authority and the Regional Water Engineer have been engaged to assist in the search for additional sources of water in Mtendeli Camp. However, several borehole drilling attempts in the past have yielded no positive result.
- **Shelter:** Out of the targeted 16,724 transitional shelters to be constructed under the Transitional Shelter Project, over 11,259 transitional shelters, or equal to 67 percent of the total target, have been completed across Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli Camps. All shelter construction materials have been procured. The Transitional Shelter Project is anticipated to be fully completed in March 2017.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- Some 30% of the Burundian refugees that entered the country since April 2015 live in urban locations mainly Kigali and Huye. UNHCR and partners ensure protection and humanitarian assistance in all sectors in the camp, while more limited support is provided to persons living in urban areas. An increasing number of urban refugees have approached UNHCR to request transfer to Mahama Camp due to their inability to cater for their basic needs on their own.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** A total of 553 refugees were registered in February, out of which there were 10 unaccompanied children.
- Approximately 6,000 refugees have been reached with sensitization on Child Protection and 8,000 refugees on the prevention of sexual and gender based violence. Despite these efforts, 22 refugees have reported they were victims of SGBV.
- **Education:** All primary and secondary students in Mahama are integrated in the national school system where they attend class alongside Rwandan host community children. Students were given school uniforms and materials, while also 208 children with disabilities are currently enrolled into school.
- **Shelter:** With another 594 shelters constructed, 39,000 refugees currently live in semi-permanent shelters. 1,800 families relocated from communal shelters to the newly constructed semi-permanent individual shelters
- **Food security:** 51,778 Burundian refugees were assisted with food assisted, while 5,338 refugees received supplementary feeding.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Latest Developments

- February saw an increase of arrivals from Burundi, with 1,688 Burundian refugees arrived in DRC with an arrival rate of 60 individuals per day.
- Following the rise in the number of new arrivals from Burundi, UNHCR-supported structures at Lusenda Camp could not accommodate any additional Burundian refugees. At the end of February, some 1,400 Burundian asylum seekers were staying outside transit centres, while another 400 had found shelter in a church in Katogota (Uvira Territory). The latter could neither be accommodated in the transit centres, nor at Lusenda Camp. Moreover, in Lusenda Camp over 800 refugees had to be sheltered in communal spaces due to lack of available individual family shelters. UNHCR and its Government partner, the National Refugee Commission, intensified their efforts to identify unused shelters in Lusenda Camp to accommodate some of the recent arrivals.
- As of 28 February 2017, 1,529 refugees were hosted in the three transit structures of Kavimvira, Sange and Mongemonge. The capacity of these structures had been stretched to host up to 1,800 individuals.
- A FARDC soldier (from the Congolese National Army) was killed near Lusenda Camp in the night of 8 February by unknown perpetrators. Eleven refugees were arrested in the aftermath of the incident. UNHCR is following up on their treatment.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** Five cases of people with specific needs were identified during registration of newly arrived refugees: 3 cases of rape survivors (committed in the country of origin) and 2 unaccompanied children. Temporary foster families were found for the children while Best Interest Assessment (BIA) are carried out. Survivors had been referred to appropriate services as soon as they arrived to the camp.
- **Health:** 4,712 medical consultations of which 4,093 new cases were recorded in February. The main pathologies were malaria (43.5%) and acute respiratory infections (28.2%).
- Two suspected **cholera** cases were referred to the cholera treatment centre, out of which one tested positive. Sensitization sessions on cholera were carried out in the camp and 17,302 refugees were reached.
- **Shelter:** A small space was identified at Lusenda's extension of Lulinda which UNHCR's implementing partner AIRD used it for the construction of 70 new emergency shelters which were assigned to new arrivals. Around 844 individuals (259 households) were still hosted in community shelters awaiting opportunities of transfer in individual shelters where possible. Community infrastructures as town hall, health post and counselling centre were built to complement the shelters.
- A total of 280 empty shelters were identified in Lusenda, out of which 147 were rehabilitated and assigned to refugee households arrived in January (441 individuals).
- **NFIs:** Non-food Items kits (containing blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, soap, kitchen sets and firewood) were distributed to 1,016 refugees (331 households) transferred to Lusenda Camp in February. Some items were distributed to those refugees at the community centre for current personal needs (e.g. blankets, mats, jerry cans, soap) while some others (e.g. solar lamps) were added at the transfer day to individual shelters.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- An increase was noted in the number of Burundian refugees in February, with 272 new arrivals received in Uganda compared to 131 new arrivals reported in the previous month. An average of thirteen new arrivals were received at the Nakivale reception centre per day.
- Refugees coming into Uganda have reported this month that armed militias are camping at the borders, causing many of those fleeing to avoid these routes and use informal border crossings for fear of being abducted or hurt.

Achievements and Impact

- **Education:** NGO partners monitored the attendance of children in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres, primary and secondary schools. It was found that the average attendance of children increased for primary and secondary school in the first three weeks of term as a result of 'Back to School' campaigns and distribution of shoes to the children. Lower attendance at ECDs was attributed morning rains and lack of lunch provision for the children.
- **Health:** 170 Burundian refugee children were immunized against polio, diphtheria, pneumonia, measles, tetanus and tuberculosis. An additional 128 children aged between six months and fifteen years were dewormed and received Vitamin A supplements.

