

UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

7 - 13 April 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 47,543 new arrivals from the DRC out of the total 77,340 new arrivals to Uganda this year. On 8 April, the UNHCR Representative in Uganda gave a [press briefing](#) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on the continuing influx into the country. The security situation in Masisi Territory in North Kivu has remained particularly volatile, with sporadic violence and ambushes on civilian population documented. Recent protection monitoring has reported alarming levels of violence and abuse across localities in North Kivu.

The total number of new arrivals across the border is 47,543. Of that, 39,724 individuals have already been registered. There was an increase of 60 per cent in terms of arrivals from last week into Kisoro.

Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,498
February	10,031	7,524
March	19,691	16,871
April (as of 13 April)	10,444	10,831
Total	47,543	39,724

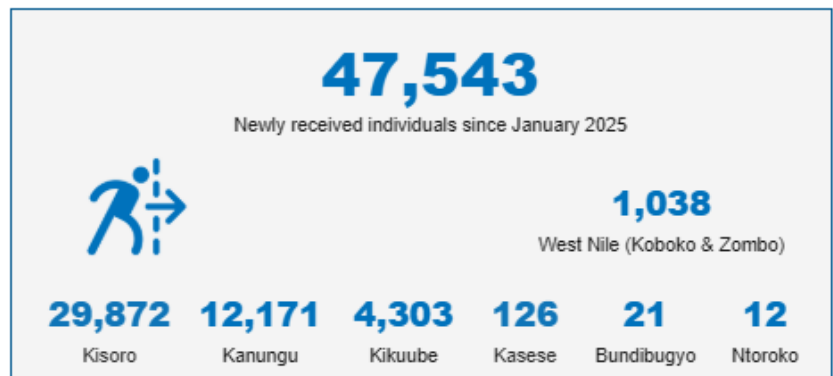
Compared to 2024, Uganda received 7,505 new arrivals for the period of 1 Jan – 13 Apr. This is a 533% increase for the same period in 2025.



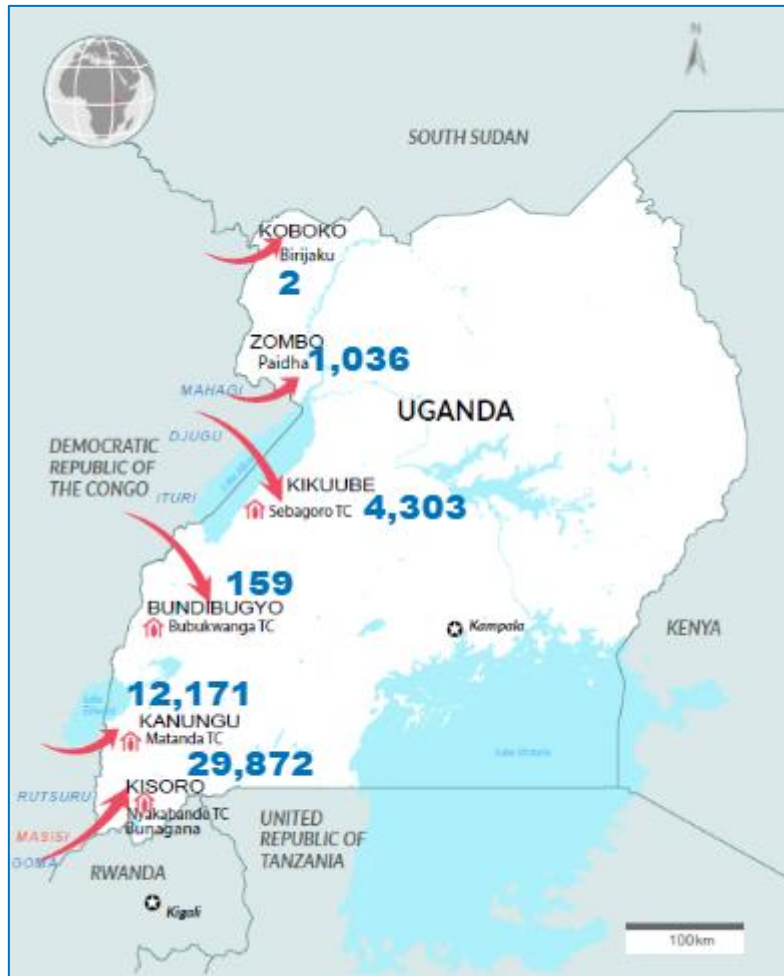
New arrivals from DRC being received at Bunagana Border Point. Photo ©UNHCR/Frank Walusimbi

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 62.8% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 25.5% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 9.1% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.2% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.4% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



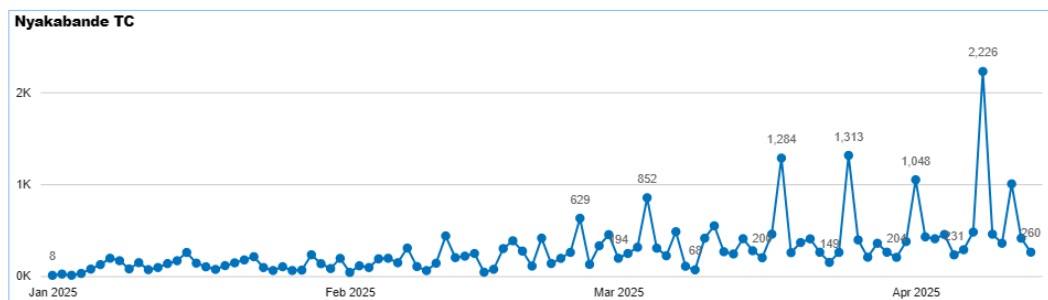
On April 8, 2025, a high number of new arrivals were reported in Kisoro. The protection team interviewed groups from various regions, including Goma, Tongo, Masisi, Gisigari, Bweza, Jomba, and Rutshuru. The main reasons for their flight were forced recruitment by armed groups, looting by militia, rape, kidnapping for ransom, lack of livelihood, presence of guns among civilians, increasing non-state armed groups, and breakdown of social services. The trend of arrivals was triggered by easier access to transport and safety in numbers. Many intend to return home when the situation improves, though some have no plans to return soon due to personal losses and occupation of their land.



