

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

2018 Mid Year Report

BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP

January - June 2018



46,500

BURUNDIAN REFUGEES
HOSTED IN THE DRC (30
JUNE 2018)

US\$ 34 M

REQUIRED IN DRC IN 2018

3%*

FUNDING RECEIVED (17
JULY 2018)

5

RRP PARTNERS IN DRC IN
2018

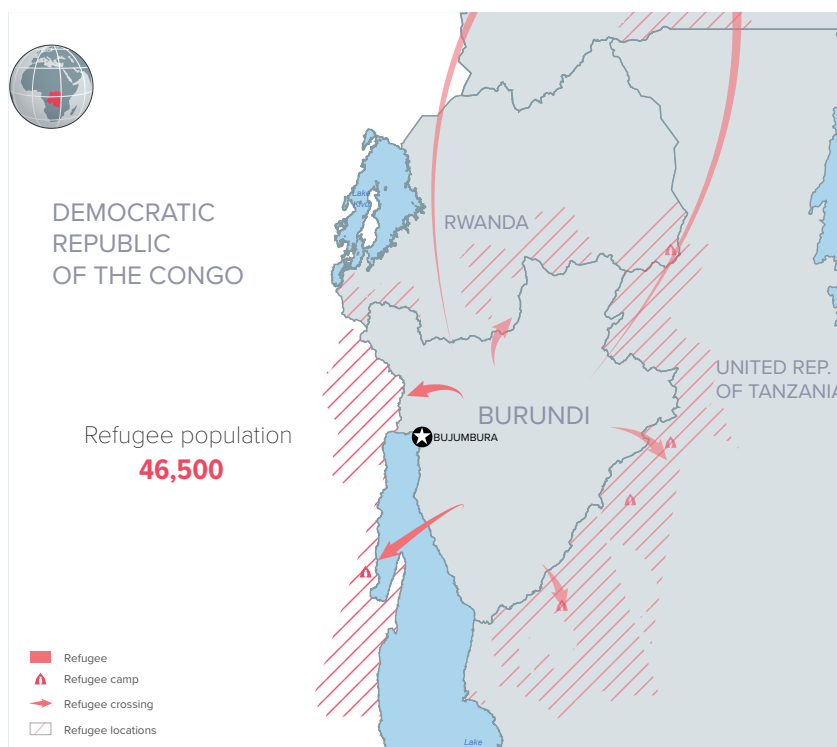
SITUATION OVERVIEW

As the Burundi refugee crisis enters its fourth year, 46,500 Burundian refugees have taken refuge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with more than 90 percent in South Kivu province (42,776 refugees) at the end of June 2018. Although the spectre of mass violence in Burundi has receded, with the political situation still unresolved and the persistence of significant human rights concerns, refugee arrivals continue with 2,720 new arrivals in 2018 so far, which is lower than in previous years. For the same period in 2016 there was 6,166 arrivals.

The overall security situation in the province of South Kivu deteriorated sharply in 2017, with the increased activism of multiple local and international armed groups and on-going fighting between armed groups and the Congolese army forces (FARDC). The armed conflicts, the instability and the insecurity have serious protection consequences for the population, particularly for the 9,700 Burundian refugees estimated living outside of camps. These out of camp refugees are highly vulnerable, especially those that are not registered. They face a number of protection risks including harassment, arbitrary detention by authorities, accusations of being linked to the armed groups operating in the area as well as other human rights violations. They lack assistance and often rely on the support of local host families. However, there were marked improvements in the security situation within the area of operation in the first six months of 2018.

The Lusenda refugee camp is overcrowded, hosting 28,202 refugees as of June 2018 in comparison with its original capacity of 20,000. This continues to put pressure on the provision of basic and essential services for refugees in the camp (including hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, infrastructure and shelter, etc.). Furthermore, since refugees in the area have largely outnumbered the local population, pressure on local structures such as health care and education facilities has also increased. This has contributed to tensions between refugees and the host community population.

The new refugee site in the locality of Mulongwe, which opened in November 2017, has enabled the relocation of 5,021 Burundian refugees (as of June 2018) from the overcrowded transit centres and Lusenda. 1,648 are still waiting at the transit centers/assembly points (Kamimvira, MongeMnge and Sange) to be transferred to the site but budgetary restrictions are paralysing any new transfer.




* Reported funds only include contributions earmarked to the Burundi refugee situation. Unearmarked and broadly earmarked funding is not reflected.

