

# Democratic Republic of the Congo:

## 2018 Year End Report

### BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP

January - December 2018



# 43,010

BURUNDIAN REFUGEES  
HOSTED IN THE DRC (31  
DEC 2018)

# US\$ 34 M

REQUIRED IN DRC IN 2018

# 28%

FUNDING RECEIVED

# 5

RRP PARTNERS IN DRC IN  
2018

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

With the Burundian refugee crisis is four years old, 43,010 Burundian refugees had taken refuge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as of the end of December 2018. More than 95 per cent (41,055) live in South Kivu Province – most in Lusenda Camp or Mulonwe settlement. While the overall situation in Burundi is calmer, the political situation is still unresolved and significant human rights concerns persist. There were 2,141 new arrivals in 2018, compared to 6,592 the previous year.

The overall security situation in South Kivu remained tense and unpredictable in 2018, with multiple active local and international armed groups, and on-going fighting between armed groups and the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC). Insecurity was located much further south in Fizi and west towards Maniema, due to the actions of a number of armed groups. High concerns were elevated about the increased activism of Burundian armed groups inside Congolese territory in South Kivu. Peaks of displacement in South Kivu last year were in the territory of Uvira, as a result of inter-ethnic disputes in the Haut-Plateaux. Throughout 2018, 21,291 human rights violations were documented through protection monitoring in South Kivu, including property extortion (37 per cent), arbitrary arrest (20 per cent), assault and battery (15 per cent), as well as forced labour (8 per cent).

Armed conflict, instability and insecurity continued to have serious protection consequences for the population, particularly for the 5,239 Burundian refugees living outside camps. These refugees remain vulnerable, especially those that haven't been registered due to security and access constraints in certain areas. They are at heightened risk of protection incidents, lack assistance, and often rely on the support of local families.

Lusenda camp in Fizi territory remains overcrowded, hosting 29,154 refugees as at the end of 2018, well over its planned capacity of 20,000. This puts pressure on the provision of essential services in the camp, as well as on local structures such as health centers and schools. Access to land is limited; as many as half of Lusenda's residents will need to be relocated if the goals of self-sufficiency are to be achieved. Overcrowding and stressed services contribute to tensions between refugees and the host community, which RRP partners have been addressing through an increased emphasis on community infrastructure, peaceful coexistence, and activities benefitting both communities (e.g. sports for youth).

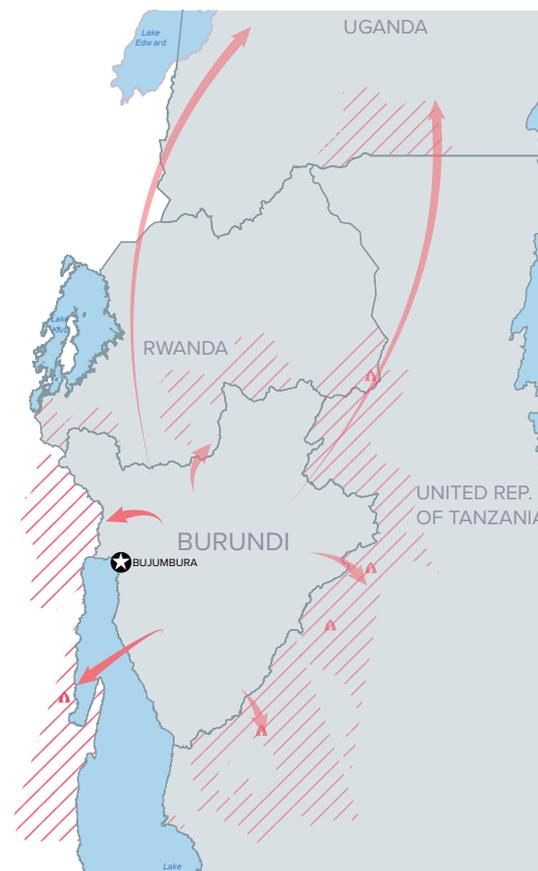
The refugee site in the locality of Mulongwe, opened in November 2017, has enabled the relocation of 6,662 Burundian refugees (including new arrivals) from the overcrowded transit centers and from Lusenda camp. The site aims to encourage self-reliance and community participation from the start, as refugees are allocated land and receive kits to build transitional shelters with the support of RRP partners. At end of 2018, 420 Burundian asylum-seekers were waiting at transit centers to be transferred to this site once their refugee status had been confirmed.



DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO

Refugee population  
**43,010**

- Refugee
- Refugee camp
- Refugee crossing
- Refugee locations



## Protection

**100%**  
of identified SGBV survivors received psycho-social support in 2018



**Insufficient funding** for  programmes targeting youth exposed them to protection risks.

**41,055**   
Burundian refugees in South Kivu were biometrically verified and documented

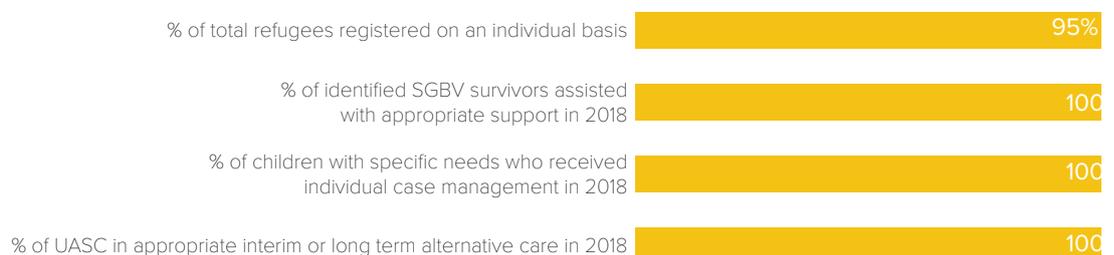
In 2018, Burundian refugees in most areas of South Kivu participated in a biometric verification exercise. In total 41,055 refugees were verified including 29,154 in Lusenda, 6,662 in Mulongwe, and 5,239 residing out of camps. Refugees also received identity documentation vital for their protection; in total 10,738 households (7,148 in Lusenda, 1,930 in Mulongwe and 1,660 live out of camps) received household composition certificates. In addition, 16,399 individual refugee ID cards (11,290 in Lusenda, 3,214 in Mulongwe, and 1,895 living out of camps) were delivered to refugees ages twelve and up.

Birth certificates were provided to 1,238 newborn children in 2018: 675 girls and 563 boys. 412 births that were not declared within the 90-day legal timeframe required by DRC authorities received certificates after supplementary judgments. The delivery of certificates contributes to preventing the risk of statelessness among refugees who remain for long periods.

UNHCR monitored detention centers regularly, advocating for the release of unlawfully detained refugees. Among 60 cases of detention in Uvira in the course of the year, 26 cases were released. 34 refugees benefited from legal assistance via a law firm. Refugees in detention also received medical support.

In 2018, 63 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence were reported among Burundian refugees. All 63 cases received psychosocial counseling, 42 were referred for medical assistance, including all 37 rape cases, 55 received legal aid and 50 received post-incident support through income-generating activities. Eleven alleged perpetrators of SGBV were arrested and transferred to court. However, weaknesses in the judicial system complicated SGBV response efforts and some persons of concern did not have access to legal remedies. Lack of funds and of experienced partners in the region prevented the establishment of mobile courts.

In 2018, 201 children at risk were identified, among them 56 unaccompanied children and 65 separated children. Best Interests Assessments (BIA) were undertaken for all. Fourteen best interest determination (BID) processes were conducted, resulting in five children being reunited with their biological parents in Burundi. Sixty-one foster families were supported to host children throughout the year. Despite best efforts, family reunification was not successful in all cases.



