UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

5 - 11 May 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 63,930 new arrivals from the DRC out of the total 100,377 new arrivals to Uganda this year. Diplomatic efforts to engage the parties to the conflict to reach a peace agreement continue. Sporadic clashes continue to be reported between armed groups in North and South Kivu. Widespread reports of violations against civilian populations have also been received, including kidnappings, extortion, rape, destruction of property and forced recruitment.

The total number of new arrivals from the DRC since January 2025 is 63,930. Of that, 55,881 individuals have already been registered. There was a decrease of 64 per cent in terms of arrivals from last week into Kisoro. The reduction is attributed to movement restrictions imposed on the DRC side of the border requiring asylum seekers to pay to cross and/or not allowing them to cross.

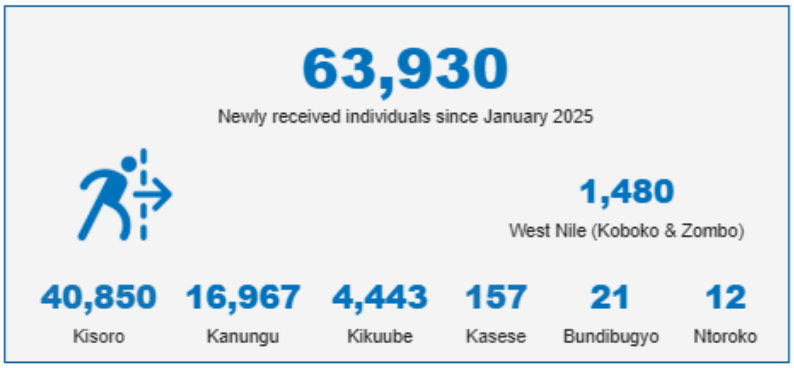
Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,499
February	10,031	7,524
March	20,572	16,871
April	24,411	21,997
May (as of 11 May)	1,539	4,990
Total	**63,930**	**55,881**

Uganda has received a total of 100,377 new arrivals for the period 1 Jan – 11 May, a 93% increase from the same period in 2024.

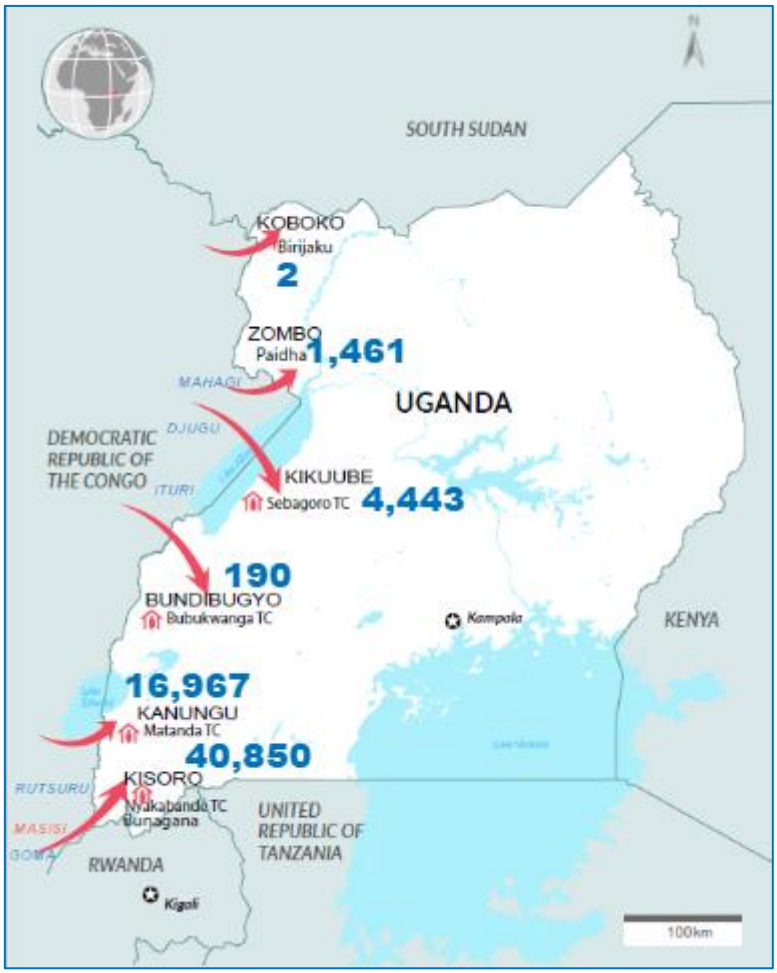
A facilitator of the Child Friendly Space at Nyakabande Transit Centre engages children in a TEAM UP activity Photo by ©Gloria Mukandori Allen/SCI

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 63.8% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 26.5% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 6.9% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.5% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.3% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



