UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

12 – 18 May 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 64,857 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), making up the majority of the 104,008 individuals who have entered the country this year. Despite a ceasefire declared in late April, fighting continues in several parts of North and South Kivu. The ongoing presence and activities of armed groups pose serious protection risks to civilians. In Goma and surrounding areas, the protection environment has reportedly worsened due to intensified efforts to apprehend armed individuals. However, there has been some improvement in humanitarian access in Ituri Province.

As of January 2025, Uganda has received a total of 64,857 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with 57,627 individuals already registered. Last week saw an 11% decrease in new arrivals through Kisoro, but an overall 15% increase compared to the last reporting period. The decline from Kisoro is attributed to increased control by non-state actors along the border and in areas affected by recent conflict and insecurity.

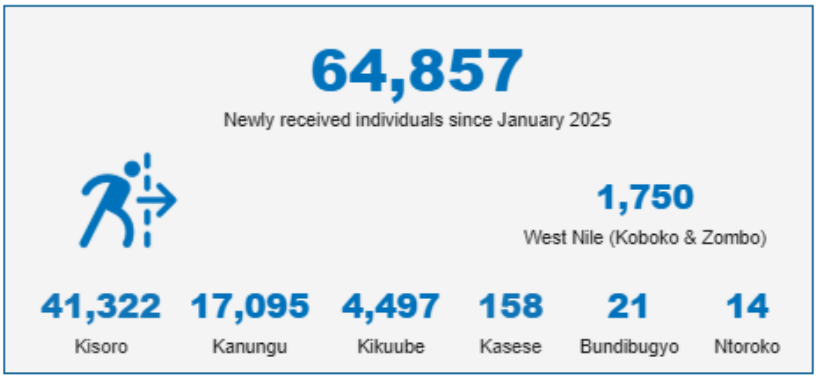
Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,499
February	10,031	7,524
March	20,572	16,871
April	24,411	22,007
May (as of 18 May)	2,466	6,726
Total	**64,857**	**57,627**

Between January 1 and April 27, 2024, Uganda received 9,088 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), representing a 603% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

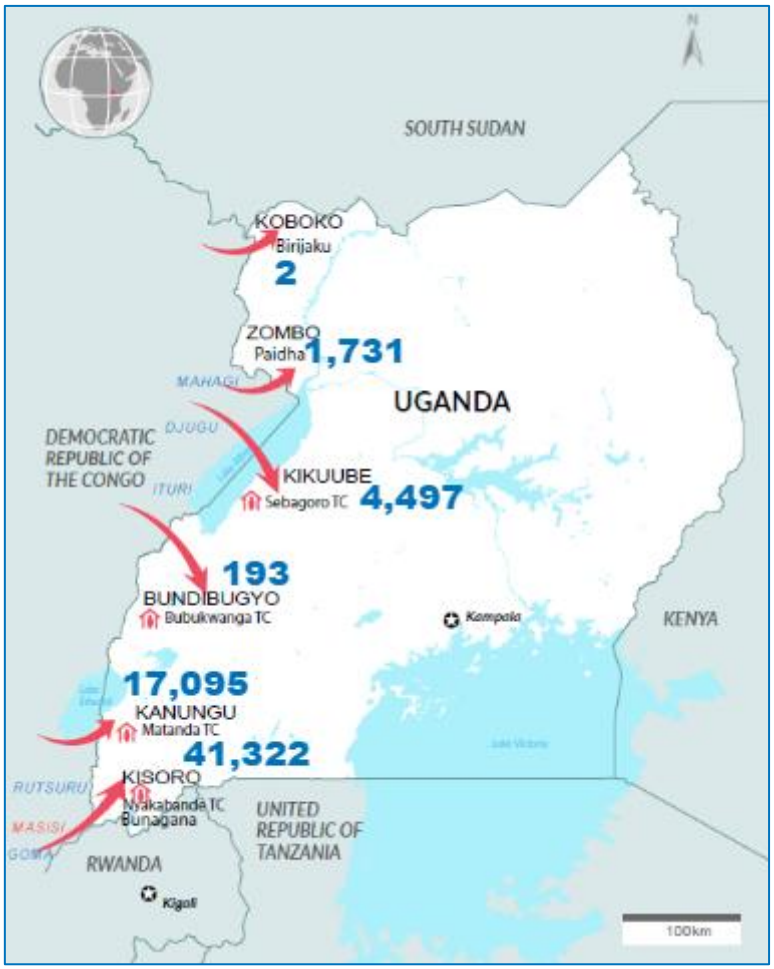
NRC, ALIGHT, and other partners leading integrated awareness sessions with new arrivals at Nyakabande Transit Centre. Photo ©ALIGHT

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 63.7% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 26.4% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 6.9% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.7% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.3% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