## Education

 **97%**  
Burundian Refugee children enrolled in primary education in 2018

**4,301**  
uniforms distributed to **3,685** refugee children

 Education sector **faced many constraints**, irregular salary payments for teachers and inadequate school facilities

A total of 8,294 Burundian refugee children had access to primary education in 2018. UNHCR paid their school fees through cash-based approaches: vouchers in Lusenda camp and mobile money transfers at Mulongwe site. For the 2017-2018 school year, 1,204 school kits were distributed to 1,204 students. For the 2018-2019 school year, 2,900 school kits were distributed to 2,573 refugee children.

1,102 students were supported with the payment of secondary school fees for the second and third trimesters of the 2017-2018 school year. For the first trimester of the 2018-2019 school year, 1,463 students benefitted from a similar payment. UNHCR also paid the examination fees of 1,390 secondary students at the end of their studies. 1,370 secondary-level students received school kits.

RRP partners distributed 5,000 school kits, 108 teachers' kits, and with training sessions on the primary school national curriculum. 4,301 uniforms were distributed to 3,685 refugee children, 1,919 girls and 1,766 boys. Two schools in the locality of Mulongwe were assisted with 19 teacher kits.

In total 5,689 children and youth participated in school-based sports and recreational activities. At the early childhood education level, 806 refugee children aged between three and five were enrolled in pre-school activities. At the end of 2018 two more preschools were built and equipped.

However, the education sector continued to face many constraints, including a lack of regular salary payments for teachers by national authorities; inadequate school facilities and an insufficient number of classrooms. For 2018 the average class size in primary schools in Lusenda was 75; in Mulongwe it was 95. All these factors were a major challenge for the provision of quality education.



## Food

 **25,063kg** of food distributed to Burundian Refugees at Lusenda and Mulongwe in 2018

**10,013** Refugees and Asylum Seekers in transit centers received in-kind food rations in 2018

 **Due to lack of funds** monthly food vouchers were reduced from **USD 15\$ to 12 in March, 2018**

An average of 32,713 Burundian refugees received a food ration every month of 2018 through WFP cash-based transfers (CBT), which enabled refugee households to buy food items of their choice, giving them a greater degree of independence. However, the amount of the transfer was reduced from USD15 to USD12 in February 2018, which sparked some peaceful demonstrations from the refugees. This amount is insufficient to cover the monthly food needs of most refugee households. While efforts are underway to increase refugees' self-reliance to enable to cover these gaps, the process is slow, and does not currently allow refugees to cover all their nutritional needs autonomously.

Some newly relocated refugees, especially in Mulongwe site, were not immediately eligible for cash transfers; for these persons WFP provided temporary in-kind rations. Overall 25,063 kg of food were distributed to 2,525

Burundian refugees at Lusenda camp and Mulongwe site. At Transit Centers and Assembly Points where new Burundian asylum-seekers tend to stay for (sometimes) rather long periods, 110,597 kg of food were distributed to 7,488 Burundian asylum-seekers. In total, 10,013 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers received in-kind food rations in 2018.

% refugees benefiting from food assistance (receiving 75% or more food ration) in 2018 **97%**

## Health & Nutrition

**4,501**



persons were referred to **secondary and tertiary health structures** in 2018



**1,038**

Mosquito nets distributed to pregnant and lactating women



**6**

Medical structures were maintained and supported in 2018

In Lusenda camp and Mulongwe site, as well as at Transit Centers and Assembly Points, refugees were able to access primary healthcare services. Six medical structures were maintained and supported in 2018. Preventive and community-based healthcare services were provided through 50 community health workers. Routine immunization programs were carried out, and referral mechanisms maintained through a coordination system involving partner organizations and state structures. A total of 4,501 persons were referred to secondary and tertiary health structures in 2018.

