

KEY FIGURES

15,139 *

Burundian refugees have been received in Uganda since November 2014 (As of 13 October)

Further breakdown of the above figure:

11,427

Refugees received in Nakivale Refugee Settlement

247

Refugees received in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement

162

Refugees received in Oruchinga Refugee Settlement

81

Refugees received in Kisoro Refugee Settlement

3,222

Urban refugees received in Kampala

**statistics are provided by the Government of Uganda Office of the Prime Minister*

PRIORITIES

- Community outreaches to identify Burundian students eligible to attend secondary school are ongoing. There are also efforts to have their supporting documents transferred to Uganda to enable them register for National Exams.
- Weekly health awareness, education, and promotion are ongoing to up timely health seeking behavior, improve household sanitation, and expand child vaccination coverage.

Uganda

UPDATE ON THE BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE

9-15 October, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of Burundian refugees seeking international protection and assistance in Uganda continues to drop. A total of 19 new Burundian arrivals were transported from Mirama hills, and Mutukula- Sango Bay police post this week. This is down from last week's 69 and the previous week's 147 individuals. The new arrivals still cite increased insecurity in Burundi and family reunion as reasons for fleeing.



Newly arrived Burundians receiving a hot meal at Kabazana reception centre, in Nakivale, Uganda@ UNHCR/© UNHCR/E.Ohanusi

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- At Kabazana Reception Centre, the weekly joint (UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister, American Refugee Committee) physical headcount was halted due to fears of a Hepatitis B outbreak but this has been cleared and the routine exercise is set to resume this week. Nevertheless, a total of 1279 individuals (746 Burundians, 358 Congolese, 168 Rwandese, and 07 Sudanese) were residing at the centre as of 9 October, down from 1,292 individuals in the last reporting period. The population has slightly decreased and an average of 18 individuals are arriving daily at the reception centre which can accommodate up to 1,500 individuals. An interagency physical head count is conducted every Tuesday to establish the number of residents at the reception center to guide resettlement and ease congestion.
- In Nakivale, some 173 Burundians (82 households) who had arrived at Nakivale Refugee Settlement or had been referred from Kampala were registered by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). This is a drop from last week's 181 in the overall new arrivals from Burundi.

Protection

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- At Kabazana Reception Centre, ARC identified 27 PSNs (16 separated children, 01 single mother and 10 elderly persons without care takers). Seven of these needed medical support and were referred to Medical Teams International (MTI) for treatment. All the individuals were also counselled and given start up Non-Food Items (soap, blankets, mats, plates and cups).

Child Protection

- In Nakivale, UNHCR in conjunction with the Isingiro district protection officer, OPM, ARC and the refugee welfare committee, held a community consultative meeting on child protection at Ngarama C, with about 50 refugees. The meeting sought to address the emerging jigger outbreak, which is mainly affecting children and undermining learning in the child development centres. It was agreed that fumigation of households would be carried out in the second half of October 2015, besides continued hygiene awareness creation and promotion to address the Jigger problem. Other issues tackled included the persistent challenge of language barrier in schools, domestic violence among married couples and a request by new arrivals for land to cultivate crops. The community were informed that WTU is considering separating children and teaching them in the language they understand as it has been found more practical and effective than conducting parallel English classes. Members also agreed to carry out focused group discussions on gender based violence with the wider community to enhance family harmony. As per land allocation, UNHCR emergency teams are compiling the list of individuals who have not received land for follow up with OPM.
- At Kabazana Reception Centre, ARC conducted a Best Interest Assessment on a 12-year-old male unaccompanied minor. He was accompanied to OPM where he was supported with an asylum seeker card before being placed under a temporary care taker. ARC also conducted another nine BIAs for nine children; identified six separated children and three unaccompanied minors from Base camp I, II, Kabahinda and Nyarugugu C. The unaccompanied minors were placed under foster care. All the children were provided with scholastic materials such as books and pens, before reefing them to Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) for education support such as scholarships to attend school.

Education

- Last week's reported increase in school attendance in early childhood development centres (ECDs) and primary schools dropped by 117 children and 263 pupils respectively. This was attributed to the food distribution conducted last week. Parents ask children collect the food or to stay home and look after their siblings. However, Secondary school attendance increased by five students because of availability of scholarship opportunities provided by WTU.

- Uganda Red Cross together with Window Trust Uganda have continued with outreaches to identify Burundian students eligible to attend secondary school but are not enrolled due to lack of supporting documents from their home country institutions. Some 12 students in senior two and three (S.2 & 3) were identified, enrolled and their documents from Burundi were requested to be transferred to Uganda in order to enable them register for senior four (S.4) Ugandan National Examination Board.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Congestion at ECDCs especially in Kabahinda D and Ruhoko C. Each of the 6 Centres have only 2 Classrooms with an average ratio of 122 Learners per class against the recommended 25 children for effective playing and learning commensurate with the age group.



Health

Immunization

- UNICEF and MTI supported the just concluded national mass measles vaccination campaign by conducting health awareness and promotion outreaches in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements through the Isingiro district health office. Partners are compiling the report on the total number of children vaccinated.

Reproductive Health

- In Nakivale, with support from Reproductive Health Uganda, village healthcare teams conducted health education sessions on benefits of exclusive breastfeeding for about 380 mothers. Cervical cancer screening was also conducted for six women. None was found positive.



Food Security and Nutrition

- In Nakivale, UNHCR in conjunction with World Food Programme (WFP) concluded the general monthly food distribution exercise that also covered new Burundian arrivals, last week.
- At Kabazana Reception Centre, MTI conducted malnutrition screening for 332 children aged between 0-15 years during their weekly health outreach. Some two cases were found to be moderately malnourished and were enrolled on the supplementary feeding program while four, who were severely malnourished were put on outpatient therapeutic programs.

Working in partnership

The Government of Uganda, through the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are supported by:



Contact:

Charlie Yaxley, Associate External Relations Officer, yaxley@unhcr.org, Tel: +256 (0) 776 720 045

Abdelrahman JABER, Associate Information Management Officer, Jaber@unhcr.org, Tel: +256 (0)772 701057

Links: [Burundi regional portal](#) - [Twitter](#) – [UNHCR: Thousands continue to flee Burundi](#)