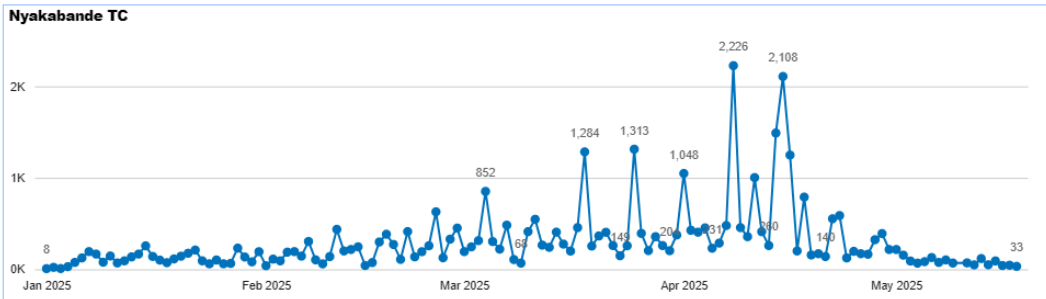
Among the new arrivals from the DRC, nearly 60% are aged 18-59 and an equal split between men and women. About 40% are below 18, including 33% being children below 12 years. Most of the refugees are from North Kivu (Giseguru, Gisahru, Binza, Gisigari, Bweza, Giseguro, Rutchuru, Masisi, and Goma City), South Kivu (Bukavu and Uvira), as well Ituri region (Joo, Nyamamba and Tchomia). Refugees report they are fleeing due to forced recruitment, rape, kidnapping, hunger, armed civilians, militia, and disrupted social services. The majority of those arriving (81%) have no education and only 4% have primary as their highest level of education.



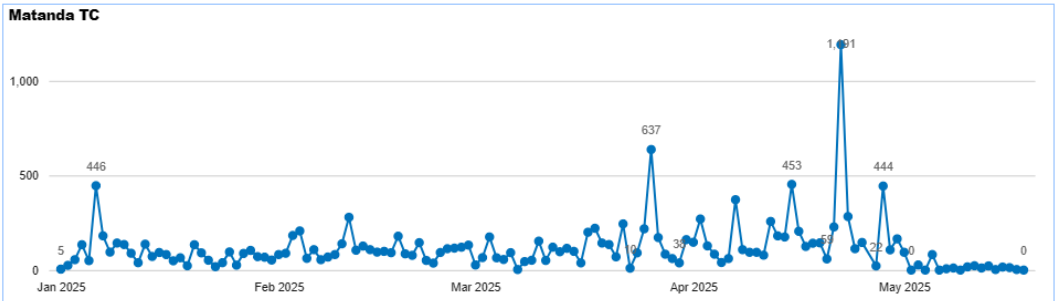
Arrival Trends:

During the reporting period, 927 individuals arrived from the DRC, a 15% increase from the previous period. The daily average for this reporting period was 132, and the weekly average was 924.

In Nyakabande, 472 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 11 per cent lower than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 292 and weekly average was 2,044.



In Matanda, 128 new arrivals were received, a 19 per cent decrease from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 116 and weekly is 812.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 54 during the reporting period, having increased by 38 per cent from the previous week. Bubukwanga transit centre has relatively low numbers, with the highest daily figure being 39 individuals since the year started.

Population at Transit and Reception Centres:

The total population at the transit and reception centres impacted by the DRC emergency was 5,673 individuals as of 18 May 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 11 May	Current reporting week ending 18 May	
Kabazana RC	1,500	4,818	3,170	211% occupancy
Matanda TC	900	1,237	548	Within capacity
Nyakabande TC	1,420	1,240	762	Within capacity
Kagoma RC	1,230	380	400	Within capacity
Bubukwanga TC	650	426	230	Within capacity
Sweswe RC	800	290	287	Within capacity
Mahani RC	500	29	276	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	300	12	0	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

In respect to nutrition among new arrivals, at Nyakabande transit centre, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels remain critical at 16.1 per cent for children under five years (U5), a slight reduction from 17.1 per cent, and 17.6 per cent for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW). Two children out of the 54 screened were found with a Severe Acute Malnutrition rate of four per cent, which is above the recommended threshold of two per cent.

At Matanda transit centre, GAM levels are: 16.1 per cent for children U5, a reduction from 18.5%, and 18.8% among PBW, an increase from 14.8 per cent last week.

GAM levels at Kabazana Reception Center are: 17.2 per cent for children U5, a slight reduction from 19.2%, and 15.3% for PBW, a reduction from 19%.

In Nakivale, there were four new cases of measles during the reporting period bringing the total to 46 cases (41 refugees and 5 nationals). The situation is contained, and refugees have been treated with no deaths registered. No new cases have been reported at Matanda Transit Centre.

WASH and Sanitation:

At the Nyakabande transit centre, the total quantity of water available per person per day was 34 litres, while Matanda transit centre had 32 litres per person per day (l/p/d); this meets emergency thresholds. The receiving zones in Nakivale refugee settlement have low water supply of 7 lpd in Juru and 6 lpd in Rubondo zones, with an overall average of 10 lpd. They are far below the emergency standard of 15 lpd.

The latrine stance ratio at the Nyakabande transit center stood at 1:32 individuals, while the ratio at Matanda transit centre was 1:52, against the standard of 1:50. There was a 70% decrease in the number of individuals per stance compared to the previous week which was 1:277.

Critical Gaps in the DRC Emergency

- Additional funding is urgently needed to support the **treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**, which is currently limited to transit and reception centres. Once children leave these centres, there is no continuity of care within the settlements. To reinstate and expand this support, more nutrition commodities and trained personnel are required.
- The **provision of breastmilk substitutes** for infants under six months—and for mothers unable to breastfeed—has also been suspended and urgently needs to be resumed.
- **Support** to increase health and education staff in settlements receiving new arrivals.
- **Purchase and distribution** of in-kind Core Relief Items for new arrivals at the transit centre and support to provide cash assistance new arrival package upon relocation to the settlement.

The EMERGENCY APPEAL: DRC Refugee Situation in Uganda - April 2025, covering the needs of 80,000 new arrivals has been issued. It requires $21M in additional funding and $23M reprogrammed under the UCRRP, involving 7 UN agencies, 15 International NGOs, and 2 National NGOs.