As a part of malaria prevention, UNHCR distributed 1,038 mosquito nets to pregnant and lactating women, but were not sufficient to meet the needs. Beginning in August 2018, as a direct response to the Ebola outbreak affecting North Kivu, UNHCR also implemented a number of Ebola-prevention measures for Burundian refugees. These included advocacy with local health authorities to ensure that refugees are incorporated in their preparedness plans; the distribution of information materials at all sites; infection prevention and control through the use of handwashing stations and thermometers; and capacity-building with health workers.

In 2018 1,788 persons were admitted into a nutrition supplementation program supported by RRP partners. Some 285 persons living with HIV and AIDS received antiretroviral treatment at Lusenda and Mulongwe. The medical follow-up of persons living with HIV was however not always possible due to the absence of dedicated structures in some areas. Counselling and awareness-raising on reproductive health were also carried out: as part of these efforts 93,971 male condoms, and 39 female condoms, were distributed.

% of refugee women delivering with assistance by qualified personnel in 2018 **100%**

## Livelihoods & Environment

**77%** of Burundian Refugee households used biomass briquettes as a sustainable source of energy by the end of 2018.

**1,273** persons received training in **community farming management and guidance** for their agricultural activities

**Absence of development actors to support initiatives targeting Burundian Refugees was a constraint in 2018**

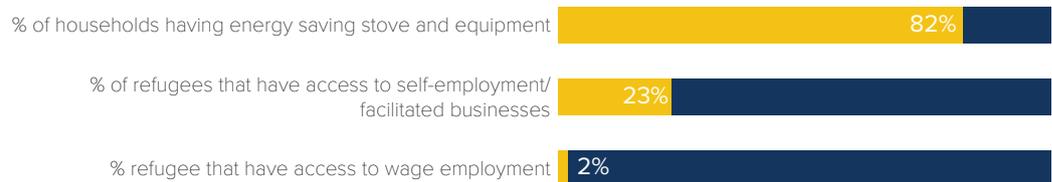
By the end of 2018, around 77% of Burundian refugee households used biomass briquettes as a sustainable source of energy for cooking. A total of 210 people from four associations were trained in the manufacturing of biomass briquettes and improved stoves. Some 7,617 improved stoves were manufactured in refugee and host community households; the same households were educated on the use of briquettes and stoves. Altogether 862 tons of biomass briquettes were distributed in the camps and at Transit Centers. However, some beneficiaries found it difficult to adapt to the use of biomass briquettes in view of their longstanding habit of relying on firewood.

Four mixed environmental associations were operational in Lusenda and at Mulongwe. In 2018, 28,000 seedlings were planted in the two camps. Two new sites were identified in Lusenda and Mulongwe for planting.

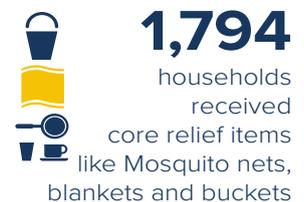
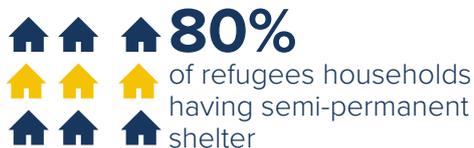
A total of 316 refugee households were supervised and assisted in fishing activities. Another 1,273 persons received

training in community farming management, and guidance for their agricultural activities. Altogether 1,891 persons received production kits or inputs for agriculture, livestock or fisheries in 2018. In addition, 350 young persons were selected for professional training in tailoring, hairdressing, soap-making and baking. They were grouped into business associations and provided with starter kits to begin activities.

The absence of development actors who could contribute to self-reliance and livelihoods initiatives targeting Burundian refugees remained a significant constraint in 2018, limiting the number of individuals that could be supported. Despite mediation and awareness-raising efforts, conflicts related to land also persisted between refugees and host communities, limiting the availability of land and therefore the scale of livelihoods activities.



