

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #35

March 2017

KEY FIGURES

405,106

New Burundian refugees in asylum countries since April 2015 as of 31 March 2017

FUNDING

USD 214.5 million

Requested by UNHCR for the overall Burundi Situation in 2017

Gap 99%



funded 1%

PRIORITIES

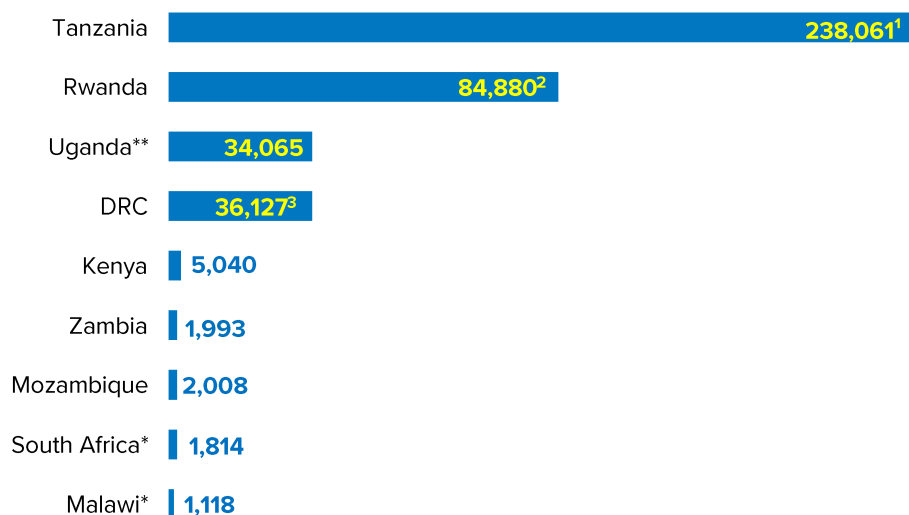
- **Tanzania:** Continue discussions with the Government to ensure asylum seekers continue to have access to its territory, while advocating for new land and the publication of the Refugee Status Determination procedures that will be implemented.
- **Burundi:** Increase border and protection monitoring on the border areas with Tanzania.
- **DRC:** Advocate for funding to ensure the new site near Baraka can be developed.
- **Rwanda:** Implement the recommendations from the interagency gender assessment.
- Assist WFP in advocating to assure food rations of Burundian refugees will not be cut as of May 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regional: Over 400,000 refugees** have fled Burundi as the socio-political crisis **hits its two-year threshold**. UNHCR's overall **funding outlook is poor**, as regionally a total of US\$2.7 million has been received since 1 January 2017, representing **1%** of this year's needs for the Burundi situation.
- **Tanzania:** Some 3,915 Burundian asylum seekers entered the country in March 2017. UNHCR continues to raise its concerns to the Government concerning the challenges faced by incoming asylum seekers and the importance to ensure proper Refugee Status Determination, in line with Tanzania's 1998 Refugee Act and the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- **Rwanda:** UNHCR is concerned about WFP's expected cut in food assistance as of May 2017 due to lack of funding. Furthermore, to celebrate International Women's Day, the new Women's and Girl's Opportunity Centre was inaugurated in Mahama Camp on 9 March.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Relocations to Lusenda have stopped as of 2 March, as the camp is hosting far beyond its maximum capacity of 18,000. Some 1,496 Burundian refugees are living in transit centers, while nearly 2,000 refugees stay outside with host families in precarious conditions. Some 400 Burundian refugees found shelter in a church in Katogota. Funding is needed to develop the newly identified site Baraka in Fizi Territory.

Population of concern

A total of **405,106** refugees as of 31 March 2017 since the influx began in April 2015



¹ Nyarugusu: 134,647 | Nduta: 123,042 | Mtendeli: 51,896 | Transit Center: 50

² Mahama: 53,589 | Urban (Kigali + Huye): 31,241 | Reception Centers: 287

³ Lusenda: 27,276 | Out of camp/RCs: 8,851

* Based on Government figures (partially or entirely) | ** Since 1 January 2015

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

For more information on the Burundi situation response in specific country operations, kindly refer to the Burundi refugee portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>.

BURUNDI

Latest developments

- UNHCR has verified that in total 7,275 former Burundian refugees have returned spontaneously. According to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, there are 148,490 IDPs living in 11 provinces, out of which 42% are linked to the current social-political crisis that started in April 2015. The remaining 58% are linked to natural disasters.
- The UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry, which was set up in September 2016, reported that mutilated bodies are being found once again in Burundi. Besides grave protection concerns within Burundi, there are 2,1 million Burundians who are classified as food insecure, out of whom 806,000 are severely food insecure.

