

UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

21 - 27 April 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 60,569 new arrivals from the DRC out of the total 92,768 new arrivals to Uganda this year. The security situation in Eastern DRC remains tense. Human rights violations, including reprisal killings and abductions, continue to be reported. On 23 April, parties to the conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo agreed to a ceasefire following peace talks held in Doha, facilitated by the Government of Qatar. Both sides committed to maintaining the ceasefire throughout the ongoing negotiations.

The total number of new arrivals across the border is 60,569. Of that, 47,886 individuals have already been registered. There was a decrease of 68 per cent in terms of arrivals from last week into Kisoro. The reduction is attributed to movement restrictions imposed on the DRC side of the border requiring asylum seekers to pay to cross and/or not allowing them to cross.

Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,499
February	10,031	7,524
March	20,572	16,871
April (as of 27 April)	22,589	18,992
Total	60,569	47,886

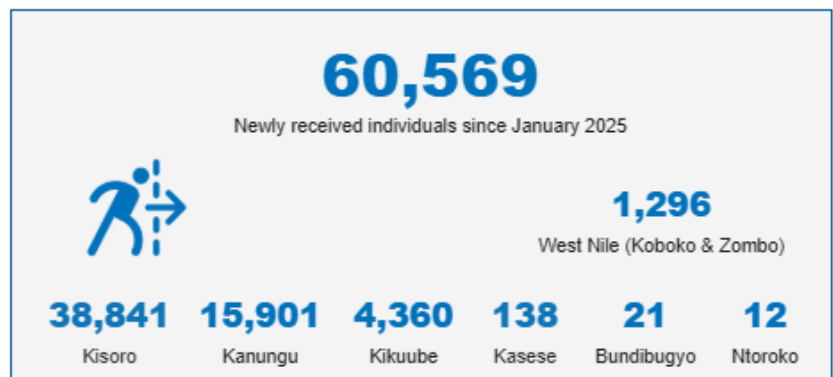
Compared to 2024, Uganda received 8,613 new arrivals for the period of 1 Jan – 27 Apr. This is a 603% increase for the same period in 2025.



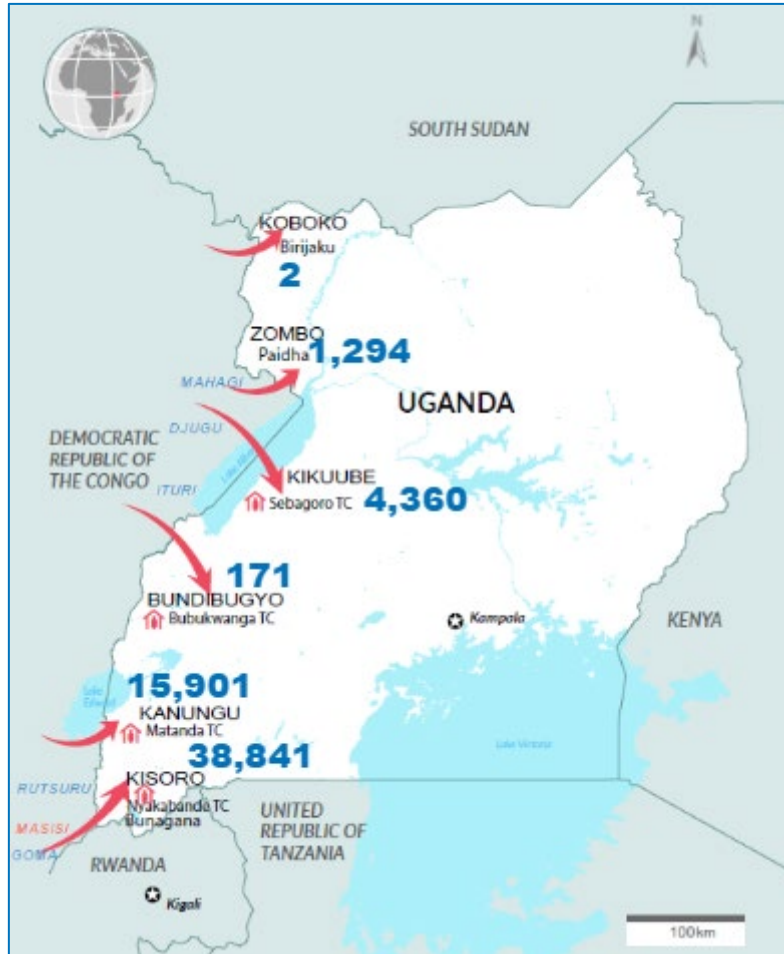
New arrivals from DRC being received at Nyakabande Transit Centre, Kisoro district. Photo ©UNHCR/Jimmy Ogwang

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 64.1% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 26.3% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 7.2% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.1% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.3% via Kasese,



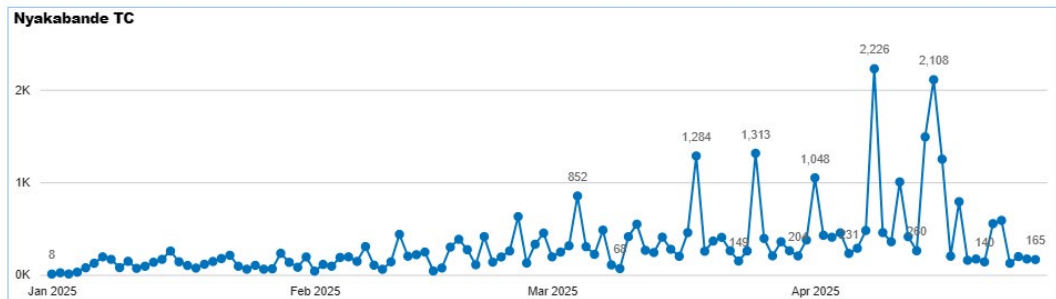
The refugees flee due to forced recruitment, rape, kidnapping, hunger, armed civilians, increasing militia, and disrupted social services. Insecurity is halting cultivation and businesses, leading to reliance on aid. Education, banking, and health services are disrupted, and some families are fleeing to reunite with relatives.



