

UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

10-16 March 2025

In Uganda, there has been a continued increase in the number of new arrivals with 27,207 forcibly displaced people arriving since January this year. This is following an escalation in December 2024 of armed violence in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Angolan government has announced that direct peace negotiations between the Kinshasa delegation and M23 rebels will begin on Tuesday, 18 March 2025, in Luanda. This follows a visit by DRC President Felix Tshisekedi to Luanda on 11 March 2025

The total number of new arrivals across the border is 27,207. From that, 16,745 individuals have been already registered. There was an increase of 19 percent in terms of arrivals from last week into Kisoro.

Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,505
February	10,031	7,538
March (as of 16 March)	9,799	4,702
Total	27,207	16,745

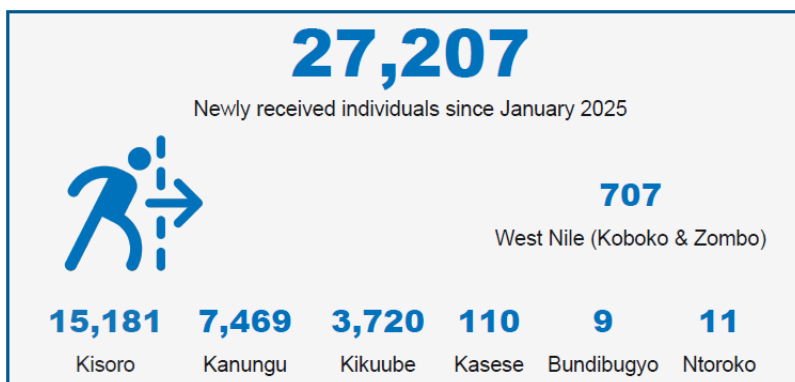
As a comparison, in 2024, Uganda received 5,196 new arrivals for the period of 1 Jan - 16 Mar. This is a 424% increase for the same period in 2025.



New arrivals from eastern DRC at Nyakabande Transit Center, Kisoro District. Photo by © UNHCR/Jimmy Ogwang

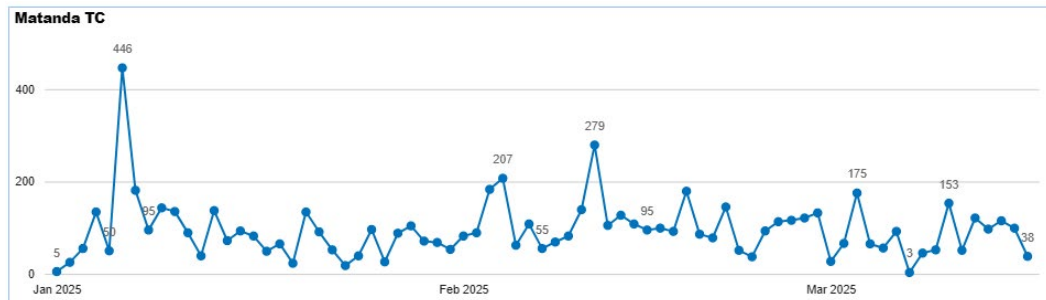
Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC, which are Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 56% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 27% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 14% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.5% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.5% via Kasese, Bundibugyo & Ntoroko.



Most arrivals fled from Rutshuru, Masisi, and three communes of Goma, entering through Bunagana due to armed conflict, looting, rape, killings, hunger, and collapsed social services. Arrivals through Kikuube district mainly came from Joo, Tchomia, and Nyamamba, fleeing ethnic clashes and human rights abuses, including maiming, killing, and forced conscription into the army. Including maiming, killing and forceful conscription into the army, especially for the young men.

In Matanda, 674 new arrivals were received, a 38% increase from the previous week. The daily average was 100 and weekly average 700. At this pace there will be 2,800 of new arrivals this month. There are 2,460 forcibly displaced persons (2,329 at Nyakabande TC and 131 at Matanda TC) who have arrived from Goma since its takeover by M23 rebels on 27 January 2025.



The number of new arrivals into Segagoro, Kikuube district stand at 1,677 in the reporting period having increased by 245 from the previous week and has a daily average arrival of 240 individuals. Bubukwanga transit centre has relatively low numbers, with the highest daily figure being 37 individuals since the year started.

Population at Transit Centre:

The total population at the transit centre impacted by the DRC emergency was 12,049 individuals as of 16 March 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 9 th Mar	Current reporting week ending 16 th Mar	
Nyakabande TC	1,136	5,095	5,665	499% occupancy
Matanda TC	720	2,074	2,748	382% occupancy
Kagoma RC	984	1,361	3,048	310% occupancy
Bubukwanga TC	520	426	173	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	240	0	62	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners

- New arrivals are screened for malnutrition and medical conditions, vaccinated for measles, and registered by the Government of Uganda. Vulnerable individuals are identified for specialized support, and efforts are made to reunify families separated during their journey. Refugees are provided with a space to sleep, hot food, access to bathing facilities, health promotion activities, and safe drinking water to ensure basic hygiene standards and prevent disease spread. Once registered, refugees are transported to the settlement.
- New arrivals are provided with non-food items (NFIs) such as blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, basins, sanitary napkins, women's underwear, and soap. These items are distributed at collection points, transit, or reception centers. Additionally, new arrivals receive emergency shelter kits and other household NFI kits once they are biometrically registered and in the settlement.
- Efforts are underway to expedite processing and vacate non-asylum seekers from reception infrastructure. On 11 March, Nakivale began the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) session to review pending cases. The session targeted 1,044 new asylum seekers and 3,414 individuals who did not show up for verification.

Challenges:

Severe overcrowding continues in reception and transit centers like Matanda (382%) and Nyakabande (499%), heightening the risk of medical outbreaks and straining resources such as WASH, protection, health, shelter, and nutrition. Overcrowding also increases the risk of violence towards women and PSEA.

- **Water Supply:** Nyakabande averages 11 liters per person per day, while Matanda averages 7.7 liters.
- **Facilities Gaps:**
 - **Matanda:** 25 bathing facilities and 100 latrine stands short of standards.
 - **Nyakabande:** 93 bathing facilities and 196 latrine stances short of standards.
- **Health Concerns:** Two deaths of children under 5 reported in Nyakabande. A one-year-old child and a child of seven months died of complications associated with severe malnutrition.

Immediate Resources Required:

The growing intensity of new arrivals from DRC is overwhelming and has outpaced the available resources.

Sector	Description	Requirement in USD
Protection	Increase registration and documentation capacity Enhance protection response capacity at transit/reception centres and settlements	1,200,000
WASH	Enhance capacity of WASH services especially in new areas for settling newcomers	500,000
Health	Increase capacity at health facilities to reduce risk of an outbreak.	1,200,000
Logistics	Increase logistics capacity to ensure dignified and timely relocation of asylum seekers from border points through transit/reception centres to settlements.	400,000
NFIs/Shelter	Increase stock of core relief items and make provision for CBI in lieu of some core relief items.	1,500,000
Total		4,700,000