Achievements and Impact

- OCHA's Central Emergency Response Funding has ended on 31 March 2017. Through the assistance provided UNHCR and partners were able to conduct border and protection monitoring and distribute non-food items and construction kits in the six provinces covered by the response. In total, 2,120 NFI kits and 288 construction kits were distributed over a period of nine months.
- UNHCR has intensified border and protection monitoring inside Burundi and has send protection staff from Bujumbura to train field colleagues and partners in March 2017. Concern is that when certain asylum seekers are not accepted into Tanzania they are extra vulnerable and in need of assistance and protection.
- Discussions between the Burundian and the Tanzanian authorities for a tripartite meeting on voluntary return of the Burundian refugees are ongoing. No date has been set so far.

Countries of Asylum

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- The screening of asylum seekers at border sites by Tanzanian Immigration Officials is continuing, making it difficult for Burundians to have access to asylum. UNHCR is urging the Government to install procedures that will allow asylum seekers to be screened and follow a proper Refugee Status Determination interview, as guaranteed by the 1998 Refugee Act and the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has reduced the value of the assistance provided to Burundian refugees in the Kagoma region in March, due to a lack of available funding. If such reductions continue, or if the assistance ends, this will have serious complications in terms of health and on the protection environment in the camps. Information dissemination activities on ration reduction have been carried out in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu Camps.

Achievements and Impact

- Protection:** Kigoma regional authorities have designated five entry points (previously 14) where screening activities by Immigration Officers will take place in the region for asylum-seekers from Burundi. UNHCR continued to monitor the physical safety and security of the incoming asylum seekers. This is particularly important in Nduta Camp, where incoming Burundians live at the outskirts of the camp, far from basic service providers and police.
- Nduta Camp is receiving the incoming asylum seekers, while already being severely overcrowded. The maximum capacity has been revised to 127,000, meaning it may accommodate another 5,000 Burundians. As there is no groundwater for a larger population, more land is needed to host those asylum seekers fleeing Burundi. No decision has been made by the Government of Tanzania in terms of the allocation of new land to set up a new camp site. As currently the overall willingness to return to Burundi is low, it is important that such decisions are taken as soon as possible.
- Some 850 new born Burundians in Nduta and Mtendeli Camps have been registered by UNHCR. The birth certificates are now pending issuance by the Government of Tanzania. UNHCR is following up to ensure all new born children receive official birth certificates.

- UNHCR and partners (IOM and Tanzanian Red Cross) assisted in the reunification of 100 Burundian refugees from 37 households, from Mtendeli Camp to Nduta Camp.
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) training was conducted by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for 17 newly recruited police officers who also support the Gender and Child Desks in Nyarugusu Camp. In addition, some 35 religious leaders received SGBV training to increase response capacity in the camps.
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) opened a new women's center in Nduta Camp to decrease the distance to referral points for asylum seekers living in the outskirts of the camp, in order to more effectively respond to SGBV and prevent its occurrence in the camp.
- **Education:** A new primary school comprising 18 classrooms was officially opened in Mtendeli Camp with a capacity of 900 students (1,800 students using the double shift strategy). The school will improve the students to classroom ratio in Mtendeli Camp from 1:305 to 1:186. More classrooms and equipment are still needed to improve this ratio.
- **Water and Sanitation:** A new borehole in Nduta Camp will increase the level of water supply in the camp, having the capacity to yield 20 to 25 m³ of water per hour. A second borehole is under construction. In Mtendeli Camp water represents a major challenge, where the average provision of water ranges between 15,3 and 16,1 liters per person per day (below UNHCR's standard of 20 liters per person per day). Assessments are being carried out to find additional sources of water for the camp's population of 51,896 individuals.
- Water experts from the Lake Tanganyika Water Basin Board, Kigoma Region and Kakonko District are conducting the second phase of a rapid assessment of surface water and sites surrounding Mtendeli Camp, which have potential capacity to provide for additional sources of water in Mtendeli Camp.
- **Health:** A total of 83,564 refugee patients were treated at the health facilities across the three camps in March 2017. New health posts are needed to cater to the growing Burundian population.
- A new health post was constructed by Medecins Sans Frontieres-Switzerland (MSF-CH) in Nduta Camp, bringing the total number of health posts there to six.
- **Food Security:** While food rations are being reduced for Burundian refugees due to a lack of funding, WFP's three-month long Cash Based Transfer (CBT) pilot initiative in Nyarugusu Camp is still ongoing. Through the pilot initiative, WFP will continue to provide cash assistance to about 10,000 refugees registered for the pilot programme till mid-May 2017. If proven successful and with sufficient funding available, food assistance through CBT can be implemented on a bigger scale.
- **Shelter:** UNHCR partner the African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) has continued the construction of emergency shelters around Nduta Camp for incoming Burundian asylum seekers.
- **Energy:** The final Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distribution for the first phase of the pilot in Nyarugusu Camp was successfully completed, targeting some 1,550 Burundian households. Household level monitoring is currently ongoing.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- The World Food Programme has communicated to UNHCR, the Government of Rwanda and partners that full food assistance (in-kind and cash transfer) is secured only until the end of April. **A possible drastic cut in food rations is foreseen** in the month of May (51%) and onwards, if no further contributions are received from donors. UNHCR is working on a contingency plan in case WFP does not manage to secure additional funding.
- Despite the fact that Government of Tanzania has revoked prima facie recognition of Burundians, this has so far not resulted in an increase of Burundians fleeing to Rwanda. Some 595 new arrivals were received in March, which is a 25% decrease from the 791 new arrivals received in February 2017. Many Burundians are **opting to settle in urban areas** instead of going to the camps (49% of the new arrivals in March have settled in Kigali). These are mostly the individuals coming from Bujumbura.
- UNHCR held its annual Country Operations Plans (COPs) workshop with external stakeholders and presented its long-term strategy based on the alternatives to camps policy; boosting self-reliance; and inclusion of refugees in the national development agenda, so that refugees may become contributing members of Rwandan society.

