

UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

28 April – 4 May 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 63,123 new arrivals from the DRC out of the total 97,641 new arrivals to Uganda this year. Despite the 23 April agreement between the parties to the conflict to implement an immediate ceasefire, sporadic clashes continue to be reported between armed groups in North and South Kivu. Widespread reports of violations against civilian populations have also been received, including kidnappings, extortion, rape, destruction of property and forced recruitment.

The total number of new arrivals from the DRC since January 2025 is 63,123. Of that, 52,516 individuals have already been registered. There was a decrease of 25 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	24,411	21,996
May (as of 04 May)	732	1,626
Total	63,123	51,516

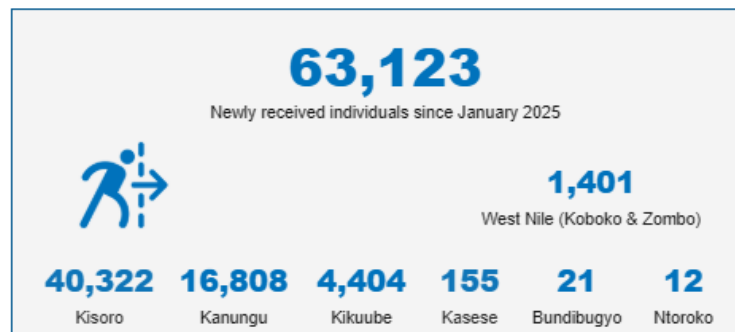
Uganda has received a total of 96,641 new arrivals for the period 1 Jan – 4 May, a 198% increase from the same period in 2024.



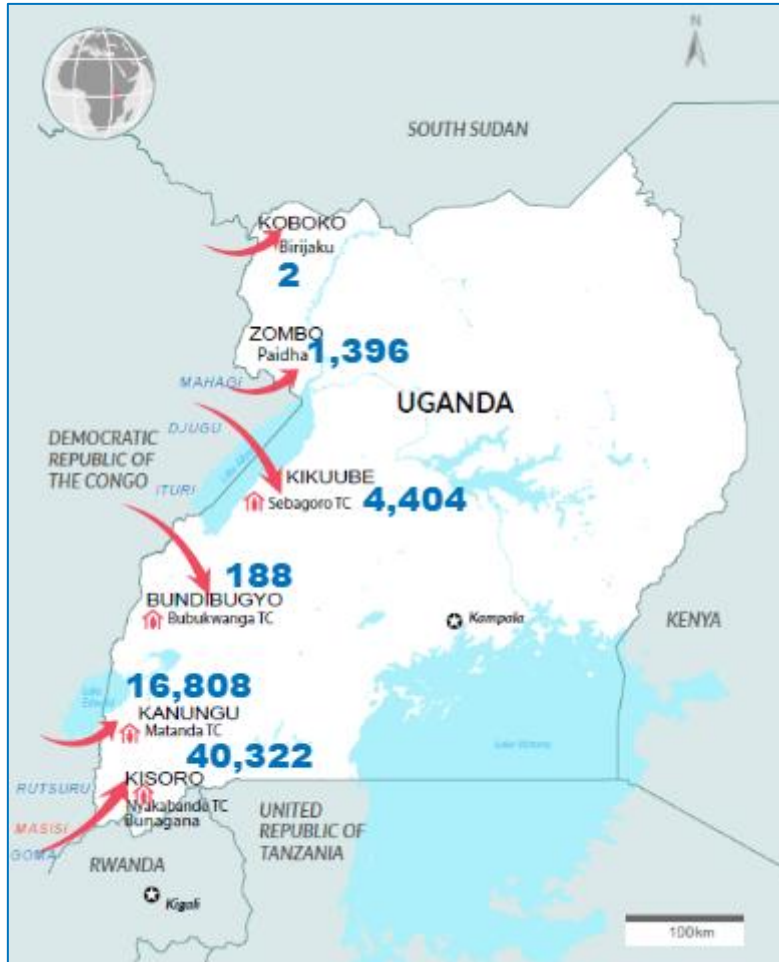
A staff member from ALIGHT conducts an awareness session on gender based violence at Matanda Transit Centre Photo ©ALIGHT

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 63.9% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 26.6% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 7.0% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.2% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.3% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



