

Uganda

27 December 2017

229,957

Congolese refugees
as of 30 November 2017

43,000

Congolese new arrivals
from January to November 2017

6,314

Congolese new arrivals since
1 December 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 23rd and 26th December, 1,860 new refugee arrivals from the Democratic of the Congo (DRC) crossed to Uganda via Lake Albert (1,705) and Kisoro (155), bringing the total number of new arrivals since 18th December to 4,584. The vast majority (4,009) entered Uganda crossing Lake Albert aboard fishing boats, with smaller numbers (575) coming in through more commonly used border points in Kisoro, Kanungu and Bundibugyo districts.
- The refugees crossing Lake Albert continued to arrive to Sebagoro and Nsonga, in Uganda's Hoima district. The new arrivals are reportedly fleeing intercommunal violence at Djugu territory in DRC's Ituri region, including in the villages of Retso, Joo, Kobu, Kiripa and Torogesi. Tens of new arrivals who crossed via Lake Albert are from North Kivu. They reported that the route to Uganda's southwestern borders, especially Kisoro, is unsafe. Women and children make up 80 per cent of new arrivals. According to the newly arrived refugees, families are being separated due to the journey's high cost, "exit" fees reportedly imposed by armed groups on the Congolese side of Lake Albert and forced recruitment of young men.
- Some 3,756 refugees have been transferred from Lake Albert landing sites to Kagoma reception centre in Kyangwali settlement. Some 1,512 have been already allocated a plot of land in Marembo C and provided with shelter materials and non-food items (NFIs) to help them settle.
- At Kagoma, adequate supply of safe drinking water is currently a challenge, but partners are working around the clock to increase the daily supply from 10 liters per person per day (l/p/d) through to a minimum of 15 l/p/d, in line with emergency standards. A 5,000 liter water tanks has been installed and another one with a 10,000 liter capacity is in the pipeline.
- Partners have identified and assisted 60 unaccompanied minors and separated children (UASCs) and six survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- More than 155 refugees accessed health and nutrition consultations, with malaria representing the highest cause of morbidity among the new arrivals (over 50 per cent). No cases of severe acute malnutrition have been identified to date. A 70-year-old woman died upon arrival at the reception centre due to complications of diabetes.
- As of Wednesday, 27th December, the Nyakabande Transit Centre in Kisoro district hosted 1,436 Congolese refugees. A convoy of approximately 1,000 refugees, already biometrically registered, is scheduled to depart for Kyaka II settlement on 28th December, following the first convoy of 734 Congolese on 21 December.
- UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) are coordinating the emergency response at Kampala level and in the field. Inter-agency coordination meetings are taking place daily in Kyangwali settlement and weekly in Hoima.
- In order to boost the capacity on the ground, UNHCR has deployed seven staff to the Kyangwali area from across the Uganda Operation.



© UNHCR. Boat arrivals from DRC at Sebagoro, Uganda.



© UNHCR. Congolese new arrivals at Sebagoro waiting area, Uganda.



© UNHCR. Congolese new arrivals receive water and high-energy biscuits at Sebagoro, Uganda.



© UNHCR. Congolese new arrivals board a bus for relocation to Kyangwali settlement, Uganda.

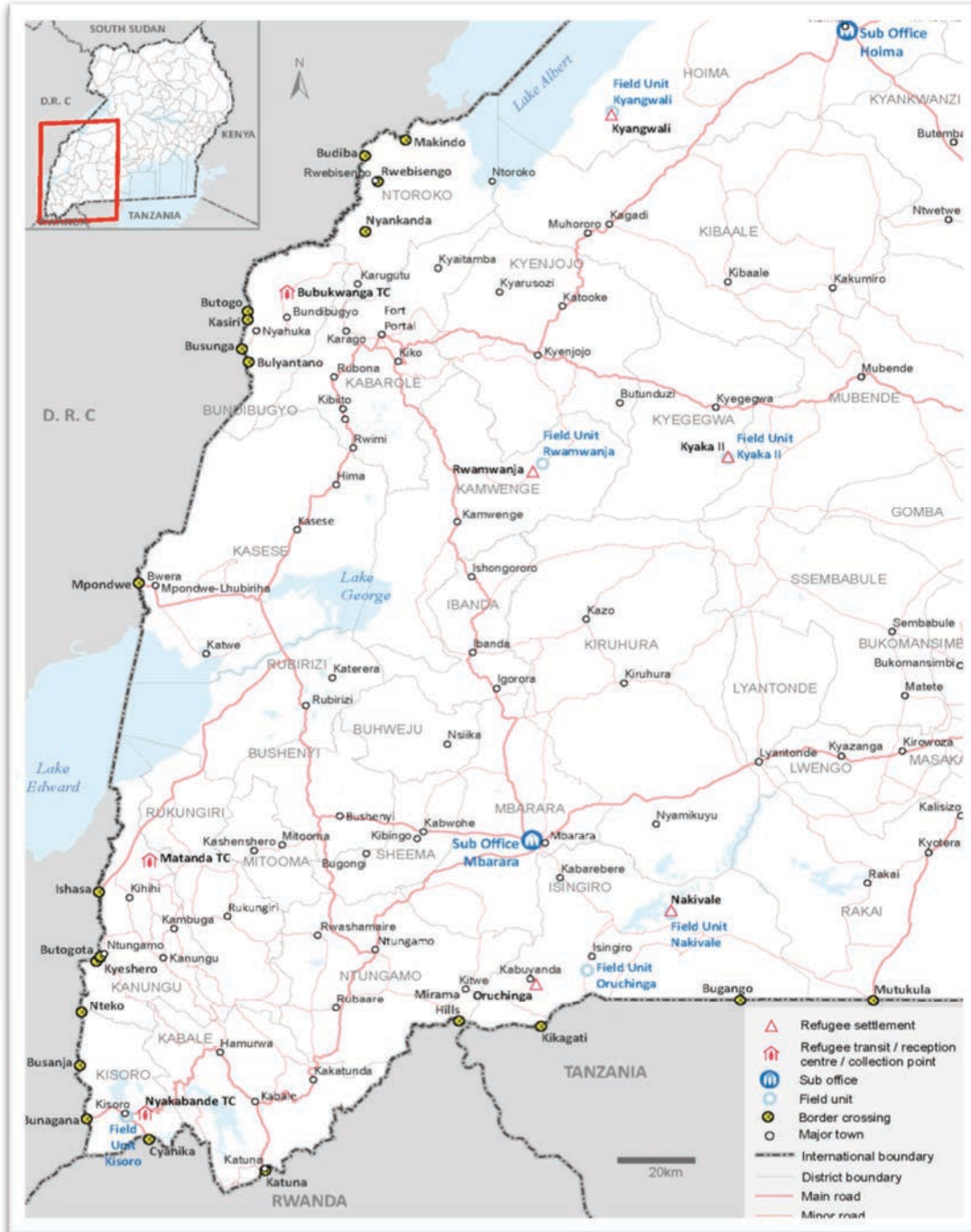


© UNHCR. Congolese new arrivals line up for food distribution at Kagoma reception centre, Uganda.



© UNHCR. A Congolese new arrival builds a shelter for his family in Marembo C, in Uganda's Kyangwali settlement.

Map of southwestern Uganda



CONTACTS

Country level

Jens Hesemann, Senior Field Coordinator in Kampala
 hesemann@unhcr.org, Cell +256 772 201 011

Rocco Nuri, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer in Kampala
 nuri@unhcr.org, Cell +256 779 663 793

Field level

Hassan Dabar, Emergency Operations Coordinator in Mbarara
 dabar@unhcr.org, Cell +256 771 895 655