Protection

100%
of identified SGBV survivors were assisted in 2018



185
children with specific needs benefitted from individual case management in the first half of 2018



Lack of funds for verification and registration of 8,000 Burundian refugees living out of camps




38 cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) were reported in the Mulongwe and Lusenda sites, including 19 cases of rape (two cases of rape of minors), 7 cases of sexual assault, 6 cases of physical assault, 4 cases of psychological violence, 2 cases of other abuse. 100% of survivors were referred for medical treatment and received psycho-social support. 100% of children identified with specific needs are receiving individual case management. All 158 children were identified as unaccompanied and separated minors between January and June are receiving appropriate interim or long term alternative care, but the ratio of caseworkers to children is 1:5,640 in Lusenda and 1:1,506 in Mulongwe.

From January to June 2018, 34 refugees were imprisoned for diverse infractions. RRP partners and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) continued to monitor regularly the detention centers to ensure that there is no arbitrary detention and to verify the detention conditions. These detainees receive judicial support from CNR. Refugees are sometimes linked to Burundian combatants and face security problems with security agents if they do not have adequate refugee documentation.

Due to funding shortages, RRP partners will not be able to cover the costs of birth certificates for 500 children which were submitted beyond the deadline for free issuance.

Education

600
students from refugee and host community received school materials



4,108
uniforms provided for school children

Lack of funds to cover fees for 7,000 primary school children due to begin in September



In the Mulongwe site, 600 students (538 refugees and 62 students from the host community) received school materials, including notebooks, pens and pencils from the Education Cluster contingency stock. RRP partners distributed 1,204 school kits to primary school children in Kasese School, near Mulongwe site and provided 4,108 school uniforms for primary school children near Lusenda camp and Mulongwe site, benefitting 3,674 refugees and 434 Congolese children.

RRP partners also distributed cash vouchers to refugees in Mulongwe site in March to cover the school fees of children for the second term. The cash-based approach had a strong impact, as 74% of households who received the voucher paid the school fees for their children. Sensitisation activities are ongoing to encourage parents to pay the fees with the money received through these vouchers. Cash vouchers will continue to be implemented in the next school year (2018-2019). In Lusenda camp, the distribution of cash vouchers to cover school fees took place in April. However, there is a lack of funds to cover the school fees of 7,000 primary school children and as such, many will not be able to attend school in the upcoming year starting in September.



Food



There was no food distribution due to lack of funds. Monthly food vouchers were reduced from 15\$ to 12\$ since March and this has continued through June in all sites. Refugees organised peaceful demonstrations against these reductions.

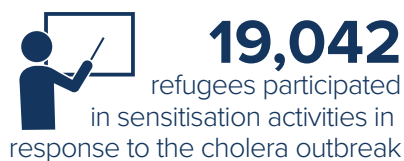
In May in Mulongwe site, refugees started using electronic cards through a cash based transfer system (CBT) to buy food supplies of their choice in shops. This gives Burundian refugees the possibility to choose the food supplies and items by themselves, which has a positive impact on their independence.

During the reporting period between January and June 2018, 30,640 persons received food through CBT by WFP.

4,960 persons received hot meals during their stay in transit centers.



Health & Nutrition



2 infirmaries and one healthpost are operational in Lusenda camp. One screening post was operational in Mulongwe site from January to February 2018. After, the new health post was opened in Katalukulu to serve both refugees and the host community.

The rehabilitation works of the Katalukulu Health Center near Mulongwe site were completed and the center was integrated in the national public health system (managed by the Fizi national health zone). The Center was inaugurated on 1st of March. Refugees received free healthcare and locals benefited from reduced fees. Four shower blocks were also completed for the center to ensure better hygiene for patients.

RRP partners started to provide HIV patients in Lusenda camp with antiretroviral (ARV) treatment at Lusenda Health Post. Therefore, patients no longer have to go to Nundu General Hospital for treatment. An awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS was organised in Lusenda and Mulongwe sites offering free voluntary screening. 261 people living with HIV under ARV treatment in Lusenda and 15 in Mulongwe were assisted during the reporting period.

Sensitisation activities for Burundian refugees on good hygiene practices and cholera prevention continued. In Lusenda camp and Mulongwe site, a total of 16,544 refugees were sensitised on issues of clean water and health and environmental hygiene.

1,703 patients were referred to national health structures where they received adequate treatment. 656 mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant women. 58,745 male condoms and 39 female condoms were distributed at Lusenda camp and 1,506 male condoms were distributed in Mulongwe site. 1,168 malnourished children aged 6 to 59 months were admitted to the nutrition programme at the health center, including 709 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 459 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). 706 pregnant women with MAM and 981 lactating mothers with MAM were also admitted.