Achievements and Impact

- **Shelter:** To date, a total of 4,940 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama Camp, which currently houses 33,422 Burundian refugees. An additional 278 shelters are in the final stages of construction.
- Some 20 communal plastic shelters were demolished to create space for the construction of an additional 280 semi-permanent shelters. Rehabilitation work was carried out to repair 20 communal plastic shelters, 30 Early Childhood Development classrooms, the registration site was repaired and 3km out of the 8.26km of drainage channels were maintained by UNHCR partner the American Refugee Committee (ARC), through community participation.
- **Energy/Environment:** The National Leadership Retreat held in late February, in which top leaders from central and local government including members of the private sector and civil society convened, has come up with recommendations for hosting refugees in Rwanda. These recommendations include **no more use of firewood and**

plastic sheeting in the camps in order to comply with environmental laws, and, due to land scarcity, public structures (schools, hospitals, etc.) must consider multi-storey complexes.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Latest Developments

- Refugees continued to arrive from Burundi. During the period under review, 520 asylum seekers crossed into DRC in the territories of Uvira and Fizi (South Kivu province) according to headcount in the vicinity of transit centers.
- On 14 March a local bus was ambushed by armed elements on the road connecting Baraka and Mboko, just five minutes before the passage of an UNHCR vehicle travelling from Lusenda camp to Mboko.
- For five months, no therapeutic milk F100 and F75 has been available at the two therapeutic units of Lusenda Camp for severe malnutrition treatment, as it should be provided by National Nutrition Program (PRONANUT). As a temporary measure, patients with severe malnutrition are transferred to Baraka Hospital supported by MSF Holland.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** Overcrowding in Lusenda and transit centers is a serious impediment for UNHCR to provide assistance to the Burundians in the DRC. During the reporting period, 338 Burundian refugees were registered with biometrics. Subsequently, registration had to be suspended because transit structures where refugees are registered and assisted before transfer to the camp were overcrowded, and no more new arrivals could be admitted.
- During the period under review, 8 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were identified and referred to the relevant structures for medical and psycho-social care. Two of these cases concern rape of minors, which occurred outside hosting structures.
- Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted for 21 separated children living in Lusenda Camp, among whom 11 were young refugee girls.
- UNHCR Mboko organized a revision session of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with partners intervening in the protection and response against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The aim was to update the document, clarify the roles of focal points and better harmonize interventions.
- International Women's Day was celebrated on 8 March in Lusenda Camp with theatre performances and debates around the theme "*Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50:50 by 2030.*" Refugee women, women from host community, UNHCR and partner staff took part in the celebrations.
- **Health:** Some 5,664 medical consultations were carried out by UNHCR's medical partner *Agence de Développement Economique et Social (ADES)* at Lusenda Health Post. The most frequent diseases were malaria (40%), respiratory infections (23%), intestinal parasites (8%) and diarrhea (4%).
- **Education:** The NGO *Pax Christi* continued the distribution of shoes and schoolbags to students of the five schools surrounding Lusenda Camp.
- **Food Security:** Some 26,988 Burundian refugees living in Lusenda Camp received a voucher equivalent to USD 15 per person to purchase food, provided by the World Food Programme.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- Interviews conducted with Burundian new arrivals from the provinces of Muyinga, Karusi, Kirundo, Ngozi, Kayanza and Ruyigi, showed that in Burundi they experienced continued persecution for being affiliated to opposition parties by the *Imbonerakure*, causing them to flee. Also, illegal taxation is mentioned as a reason for flight.
- Between 1 January and 31 March 2017 a total of 1,446 Burundians entered Uganda, showing a continuous flow of arrivals into Uganda.