- In Nakivale settlement, the malaria prevalence rate decreased to 32% from 46% recorded in the previous month. This decrease is attributed to interventions such as sensitisation of the community on the causes and prevention of malaria and education by village health teams on the use of mosquito nets to reduce prevalence.
- **Nutrition:** 1,022 new arrival Burundian children were screened for malnutrition. Eight of these children were found to be moderately malnourished and four severely malnourished. The affected children were enrolled on the supplementary feeding programme.
- **Livelihoods:** New arrivals were supported with cultivation of vegetable gardens in their backyards. Twelve vegetable gardens were established, allowing refugees to grow their own food and increase levels of self-sufficiency.



Photo Credit: © UNHCR/Frederic Noy - Kashojwa village in Uganda has been nicknamed Bujumbura by the Burundian refugees living there. Siblings come back from a water collecting point pushing towards their house, a bicycle loaded with filled jerry cans. Besides the massive influx of refugees from South Sudan the growing Burundi caseload is

CRITICAL NEEDS & GAPS

BURUNDI

PROTECTION: Border monitoring will continue to be required to monitor cross-border movements between Burundi and neighboring countries and to provide assistance to the IDP population and voluntary returnees.

TANZANIA

PROTECTION: Due to funding restraints there is a lack of staff to monitor and report on the protection environment at the border entry points in Ngara and Kibondo border areas following the cessation of *prima facie* status for Burundian new arrivals.

SGBV: The increasing population in Nduta Camp is causing strain on the SGBV response services, particularly for victims requiring medical and psychosocial response. Funding constraints are limiting the capacity of UNHCR and partners to provide a sufficient number of case workers.

EDUCATION: Education infrastructure remains the greatest barrier for access to education across all camps. With the current double shift strategy of using school structures for two shifts, there is still a requirement of another 652 classrooms across the three camps in addition to the ongoing construction work of 137 classrooms.

HEALTH: Widespread malaria prevalence is a significant issue in the Tanzania operation. In addition, more health facilities need to be constructed to allow proper service delivery to the refugee and asylum seeker population.

FOOD SECURITY: A food commodity pipeline break is anticipated in March 2017 due to funding constraints of partner WFP. Information dissemination activities on ration reduction have been carried out in Nduta and Mtendeli Camps while the same will commence in Nyarugusu Camp during the week of 6 March 2017.

RWANDA

SHELTER: Due to a lack of available land in Mahama, construction of a remaining 1,800 shelters is still pending. A total of 30 hectares of land are required to complete all the shelters. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government of Rwanda to obtain more land to address the problem.

PROTECTION: There is a delay in the timely resolution and handling of Child Protection and SGBV cases by legal authorities, due to the limited number of Government staff and availability of transport facilities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SHELTER: Limited resources are a major obstacle in expanding camp facilities. So far, since no viable option for a site near Lusenda has been found, only an option much further away from the camp and the operational base of UNHCR and partners (in Mboko) seems feasible.

Some 2,369 Burundian refugees hosted in transit centres and community shelters in Lusenda Camp are waiting to receive a family shelter. Another 789 additional shelters are needed to accommodate them, but a lack of land is preventing expansion of the camp.

HEALTH: February witnessed a high number of medical transfers due to a lack of space and overcrowding, leading to many cases of malaria and diarrhea. A total of 4,712 medical consultations were recorded in February. Malaria represented 43.5% of all cases.

UGANDA

HEALTH: Despite progress made through community awareness raising in February, there is still a need to reduce the prevalence of malaria in the refugee settlements.

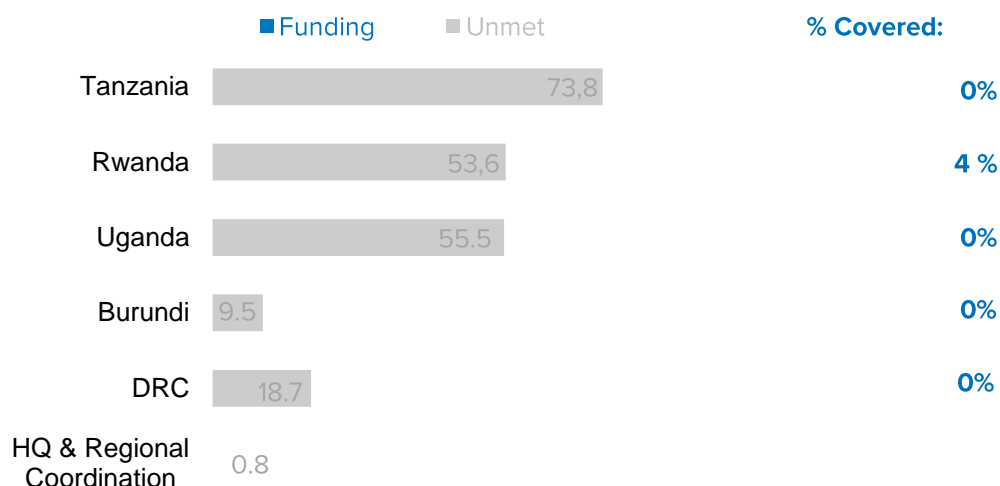
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Burundi Situation in 2017 currently amounts to USD **214.5 million**. UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have already contributed to the Burundi Situation. **The organization's overall needs for this situation are currently funded at 1%.**

A total of **USD 2,2 million** has been funded:

Donors:

African Union
Global Fund



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (12 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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Burundi Situation

Displacement of Burundians into neighbouring countries since April 2015

as of 28 February 2017

