

## BURUNDI SITUATION

### UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

No. 0007

6 May 2015

#### KEY FIGURES

**39,091**

Number of Burundian refugees who have sought asylum in neighboring countries since the beginning of April 2015

**24,795**

Refugees in Rwanda (3 May)

**7,319**

Refugees in DRC (4 May)

**6,966**

Refugees in Tanzania (5 May)

#### PRIORITIES

- Relocation of refugees to safety from border areas
- Preparation of refugee sites allocated by governments of host countries
- Life-saving emergency protection and assistance interventions including in the sectors of registration, shelter, domestic items, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, health.
- Identification and protection of children including family tracing, family reunification and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children.
- Prepositioning of relief items for anticipated mass outflows into neighboring countries

#### Highlights (Tanzania)

- Tanzania has 6,966 new Burundian refugees of whom 4,000 are reported though not yet registered on the Kigoma-Kaguga Island.
- One of the critical issues in Kagunga Island is related to crowd control. UNHCR asked the MHA Zone Coordinator to liaise with the Regional Police Commander to provide five officers to assist.
- Government and village leaders are being largely cooperative. However, some local communities are complaining that they do not have the capacity to house and feed asylum seekers while they are waiting to be transferred to the camp.
- Latrines are being constructed to serve the population of asylum seekers waiting at Kagunga. Local village leaders are complaining that individuals are relieving themselves in places other than the latrines amid fear that this might result in the outbreak of disease.
- There lack of established reception centers to act as collection points for all arriving asylum seekers near the border points is a continuing concern. The Office is relying information about new arrivals received from village leaders. The UNHCR team deployed to Kagera is continuing advocacy with local officials, in an attempt to carry the message of open borders from the central to the regional level.
- Shelter is a growing challenge in Nyarugusu Camp. Asylum seekers are accommodated in different locations throughout the camp, including the departure center, the new reception area, and the former verification center. Four new soon-to-be completed temporary shelters will only hold 600 individuals. This is greatly insufficient given the number of new asylum seekers reaching Nyarugusu each day.

#### Statistics of Burundian refugees in Tanzania (6 May 2015)

<i>Nyarugusu refugee camp</i>	
Registered	2,015
Not registered	119
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,134</b>
<i>Reported, but not yet registered</i>	
On the way to Nyarugusu from Kagunga Island)	634
Kasulu-various villages	200
Kigoma-Kaguga island	4,000
Ngara district – Kasenge village	9
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,843</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6,977</b>

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## Operational Context (Tanzania)

- UNHCR has been transporting asylum seekers from various villages and islands to Nyarugusu Camp. 200 individuals were transported from villages on 4 May. 634 individuals were transported on 5 May from Kagunga to Nyarugusu Camp, through Kigoma. The number of people waiting on the island has increased dramatically, and is estimated by UNHCR staff present to be around 4,000. Collecting asylum seekers from various other entry points is difficult because the flow is unpredictable.
- The 600 capacity boat carrying asylum seekers from Kagunga can only make one round trip per day. The UNHCR Representative has instructed that boat capacity must be respected. The hiring of additional boats is being considered to avoid new arrivals staying in the islands for many nights. Trucks are being used for various tasks, including collecting people and supplies. Several buses are being rented on an as-needed basis. Many more will need to be leased to keep up with the number of asylum seekers arriving.
- One family of asylum seekers in Kagunga reported their 11-year old child missing. A body was later found floating in the lake, which the family later identified as being that of their child. Police was called. The family was to travel to Nyarugusu Camp, but will stay behind to arrange the funeral.

## Protection (Nyarugusu Camp)

- UNHCR is conducting level 1 registration of all newly arriving asylum seekers. Each asylum seeker is receiving a wristband with an identification number. Every family then receives a token bearing the head of household's identification number to receive services, such as food.
- Protection screening is taking place with the assistance of International Rescue Committee. 64 unaccompanied minors and 67 separated children have been identified so far.
- 34 cases have been reported: 2 rapes, 1 sexual assault, 4 physical assaults, 27 psychological and/or emotional abuse. Most of the reported abuses took place during the flight.

## Health

- The Red Cross is conducting medical screening on arrival in Nyarugusu Camp. Emergency medical care is being extended, as needed. Children under 15 are receiving measles vaccination. 815 have been vaccinated. Nutritional assessment is being carried out for children under 5. As of 4 May, 383 patients (30 pregnant women) received medical care; 16 of them have been admitted. General health education is underway.
- First Aid is being provided at border points. There is a medical escort on the boat, as well as from Kigoma to Nyarugusu Camp. Emergency medical care is being provided in Kigoma. Overall, there is a general staff shortage as well as a lack of ambulances, inadequate therapeutic food and a large shortage of first aid and trauma kits.

## Shelter and Site Planning

- A new reception area is under construction at Nyarugusu. One 150-capacity shelter has been constructed, which is already fully occupied. Two shelters (each with a capacity of 100 individuals) and two shelters (each with a capacity of 150) will be completed on 5 May. There are enough latrines and water available at the reception site.
- The verification center was rehabilitated and is being used to accommodate the 800+ asylum seekers that arrived in the camp on 4 May. A shed in Zone 8 of Nyarugusu Camp will be used to shelter the 800+ asylum seekers expected to arrive in the camp on 5 May. Latrines and water are being rehabilitated. Temporary latrines are being constructed and a water tank is being installed.
- 150 plots have been cleared for construction of individual shelters once building materials are distributed. Four temporary latrines with six drop holes each are being constructed to serve the population until families are able to construct their own latrines. The challenge being faced is that there are not enough trucks available to transport poles and bamboo for construction to the camp.