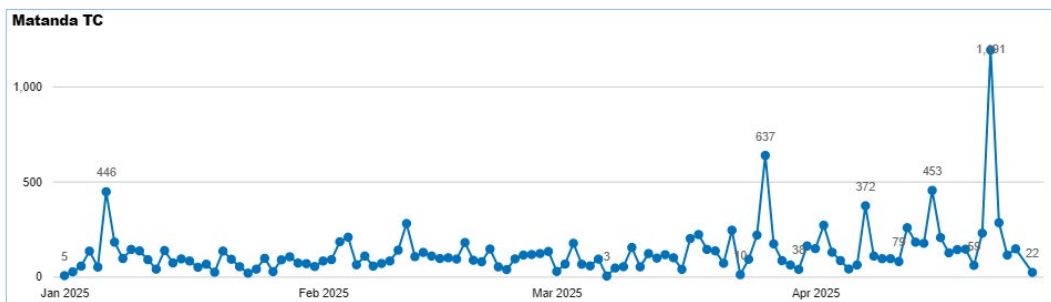
Arrival Trends:

During the reporting period, 4,398 individuals arrived from the DRC, a 43% decrease from the previous period. The daily average for this reporting period was 628, and the weekly average was 4,396.

In Nyakabande, 1,965 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 68 per cent lower than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 321 and weekly average was 2,247.



In Matanda, 2,208 new arrivals were received, a 45 per cent increase from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 128 and weekly is 896.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 24 during the reporting period, having decreased by 27 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 and Reception Centres:

The total population at the transit and reception centres impacted by the DRC emergency was 19,833 individuals as of 27 April 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 20 April	Current reporting week ending 27 April	
Nyakabande TC	1,136	8,766	8,799	775% occupancy
Matanda TC	720	2,692	3,822	531% occupancy
Kabazana RC	1,200	3,487	4,461	372% occupancy
Kagoma RC	984	2,434	1,820	185% occupancy
Mahani RC	400	433	433	108% occupancy
Sweswe RC	640	280	290	Within capacity
Bubukwanga TC	520	137	204	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	240	6	4	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

In respect to nutrition among new arrivals, at Nyakabande transit centre, 1,081 under five children (U5s) and 419 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were screened for malnutrition. Of these, 80 (66 U5s and 14 PLWs) were moderately malnourished and 11 U5s were severely malnourished. The week's average Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among the new arrivals stood at 12 per cent for the U5s, and three per cent for the PLWs. In Matanda transit centre, 314 children were screened with, 30 (10%) found to have GAM and five (2%) with SAM.

Protection: Relocation from Nyakabande and Matanda remains a priority. During the reporting period, 1,889 individuals 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 531% and 775% respectively.

WASH and Sanitation:

At the Nyakabande transit centre, the total quantity of water received per person per day was 12 litres while Matanda transit centre had 9 litre per person per day (l/p/d), which are both below the emergency sphere standard of 15 lpd.

The receiving zones in Nakivale refugee settlement have low water supply 7 lpd in Juru and 6 lpd in Rubondo zones, with an overall average of 10 lpd.

Critical Gaps in the DRC Emergency

- **Nyakabande and Matanda Transit Centres (TCs)** accommodate over 90% of new arrivals from DRC. Current facilities can only accommodate 3,250 individuals at Nyakabande transit centre, leaving many new arrivals without adequate shelter. They require expansion with additional land, shelters, WASH facilities, interview spaces, and protection desks.
- **Improvement in the capacity for registration and screening** by setting up temporary registration points, increasing staff, and upgrading equipment.
- **Provide partial monetization of core-relief items (CRIs)** and offer cash-based interventions at transit centres and settlements.
- **Early and predictable funding** is needed to ensure a consistent stock of essential items and CSB++ (Corn-Soy Blend Plus) used for the Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) programme to address malnutrition needs.
- **Lack of warm clothing**, especially for children. It is the rainy season and both Kisoro and Matanda are generally cold.
- **Print IEC materials** on asylum processes, relocation, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and anti-fraud measures.
- **Provision of menstrual hygiene kits** and installation of solar lighting in settlements.
- **Hire commercial buses**, deploy a 67-seater at Kisoro field office for relocations, and purchase a cesspool emptier for latrine maintenance.
- **Health services are strained** due to insufficient human resources, limiting the ability to provide adequate care. More support is needed.

The [EMERGENCY APPEAL: DRC Refugee Situation in Uganda - April 2025](#), covering the needs of 80,000 new arrivals has been issued. It requires \$21M in additional funding and \$23M reprogrammed under the UCRRP, involving 7 UN agencies, 15 International NGOs, and 2 National NGOs.