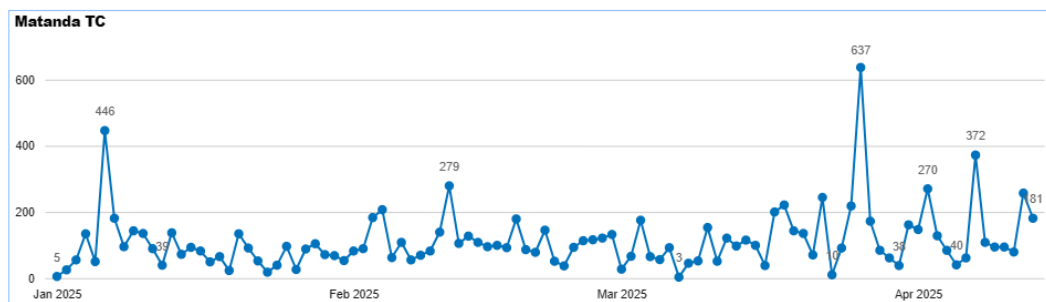
Arrival Trends:

The total number of arrivals from the DRC during the reporting period was 6,706. An overall increase of 53 per cent compared to the last reporting period. The daily average was 462, while the weekly one was 3,234. At this rate, there will be an estimated 12,936 arrivals by end of the month.

In Nyakabande, 5,212 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 60 per cent higher than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 286 and weekly average was 2,002.



In Matanda, 1,349 new arrivals were received, a 48 per cent increase from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 112 and weekly is 784.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 45 during the reporting period, having decreased by 58 per cent from the previous week. Bubukwanga transit centre has relatively low numbers, with the highest daily figure being 39 individuals since the year started.

Population at Transit Centres:

The total population at the transit centres impacted by the DRC emergency was 16,805 individuals as of 13 April 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 6 April	Current reporting week ending 13 April	
Nyakabande TC	1,136	5,053	5,512	485% occupancy
Kabazana RC	1,200	4,454	5,317	443% occupancy
Matanda TC	720	3,201	2,521	350% occupancy
Kagoma RC	984	2,617	2,589	263% occupancy
Bubukwanga TC	520	457	531	116% occupancy
Sweswe RC	640	90	282	Within capacity
Mahani RC	400	49	49	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	240	14	4	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

Six samples of suspected measles from Matanda Transit Centre were sent to the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) for testing. The results received on 10 April 2025, confirmed that four samples tested positive for measles, while one sample tested positive for both measles and Rubella. In response, vaccination for children is currently underway, and surveillance efforts have been strengthened to ensure timely and early detection of further cases.

At the Nyakabande Transit Centre in Kisoro District, 1,336 new arrivals were screened for malnutrition, including 1,161 children under five (U5s) and 175 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs). The screening identified 80 moderately malnourished individuals (55 U5s and 25 PLWs) and 10 severely malnourished U5 cases. The week's average Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among new arrivals stood at six per cent for U5s and 14 per cent for PLWs.

At the Matanda Transit Centre, 248 new arrivals were screened, comprising 150 U5s and 98 PLWs. Among these, 10 individuals (6 U5s and 4 PLWs) were

identified as moderately malnourished, while 4 U5s were found to be severely malnourished.

The blanket supplementary feeding program for children under five and pregnant and lactating women, along with targeted supplementary feeding for moderately malnourished cases, has resumed at both Nyakabande and Matanda transit centres.

Protection: Relocation from Nyakabande and Matanda remains a priority. During the reporting period, 4,216 individuals (1,892 from Matanda and 2,324 from Nyakabande) were transferred to Kabazana reception centre in Nakivale settlement. Despite these efforts, severe overcrowding persists in reception and transit centers like Matanda and Nyakabande, at 350% and 485% respectively.

WASH and Sanitation: Nyakabande Transit Centre averages 15 litres per person per day (lpd), while Matanda averages 9 lpd which is below the emergency average of 15 lpd.

The receiving zones in Nakivale refugee settlement have low water supply 11 lpd in Juru and 5 lpd in Rubondo zones, with an overall average of 10 lpd. Nyakabande transit centre is short of 104 bathing facilities and 223 latrine stances. Sanitation coverage in Rubondo and Juru zones is 77 per cent and 50 per cent respectively. Repair and maintenance of WASH facilities is a priority at Matanda transit centre.

Management of the Transit Centres: The transit centres are facing critical shortages in desludging services and essential consumables like soap and cleaning materials. Repairs are urgently needed in common areas, along with support for general compound maintenance. Firewood consumption is at 2.0 cubic meters per day, requiring 480 cubic meters for the remainder of the year. Rising water and electricity bills necessitate immediate additional funds to keep services running. Securing contracts for cooks for six months is essential to ensure hot meals are prepared three times a week. Limited case management staff for child protection and violence against women need to be maintained.

Immediate Resources Required:

The growing intensity of new arrivals from DRC is overwhelming and has outpaced the available resources. Overall, an estimated USD 600,000 is required to keep the Matanda and Nyakabnde transit centres operational, USD 1.2M is needed to upgrade shelter and infrastructure in transit and reception centres in the Southwest, and USD 1.2 M in critical health gaps. An appeal for the DRC is being prepared to provide a comprehensive understanding of the needs.