Livelihoods & Environment

695 refugees have access to self employment or facilitated businesses in 2018

1,281 refugees received SIM cards to allow them to receive multi-purpose cash

12,000 families need support with accessing **biomass briquettes and fuel efficient stoves**

32 associations comprising of refugees and members of the host community were established for identifying alternative energy sources for cooking. The associations have started the manufacture of briquettes (3 tons in Mulongwe and 115 tons in Lusenda). 86 sensitisation campaigns took place in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe site on different environmental themes, including reduction of the use of fire wood as a source of energy for cooking, fuel efficient stoves and protecting the environment. 18 biomass briquettes and stock of 160 steres of firewood were distributed in the transit centers (CT and PR).

695 kits of agricultural materials and fishing equipment were distributed to refugees to start their agricultural / fisheries production. 450 beneficiaries grouped in "Field Farming Schools" and 245 fishing committees were trained on improved farming and fishing techniques. 80 people were trained in entrepreneurship / business.

The selection of beneficiaries for the livelihood support projects was completed, with the selection of 400 young entrepreneurs and 1,050 people who work in 32 Small Business Associations (315 host community people and 730 refugees). 350 additional youths (15-24 years old) including 70 members of the host community and 280 refugees were identified and grouped according to their preference in different professions for livelihood support activities with activities starting in June.

The Cash Based intervention (CBI) approach was launched in Mulongwe site, through mobile money transfer by provider VODACASH. In total 1,281 households received sim cards for multi purpose assistance (household shelter, toilets / showers and education).

Shelter & NFIs

459 Burundian refugee households received semi-permanent shelter in 2018

500 households in Mulongwe and **200** in Lusenda need to have shelter constructed and repaired


In Lusenda camp, 600 shelter kits were distributed in January to families whose houses were destroyed during the storm of October 2017. In total 600 houses were destroyed and have been assisted. In Mulongwe site, 51 common dorms were set up to host 3,321 new arrivals from the transit centers (Kavimvira, Sange and MongeMonge). 501 shelter kits were distributed in the first half of 2018 in Mulongwe to families in order to speed up the process of getting them out of the common dorms and access individual shelters. Larger households receive two kits in order to accommodate their shelter needs. This explains the difference in number between the kits distributed and the number of households benefitting from access to shelter.

In total 1,145 plots were distributed to refugees to allow them to start building their houses (semi-permanent shelters) in Mulongwe. Their shelter kits were complemented by cash grants to buy additional materials.


The total number of semi-permanent shelters built in Mulongwe as of June 2018 is 727, including shelters built in 2017 (268) and in the first half of 2018 (459).

A distribution of non food items to 584 persons was carried out between January and June, including 356 mattresses, 356 blankets, 356 mosquito nets, 99 jerrycans, 191 kitchen sets and 147 buckets of 15 liters. 1,282 sanitary kits were also distributed to women aged 12 to 49.

WASH

 **15 litres**
of water per person
per day as per the
Sphere standard

50%
of refugee households
have access to adequate
sanitary facilities

 **1,000 families**
need
**decent household
latrines and showers**

In Mulongwe site, 21 common latrines blocs and 21 common showers with 2 doors each were installed to meet the hygiene needs of 800 arrivals between January and April 2018. By the end of June, 204 latrine/shower kits were distributed.

34,871 refugees in Lusenda camp, Mulongwe site and all transit structures received between 15 to 20 liters of water per person per day. The Sphere standard of 15 liters per person per day in emergencies was met in Lusenda and all transit structures in the first half of 2018. In the Mulongwe site, 15 liters of water per person per day was also met.

In March, RRP partners were trained on the use of new well drilling equipment. This machine will significantly improve the access to drinking water in refugee hosting structures; 2 boreholes wells are already functional with one in PR Sange and one in CT Kavimvira. Furthermore, the water network serving the host community and the Mulongwe site are being reinforced with the catchment of 3 more springs.

An awareness raising campaign on environmental hygiene was conducted, reaching 16,544 refugees. 554 Kgs of soap were distributed to 1,974 refugees.

CRRF

While the DRC is not a CRRF country, the operation has adopted a CRRF model in particular in the setting up of the new site of Mulongwe in an effort to harness the potential of host communities and refugees from the start. RRP partners participated in the finalisation of the National Development Plan and successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees into the plan. Considering cultural and linguistic affinities of the refugees and host communities, the DRC operation is using a community based approach to pursue and build development alliances that will facilitate their peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence. In this regard, joint programming opportunities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Transformative Agenda of the Government of DRC were identified and pursued with development actors to ensure that refugees are protected and assisted effectively and are able to achieve solutions without resorting to the establishment of camps, and when there are existing camps that they are phased out or transformed into sustainable settlements.