CRITICAL NEEDS & GAPS

REGIONAL

Funding levels for the Burundi Situation are very low, currently at 1% of the overall regional needs. New funding is urgently needed for UNHCR to provide assistance and protection to the needs of the Burundi refugee situation.

BURUNDI

PROTECTION: Border monitoring will continue to be required to monitor cross-border movements between Burundi and neighboring countries and to provide assistance to the IDP population and voluntary returnees. Funding is needed for UNHCR and partners to continue this assistance.

TANZANIA

PROTECTION: Due to funding restraints there is a lack of staff to monitor and report on the protection environment at the border entry points in Ngara and Kibondo border areas. Staff is needed to ensure that Burundian asylum seekers are allowed access to Tanzania.

EDUCATION: Education infrastructure remains the greatest barrier for access to education across all camps. With the current double shift strategy of using school structures for two shifts (morning/afternoon), there is still a need for another 634 classrooms across the three camps in addition to the ongoing construction work of 119 classrooms.

HEALTH: Malaria is a significant issue in the Tanzania operation. In addition, more health facilities need to be constructed to allow proper service delivery to the refugee and asylum seeker population.

FOOD SECURITY: Due to the pipeline break in the supply of food through WFP, refugees are at risk of increased food insecurity, in a region where access to food is already limited.

RWANDA

SHELTER: 19,872 refugees continue to live in 126 communal plastic shelters in Mahama Camp. Despite continued advocacy by UNHCR, the 30 hectares of land requested has still not been provided to complete the construction of all semi-permanent shelters.

PROTECTION: There is a delay in the timely resolution and handling of Child Protection and SGBV cases by legal authorities, due to the limited number of Government staff and availability of transport facilities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SHELTER & PROTECTION: The newly identified site Baraka needs to be developed as soon as possible, in order to decongest Lusenda Camp, as well as the transit sites. As such developments are costly, funding is needed.

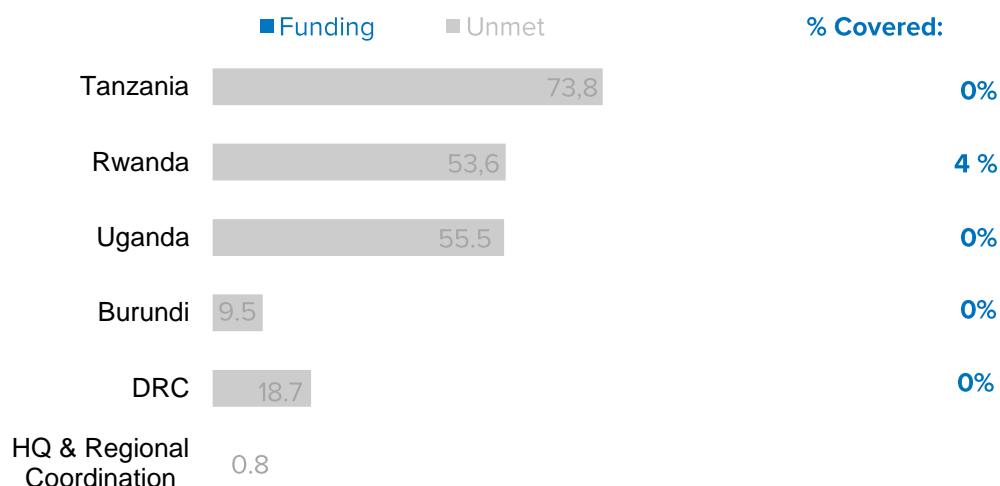
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Burundi Situation in 2017 currently amounts to USD **214.5 million**. UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have already contributed to the Burundi Situation. **The organization's overall needs for this situation are currently funded at 1%.**

