UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

04 – 17 August 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 70,906 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), making up more than half of the 126,211 individuals who have entered the country this year. Ongoing clashes between armed groups continue to be reported across multiple areas in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces, despite the peace agreement signed on 27 June 2025. Uganda maintains an open-door policy, led by the Government of Uganda.

As of mid-August 2025, Uganda has received a total of 70,906 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with 64,104 individuals already registered. New arrivals through Kisoro increased by 23% last reporting period, contributing to an overall 23% rise compared to the previous reporting period. Civilian movement continues to be restricted by armed groups. Asylum seekers are forced to use unofficial border points and tend to cross official ones during periods of reduced M23 presence to reach Kisoro and Kanungu.

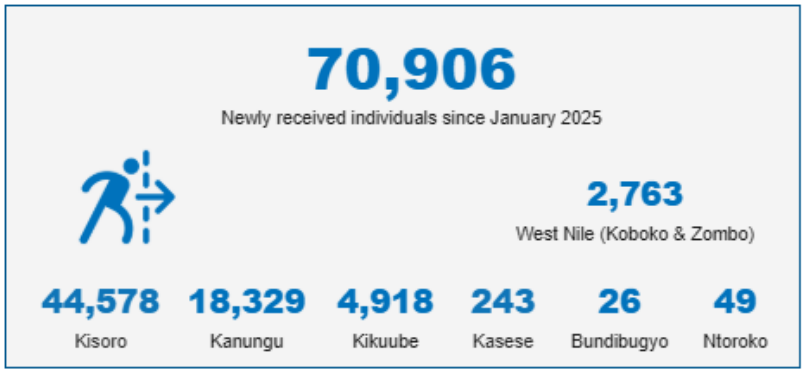
Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,506
February	10,031	7,524
March	20,497	16,883
April	24,596	22,019
May	3,616	8,181
June	1,820	2,150
July	1,683	1,824
August (as of 17th)	1,286	1,017
Total	**70,906**	**64,104**

During the same period last year (1 January to 17 August 2025), Uganda received 22,386 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); i.e. 2025 has seen a 217% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

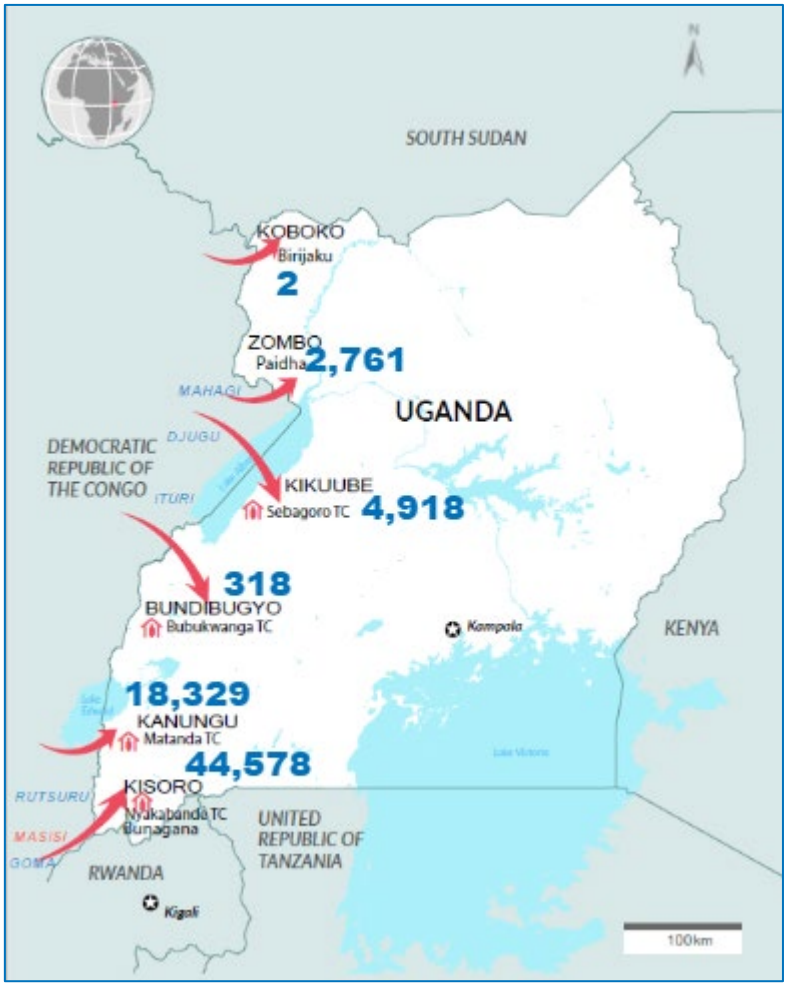
Refugees from the DRC wait to be relocated from Nyakabande to Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Photo: Yonna Tukundane/UNHCR

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 62.8% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 25.8% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 6.9% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 3.9% via Zombo, Arua and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.6% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