In line with the CRRF and UNHCR's policy on Alternatives to Camps, DRC seeks to assimilate all services into the national health, education,

RRP PARTNERS

- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Food Programme

water, sanitation, and infrastructures by collaborating with other actors already providing services in these sectors. In South Kivu, this is in particular the case for education and health services. RRP partners are assisting the government with a stipend for teachers not yet on government payroll to allow children to attend schools while discussions are ongoing. The private sector, namely Vodacom is supporting refugees education, and the Local Education Group is a platform that will support the Education strategy to integrate refugees in the national education system. RRP partners were engaged in the discussion during the Education conference in Nairobi which led to the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Education in which member states committed to support education, including for refugees and IDPs. In terms of health, the health centers are being used by both refugees and host population. However, a significant challenge remains as the level of services available to local populations in south Kivu is low and access is hampered as a result of armed conflict.

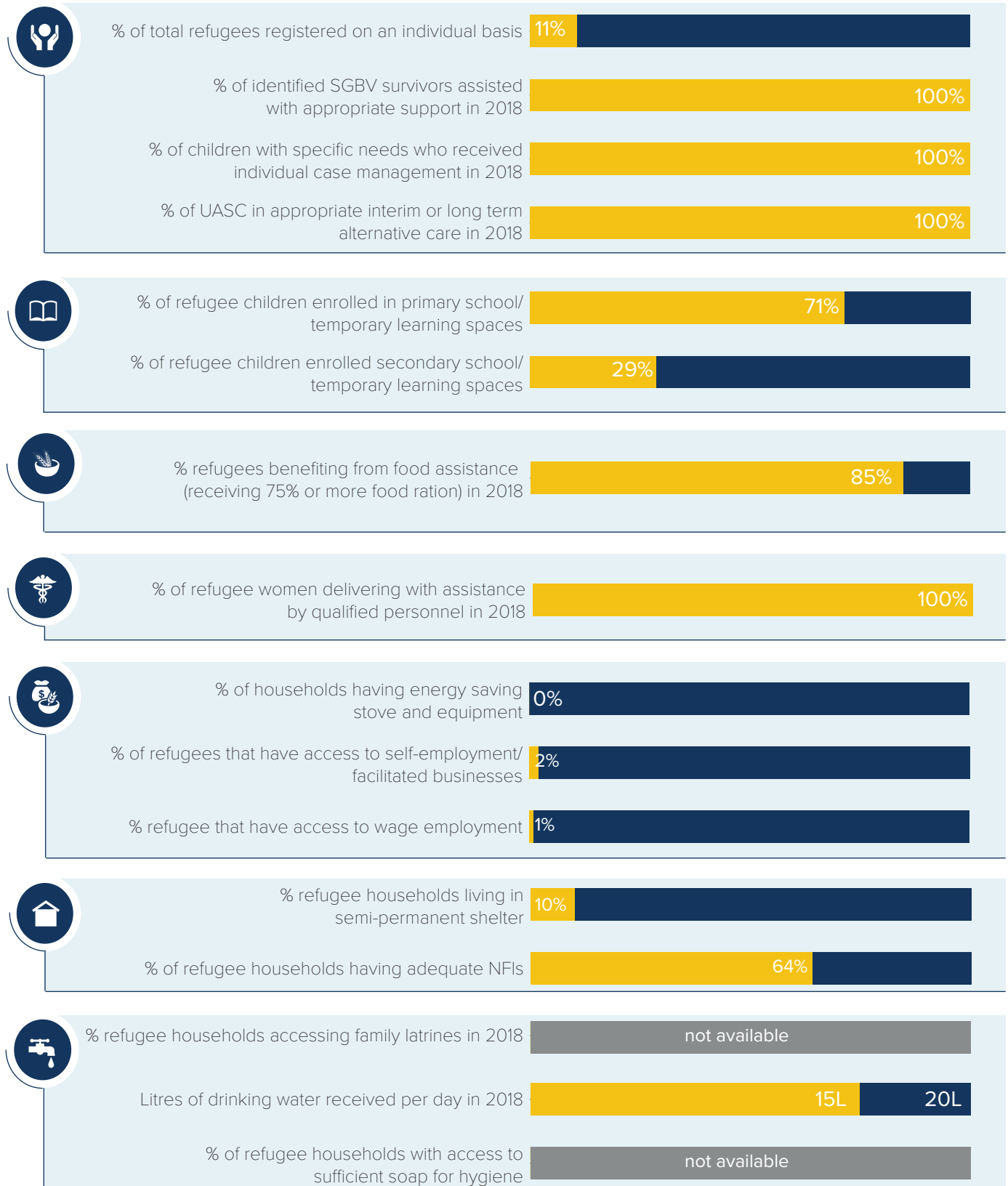
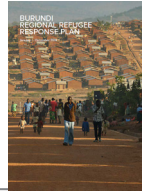
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Burundi Data Portal - <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

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