## Shelter & NFIs



The new refugee site of Mulongwe was created in November 2017, with the aim of decongesting Transit Centers that house Burundian asylum-seekers; and an overcrowded Lusenda camp. Throughout 2018, RRP partners rehabilitated 23 community (collective) dormitories at the site to facilitate the relocation of refugee households.

In Mulongwe, a total of 1,272 households (5,088 persons) received shelter kits composed of materials not available locally, and cash to build their own transitional shelters, these shelters were build using a cash-transfer approach in order to promote self-reliance. In addition to shelter kits, households received cash grants to cover the cost of local materials and labor. The resulting shelters vastly improved the refugees' living conditions.

However, some shelter needs went unmet in 2018. Shelters were destroyed by torrential rains in Lusenda camp, and there were insufficient funds to assist the affected households.

A total of 1,794 households received core relief items in Mulongwe. The items included soap, mosquito nets, blankets, mattresses, jerrycans, buckets and other household goods. However, again, there was insufficient funding to target all households.



## WASH



The average quantity of water produced in sites that host Burundian refugees met the UNHCR standard of 20 liters / person / day. Refugees in Lusenda camp, as well as in Transit Centers and Assembly Points, received

more than 17 liters of water / person / day. At least 41,200 refugees were serviced by the water systems in 2018. However, in Mulongwe site only the SPHERE standard of 15 liters of water / person / day was met.

In Mulongwe the water system was expanded with the addition of 17 distribution points, including eight boreholes. Additional boreholes are needed to further increase water availability, until the UNHCR standard of 20 liters / person / day is reached.

In terms of sanitation, 100 per cent of refugee households in Lusenda and Mulongwe had access to showers (with a ratio of less than 20 persons per shower); however, the percentage of family showers was still low in Lusenda. In 2018, 952 household latrines were constructed in Mulongwe, and 679 in Lusenda through a cash-based intervention (CBI) approach. In Lusenda still more households need both family latrines and showers.

In total 15,832 refugees were reached by environmental health and hygiene campaigns in Lusenda, and 3,962 in Mulongwe. There were 34 active hygiene promoters for 35,816 refugees; thus, the ratio of persons of concern per hygiene promoter was 1,053 to one. The number of hygiene promoters compared to the overall population was especially insufficient in Lusenda.

Litres of drinking water received per day in 2018 (Target 20L per day)

17L

20L

## CRRF

While the DRC is not a CRRF country, the operation has adopted a CRRF model in particular in the setting up of the new site of Mulongwe in an effort to harness the potential of host communities and refugees from the start. RRP partners participated in the finalisation of the National Development Plan and successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees into the plan. Considering cultural and linguistic affinities of the refugees and host communities, the DRC operation is using a community based approach to pursue and build development alliances that will facilitate their peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence. In this regard, joint programming opportunities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Transformative Agenda of the Government of DRC were identified and pursued with development actors to ensure that refugees are protected and assisted effectively and are able to achieve solutions without resorting to the establishment of camps and when there are existing camps that they are phased out or transformed into sustainable settlements.

In line with UNHCR's policy on Alternatives to Camps, DRC seeks to assimilate all services into the national health, education, water, sanitation, and infrastructures while at the same time collaborating with other actors already providing services in these sectors (Integrating with the development sectors remains as a key challenge due to absolute absence of the actors on the ground). In South Kivu, this is in particular the case for education and health services. RRP partners are assisting the government with a stipend for teachers not yet on government payroll to allow children to attend schools while discussions are ongoing. The private sector, namely Vodacom is supporting refugees education, and the Local Education Group is a platform that will support the Education strategy to integrate refugees in the national education system. RRP partners were engaged in the discussion during the Education conference in Nairobi which led to the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Education in which members states committed to support education, including for refugees and IDPs. In term of health, the health centers are being used by both refugees and host population. However, a significant challenge remains as the level of services available to local populations in south Kivu is low and access is hampered as a result of armed conflict.

**RRP PARTNERS**

- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Food Programme

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Burundi Data Portal** - <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

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