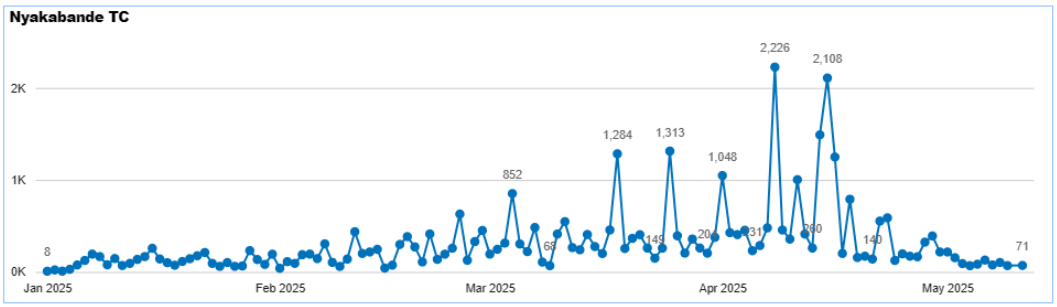
Among the new arrivals from the DRC, nearly 60% aged 18-59 and an equal split between men and women. About 40% are below 18 and with that, 33% are children below 12 years. Most of the refugees are from North Kivu (Giseguru, Gisahru, Binza, Gisigari, Bweza, Giseguro, Rutchuru, Masisi, and Goma City), 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.



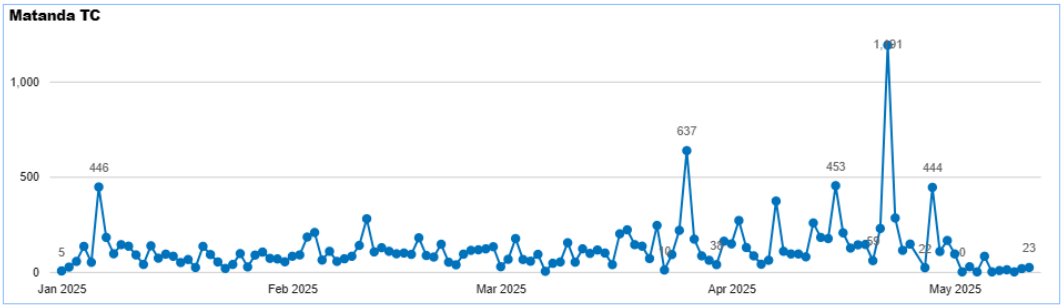
Arrival Trends:

During the reporting period, 807 individuals arrived from the DRC, a 68% decrease from the previous period. The daily average for this reporting period was 201, and the weekly average was 1,407.

In Nyakabande, 528 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 64 per cent lower than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 304 and weekly average was 2,128.



In Matanda, 159 new arrivals were received, an 82 per cent decrease from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 122 and weekly is 854.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 39 during the reporting period, having decreased by 11 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 8,432 individuals as of 11 May 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 04 May	Current reporting week ending 11 May	
Kabazana RC	1,500	8,002	4,818	321% occupancy
Matanda TC	900	3,248	1,237	137% occupancy
Nyakabande TC	1,420	6,198	1,240	Within capacity
Kagoma RC	1,230	1,013	380	Within capacity
Bubukwanga TC	650	304	426	Within capacity
Sweswe RC	800	301	290	Within capacity
Mahani RC	500	29	29	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	300	2	12	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

In respect to nutrition among new arrivals, at Nyakabande transit centre, 94 children under five were screened and GAM was at five per cent (5 children), SAM at one per cent (one child), and four of the children had MAM. Unfortunately, a child under five years of age succumbed to severe anemia caused by malaria

At Matanda transit centre, 129 children under five were screened and GAM was at seven per cent (nine children), SAM at two per cent (one child), and eight of the children had MAM. In respect to measles, there were no new cases during the reporting period and 30 cases have been successfully treated in total.

In Nakivale, there were 12 new cases of measles during the reporting period and 36 in total over the past three weeks. The situation is contained, and refugees have been treated. There are no deaths registered. All the cases identified arrived from Matanda.

Protection: Relocation from Nyakabande and Matanda remains a priority. During the reporting period, 3,745 individuals were relocated to Kabazana Reception Centre in Nakivale Settlement, including 2,954 from Nyakabande and 791 from Matanda. Despite these efforts, severe overcrowding persists in reception and transit centers like Matanda and Kabazana, at 137% and 321%, respectively.

WASH and Sanitation:
At the Nyakabande transit centre, the total quantity of water received per person per day was 13 litres, while Matanda transit centre had 6 litres per person per day (l/p/d), due to technical problems affecting the national water supply. 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. These are all below the emergency standard of 15 lpd.

The latrine stance ratio at the Nyakabande transit center stood at 1:139 individuals, while the ratio at Matanda transit centre was 1:138, against the standard of 1:50. There was a 44% decrease in the number of individuals per stance compared to the previous week which was 1:251.

Critical Gaps in the DRC Emergency

- **Early and predictable funding** is needed to ensure a consistent stock of essential items and CSB++ (Corn-Soy Blend Plus) used for the Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) programme to address malnutrition needs.
- **Logistics**, including the rental of commercial buses to limit number of stays spent in the transit centre. It is the rainy season, and refugees are living in overcrowded conditions.
- **Protection staff** to support large number of unaccompanied and separated children.
- **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 once in 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.