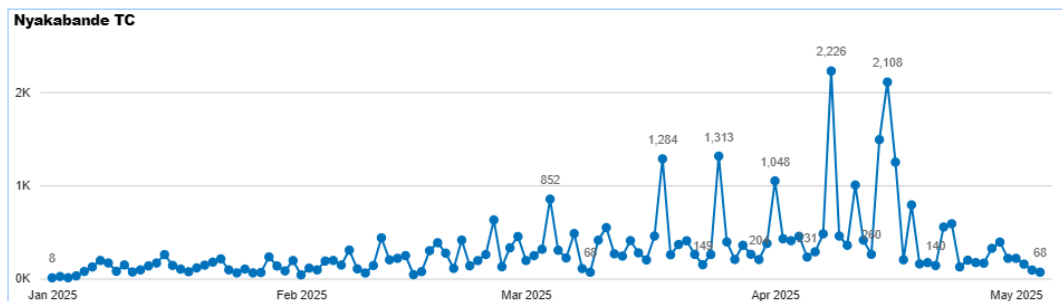
Among the new arrivals from the DRC, nearly 60% aged 18-59 and an equal split between men and women. About 19% are children aged 0-4. New arrivals from Goma continue to cross the border, with 420 arriving during this reporting period. Refugees report they are fleeing due to forced recruitment, rape, kidnapping, hunger, armed civilians, militia, and disrupted social services. Insecurity halts cultivation and businesses, leading to aid reliance. Education, banking, and health services are disrupted, with some families fleeing to reunite with relatives.



Arrival Trends:

During the reporting period, 2,554 individuals arrived from the DRC, a 42% decrease from the previous period. The daily average for this reporting period was 365, and the weekly average was 2,555.

In Nyakabande, 1,481 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 25 per cent lower than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 315 and weekly average was 2,205.



In Matanda, 907 new arrivals were received, a 59 per cent decrease from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 127 and weekly is 889.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 44 during the reporting period, having increased by 83 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 19,097 individuals as of 04 May 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 27 April	Current reporting week ending 04 May	
Kabazana RC	1,500	4,461	8,002	533% occupancy
Nyakabande TC	1,420	8,799	6,198	436% occupancy
Matanda TC	900	3,822	3,248	361% occupancy
Kagoma RC	1,230	1,820	1,013	Within capacity
Bubukwanga TC	650	204	304	Within capacity
Sweswe RC	800	290	301	Within capacity
Mahani RC	500	433	29	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	300	4	2	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

In respect to nutrition among new arrivals, at Nyakabande transit centre 257 children under five were screened and GAM was at seven per cent (18 children), SAM at one per cent (two children), and 16 of the children had MAM. Unfortunately, a child under five years of age succumbed to malnutrition. This brings the total number of deaths due to malnutrition-related complications to eight since the start of the emergency.

At Matanda transit centre, 129 children under five were screened and GAM was at seven per cent (nine children), SAM at two per cent (one child), and eight of the children had MAM. In respect to measles, there were no new cases during the reporting period and 30 cases have been successfully treated in total.

In Nakivale, there were 12 new cases of measles during the reporting period and 36 in total over the past three weeks. The situation is contained, and refugees have been treated. There are no deaths registered. All of the cases identified arrived from Matanda.

Protection: Relocation from Nyakabande and Matanda remains a priority. During the reporting period, 5,580 individuals were relocated to Kabazana Reception Centre in Nakivale Settlement, including 4,517 from Nyakabande and 1,063 from Matanda. Despite these efforts, severe overcrowding persists in reception and transit centers like Matanda and Nyakabande, at 436% and 533% respectively.

Spontaneous returnees: About 349 spontaneous returnees were recorded at the Bunagana border, crossing back to DRC from the settlements of Rwamwanja (34), Kyaka II (15), Nakivale 298 and Kyangwali (2). They were returning to Gisigari, Bweza, Kiwanja, Goma, Tongo, Jomba and Giseguro. Their reasons for returning to DRC include diseases like malaria, theft of household property by unknown people, prolonged dry season which destroyed their crops and reduced land for cultivation.

WASH and Sanitation:

At the Nyakabande transit centre, the total quantity of water received per person per day was 7 litres, while Matanda transit centre had 9 litres per person per day (l/p/d). These are below the emergency standard of 15 lpd. The receiving zones in Nakivale refugee settlement have low water supply of 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 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 increasing staff, connectivity, 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.