A total of **USD 2,7 million** has been funded:

Donors:

African Union
Global Fund
Sweden



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (12 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Zambia | Private Donors

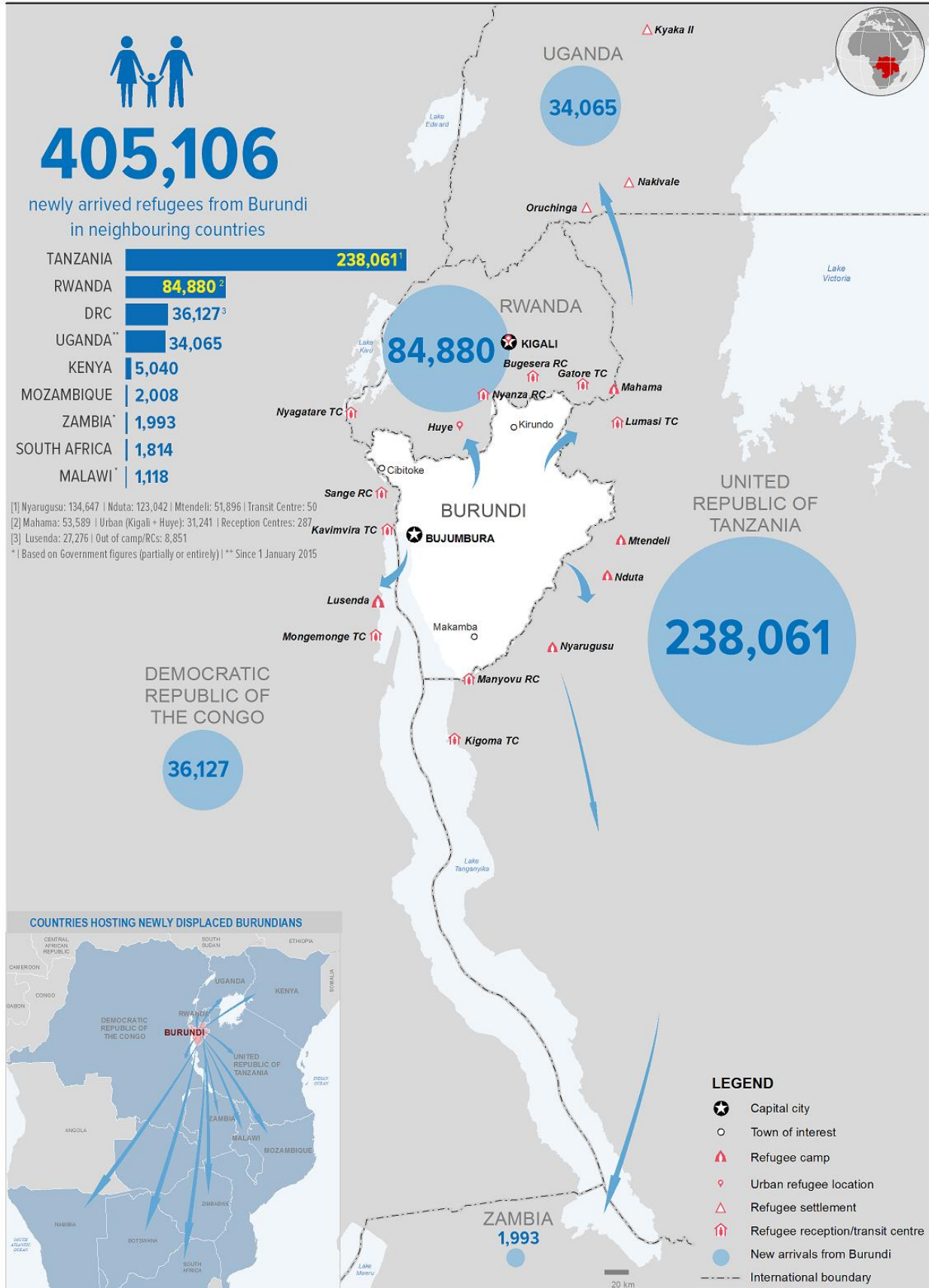
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Burundi Situation

Displacement of Burundians into neighbouring countries since April 2015

as of 31 March 2017



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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