

# Burundian Refugee Situation in South Kivu Democratic Republic of the Congo

October 2017

## Highlights

- During the month of October, **732 Burundians were biometrically registered** in the different transit centres and gathering points (including new arrivals, newborn babies and family reunifications), and 1,222 Burundian Refugees were transferred to Lusenda camp from the transit centres in South Kivu.
- Despite clashes between armed groups and the Congolese army in the territories of Fizi and Uvira, and during the occupation of Mboko area by armed groups, **the civilian and humanitarian character of the Lusenda Refugee Camp was respected**. Medical services and water supplies were ensured by UNHCR partners during the two weeks when UNHCR staff movements were restricted.
- The **relocation of Burundian refugees and asylum seekers currently at Kamanyola** could not yet be undertaken, due to the fact that no appropriate location has been identified for this particular group. UNHCR requested the authorities to identify a location. UNHCR prepared to assist the group in case they must remain in Kamanyola over the next few months.

### KEY INDICATORS

**41,206**

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in D R Congo (13,854 households) as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

**1,222**

Burundian Refugees were transferred to Lusenda camp during the month of October.

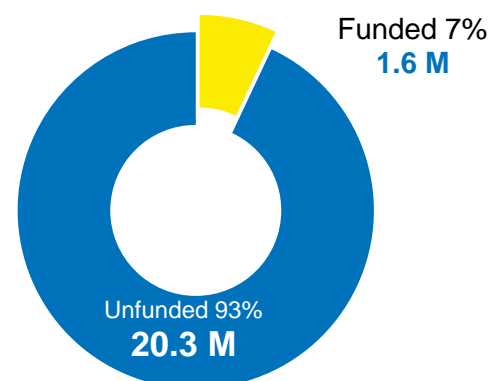
**31,654**

Burundian refugees residing at Lusenda Refugee Camp (9,484 households) as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

### FUNDING (AS OF 24 OCTOBER 2017)

**USD 21.9 M**

requested for the DRC - Burundi situation



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

- The territories of Fizi and Uvira were marked by persisting insecurity, due to clashes between the Army (FARDC) and armed groups operating in the region, notably the *National People's Coalition for the Sovereignty of the Congo (CNPSC)*, led by the *Mai Mai Yakotumba*. Due to these incidents, the UN security system suspended movements along the main roads, south of Uvira, which affected UNHCR's operations in Lusenda refugee camp, but also at the new Mulongwe site over a period of two weeks.
- Since 1<sup>st</sup> of October, Mboko town (where UNHCR office is located) was back under the control of Government forces.
- While armed groups did not enter Lusenda refugee camp, the presence of armed groups remain an important source of concern for the refugees as some armed elements were said to have been spotted in Katungulu III village of Lusenda camp on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- Overall, the precarious security situation in the area restrain the movements of UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, especially south of Baraka where the road is still classified as red, and therefore a military escort is needed for all UNHCR movements.
- In the town of Kamanyola, tensions remained high between the group of Burundian refugees and asylum seekers and the local population, who, seeing the building of infrastructure on the site demanded the rapid relocation of the group.



*The registration hagar fully rehabilitated after the storm in Kamanyola. © UNHCR 2017 / R. Pongombo*

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- During the month of October, 732 Burundians were biometrically registered in the different transit centres and gathering points (including new arrivals, newborn babies and family reunifications). During the same period, 1,084 Burundian refugees (265 households) were relocated to Lusenda camp in order to relieve the reception structures.
- All the 376 asylum seekers (160 households) who were camping outside of the Kavimvira transit centre and the Sange gathering point were admitted inside the structures for protection against the increasing security risks in Uvira area. These individuals were registered in the ProGres (UNHCR) and SCOPE (WFP) systems during the month of October.
- Four unaccompanied children and 14 separated children were identified and registered in Kavimvira transit centre and were waiting for transfer to foster families. Social workers from partner Save the Children (SCI) are closely following their cases.
- One case of early marriage was identified in Lusenda and referred to the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and the police in order to arrest the presumed perpetrator and his accomplices.
- The UNHCR protection team and the CNR were following up on the cases of four Burundians being detained in Uvira central prison after the Kamanyola incident, in order to ensure their legal rights are being respected. Meetings were held with their lawyer and there is hope they will be granted an audience shortly.
- The UNHCR Bukavu office was following up on the cases of 22 Burundians being detained in Nyaminyuni (near Kavumu) who were being accused of being part of armed groups, in order to request access to the detainees to determine their status.



### EDUCATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR and partners SCI and CNR held a meeting to discuss financial support for refugee children attending primary and secondary schools around Lusenda camp. The new strategy will consist of giving coupons to parents of refugee children which will represent a certain amount to pay the school fees. The schools will then be able to reclaim the fees through the coupons to SCI directly.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- During the month of October, partner ADES held 3,692 medical consultations at the Lusenda health post, receiving 1,630 men and 2,062 women. The most frequent diseases were malaria (41% of cases), respiratory infections (23%) and intestinal parasites (15%). In the transit centres and gathering points, 2,311 medical consultations were carried out with malaria, intestinal parasites and respiratory infections being the most common diseases.
- Prevention measures against malaria and epidemic diseases such as cholera were reinforced in Lusenda camp and transit centers to ensure better health and sanitation. Mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant women and to children who finished their vaccination calendar. Community relays (RECO) continue to search for suspected cholera cases for early referral.
- ADES and UNHCR successfully advocated to provincial healthcare authorities to allow refugees living with HIV/AIDS to receive ARV treatments directly in Lusenda Health Center instead of the General Hospital. ADES has also planned to have film projections on HIV/AIDS to encourage refugees to go and get tested voluntarily and for free.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- In Kamanyola, the majority of the group of Burundian refugees and asylum seekers continue to refuse external intervention on health and nutrition issues. A 9 months old baby died after his parents refused to refer him to appropriate medical structures when partner ADES identified the child as being at high risk. Following this incident, partner ADES conducted a screening of 203 children between 6 and 59 months and determined that over 14% are severely malnourished. The screening was conducted on a voluntary basis and approximately 65% of children of that age range were brought to the health post to be checked. All the parents who brought their children for the screening signed a document attesting their personal choices to refuse treatment, vaccination or referrals to health care structures for their children.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- Between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October WFP organized the Cash Based Transfers (CBT) at Lusenda camp through the SCOPE card system. The process was delayed for 4 days due to technical difficulties. Beneficiaries were able to buy the food of their choice through the SCOPE card system in 17 different shops installed inside the camp.
- In light of reducing the number of problematic cases during the cash transfers organized for the monthly food fairs in Lusenda, WFP organized the collection of data of refugees awaiting relocation to Lusenda in the transit centres (2,005 individuals) in order for each refugee to receive their SCOPE card upon arrival at Lusenda and avoid delays in food distribution. This approach avoids that newly arrived refugees in Lusenda have to wait for their SCOPE cards. Thereby, they receive equal treatment with other camp residents.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 95 individuals (35 households) were not present at the cash distribution this month. Prevailing insecurity in the last weeks might have pushed some refugees to leave the area.
- Some 400 people still have encountered problems with their SCOPE cards and will receive food rations for a month. The UNHCR has submitted the cases to the WFP to solve the issues.
- In Kamanyola, the UNHCR continued to support partner AIRD for the local purchase of food for distribution in the respect of the particular group's religious beliefs. However, food remains an important problem and the current purchase and distribution system is costly and it is not easy to find the products that the refugees accept to eat.



### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- In Lusenda, partner ADES has finalized the technical evaluations to connect villages 23 and 50 to the water distribution network.
- At the reception area of Lusenda, 18 latrines were rehabilitated by partner ADES, in order to improve the hosting conditions of the newly transferred refugees coming to Lusenda camp from the transit centres.
- At Mulongwe site, partner AFPDE finalized 6 blocks of latrines (2 blocs of latrines per zone). They have also started to dig for the water network to connect the site to the water source set up by Tearfund. These advances would allow for the relocation of the first refugees during the month of November if the security situation allows for it.
- In Kamanyola, with the help of the MONUSCO and partner ADES, the water supply system is functional and approximately 37 000 L of water are brought to the site each day (15 l/p/d on average). Since 20<sup>th</sup> October, ICRC started works to reinforce the WASH sector on site. 30 latrines and 34 showers have been built and are now operational on site. ICRC is also installing a water treatment station to supply drinking water to the site. To improve peaceful coexistence between the refugees and the local population, ICRC has also installed a ramp for drinking water that will benefit the local population.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The latrines in the transit centre of Monge Monge were almost full. UNHCR initiated the purchase of materials to bring a solution to the situation which partner ADES will be putting in place beginning of November, in order to avoid risks of epidemics.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

### Achievements and Impact

- In Lusenda, three dormitories in the reception centre of Katungulu III and two dormitories in the Lusenda reception centre have been rehabilitated. A survey was started to identify damaged shelters in the camp.
- In Mulongwe, five blocks were cleared for construction and partner CARITAS finalised six dormitories out of 20 planned. Three kitchen hangars and canteens were built.
- At Kavimvira transit centre, two emergency dormitories were built and the communal space hangar was transformed into a dormitory.
- At the Kamanyola site, a kitchen hangar was built following the request of the refugees to allow the group to cook and eat sheltered from the weather. The medical post has been finalized and is being used by partner ADES for consultations. The registration hangar which was destroyed during a violent storm at the beginning of October was rebuilt.
- 4,530 wooden sticks were delivered to Kamanyola site at the request of the refugees to improve the individual shelters on site. A pilot shelter was built with the refugee community which will serve as a model. An evaluation was done to determine the needs of each household in order to provide case by case support.
- In Kamanyola, relief items were distributed to Burundian refugees and asylum seekers (1,010 kitchen sets, 425 mats, 414 blankets, 1,675 mosquito nets, 1,350 jerry cans of 10L and 1,008 buckets of 15L).

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A violent storm on 14<sup>th</sup> October damaged over 400 individual shelters in Lusenda camp, and the roof of the RHA restaurant was blown away. An evaluation was conducted which determined that 441 shelters were affected, of which 390 have damages to the roofs, and 51 needed support for full reconstruction.



## ACCESS TO ENERGY

### Achievements and Impact

- The commission in charge of following the issue of firewood and reforestation lead an reassessment of the different suppliers of firewood for Lusenda camp and named those who did not comply to reforestation principles in order to recommend halting transactions with them. The commission also discussed with the Environment Services of the territory of Fizi about working with local communities in order to plant the seedlings before the end of the year.
- UNHCR met with refugees and locals involved in a pilot project to produce briquettes in Lusenda camp, in order to evaluate how to boost production. Producers expressed their concern about difficulties to bring the material to Lusenda, the lack of resources

to invest and the low selling price (0.25\$ per kilo), as well as the presence of illegal taxation hampering trade.



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

### Achievements and Impact

- Following the clashes in Uvira and Fizi territories, UNHCR and its partners held a meeting with the village chiefs and Steering Committee of Lusenda camp in order to discuss the need to improve self-management of basic services at the camp, such as water supply, health structures and food supplies, during the absence of aid workers. It was also highlighted that refugees should always have their identity documents on them when leaving the camp. Recommendations were issued in order to improve the active participation of refugees in the camp management.

### Working in partnership

- For this operation, partners financed by the UNHCR are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, INTERSOS and SAVE THE CHILDREN. Other partners working with their own funds include ADED, AFPDE, BVES, EBEN EZER, CARITAS, GEADES. FAO, ICRC, OCHA, PAX CHRISTI, RHA, UNFPA, WAR CHILD HOLLAND, WFP, WHO, SVH and WORLD VISION.



*NFI distribution at Kamanyola site, October 2017 © UNHCR / R. Pongombo*

## External / Donors Relations

### Donors for Burundian refugee response in DRC in 2017

Belgium (1.1 M) | United States of America (0.5 M)

### Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (38.4 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 M) | France (0.5 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.08 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

### Donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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## LINKS

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