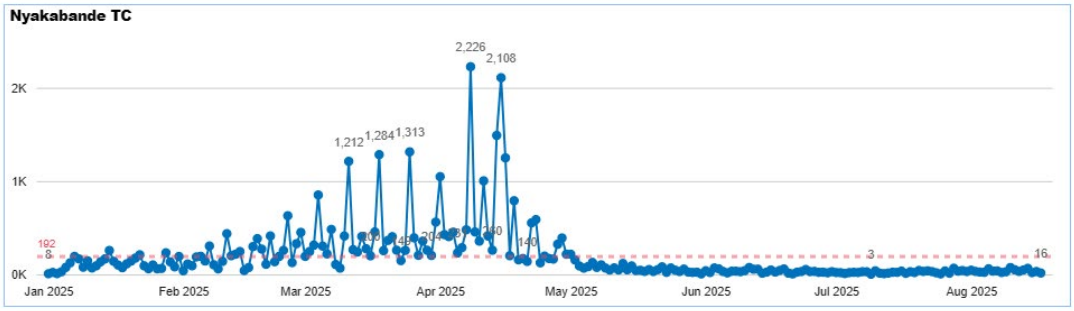
Among newly registered arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 70% are women and children, with 40% under the age of 18. Refugees aged 18–59 years constitute the largest group (36,966 individuals). The majority originate from North Kivu (51,912), followed by Ituri (5,762) and South Kivu (2,780). They report fleeing due to forced recruitment, sexual violence, kidnapping, hunger, armed groups, and disruption of essential services. Education levels remain low, with only 4.3% having primary education, 3% secondary education, and 0.83% university education.



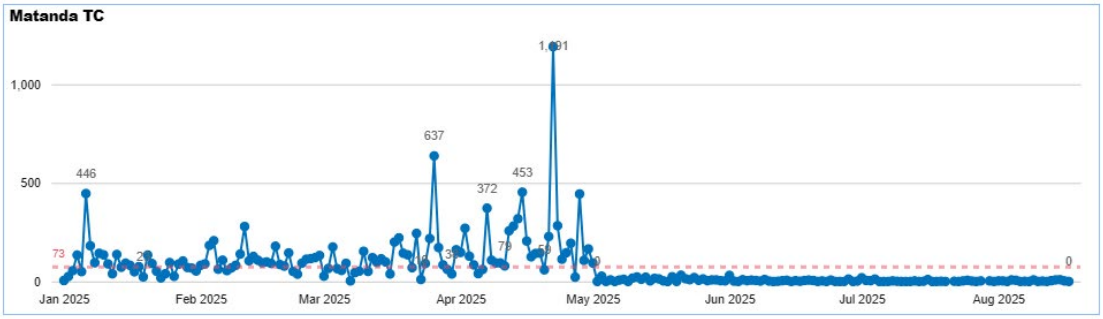
Arrival Trends:

During the reporting period, 1,135 individuals arrived from the DRC, a 23% overall increase from the previous period. The daily average for this reporting period was 81, and the weekly average since January was 2,170.

In Nyakabande, 600 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 23 per cent higher than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 192 and weekly average was 1,344.



In Matanda, 148 new arrivals were received, a 108 per cent increase from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 73 and weekly is 511.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 102 during the reporting period, having increased by 12 per cent from the previous week. Bubukwanga transit centre has relatively low numbers, with the highest daily figure being 43 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 2,033 individuals as of 17 August 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 03 Aug	Current reporting week ending 17 Aug	
Kabazana RC	1,500	1,513	857	Within capacity
Kagoma RC	1,230	503	275	Within capacity
Sweswe RC	800	258	231	Within capacity
Bubukwanga TC	650	185	349	Within capacity
Nyakabande TC	1,420	441	235	Within capacity
Matanda TC	900	50	38	Within capacity
Mahani RC	500	132	29	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	300	16	19	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

Health

- **Anthrax Outbreak in Kyaka II settlement** – Nine anthrax cases have been reported in Kyaka II settlement — one confirmed and eight suspected, with samples from the suspected cases under investigation at the national laboratories. There was 1 new suspected case last week. One death has so far been recorded, while 5 patients have recovered, and 3 suspected cases are on treatment. In addition, 21 animal samples have been collected and sent to the national laboratory for analysis.

Nutrition

- Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children at Nyakabande, in Kisoro, was at 10.5% and 17.6% among Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBWs). Four children out of 38 and 3 women out of 17 were identified with acute malnutrition and enrolled on treatment.
- GAM at Kabazana Reception Center, Nakivale Refugee Settlement stands at 9.8% among children and 12.3% among PBWs. This marks the first time in several months that the rate among children has dropped below 10%. Out of the 234 children screened, 23 were found with acute malnutrition, including 5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 18 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Among 70 women screened, 9 were identified with acute malnutrition and subsequently enrolled for treatment.
- GAM at Matanda Reception Center is 14.4% for children, with 2 out of 14 children identified and enrolled for treatment.

Child Protection:

The cumulative number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) since January 2025 stands at 267. UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister, ALIGHT, and Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS) held a meeting on the planned phase-out of Save the Children's (SCI) sponsorship project for UASC in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement by 31 December 2025. ALIGHT will assume child protection responsibilities in the three zones currently covered by SCI, and a roadmap for case closure and transfer was agreed.

Critical Gaps in the DRC Emergency

Livelihoods:

Host community pressure: Reduced land access for farming, overstretched health/education services, and tension risks between host and refugee communities.

Health and nutrition:

• Mental health medication gaps*:* Clients risk relapse due to limited access to psychiatric drugs.

• Food insecurity: Undermines adherence to treatment and worsens health outcomes.

• Reduced health staff in settlements receiving new arrivals.

Education:

• High enrolments force some schools to run double shifts, straining capacity and quality a trend that will continue when the third term resumes.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

• Latrine coverage: In Kyaka, the ratio is 1:54, well above standards; frequent fill-ups stress desludging.

• Water access gaps: Distribution remains uneven. In Nakivale, refugees access only 9 liters per person per day, below SPHERE standards.

• Trading center sanitation risks*:* Poor waste and wastewater management in refugee-led trading areas heightens risks of cholera and waterborne outbreaks. Local government and partners lack resources to respond effectively.

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.