

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE BURUNDIAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN SOUTH KIVU

1 - 30 April 2017

### KEY FIGURES

**37,363**

(as of 30 April 2017)

Burundian refugees registered in DRC (new caseload of 2015-2017)

**35,472**

(as of 30 April 2017)

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in South Kivu (new caseload of 2015-2017)

**28,528**

(as of 30 April 2017)

Refugees living in Lusenda refugee camp

**27,991**

Refugees received food vouchers to purchase the food of their choice.

### FUNDING

**USD 18.7 M**

Requested for the operation

Gap  
100%

### PRIORITIES

- Set up new sites to accommodate the incoming influx of refugees.
- Promote and implement peaceful coexistence activities between refugee and hosting communities.
- Provide adequate protection and assistance to people with specific needs.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, 1,236 Burundian refugees were registered with biometrics. This included cases of regularization (registration of newborns or family reunifications), while others were newly registered.
- Despite efforts made to admit new arrivals in the already overcrowded transit structures, 1,235 asylum seekers were staying near transit centers waiting to be admitted, as of 30 April 2017. They had access to some basic assistance (drinking water, emergency medical care, access to toilets inside the TC/GP) but were living under extremely difficult conditions, often without any shelter.



A UNHCR staff member addresses refugees in the overcrowded Kavimvira transit center.  
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- New arrivals were screened by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and other Government services in order to detect cases of fraud and identify vulnerable cases. Priority in admission was given to women and children.
- During the month, 717 Burundian refugees were relocated to Lusenda camp. Individual shelters were not available for all of them and common dormitories were set up for temporary accommodation.
- Local population and authorities expressed concerns about the high number of people staying outside of the transit centres, as well as the lengthy waits before being transferred to Lusenda, as this can have serious consequences concerning health and security. Only the opening of a new refugee site will help to resolve the situation.
- UNHCR lacks resources for setting up a new site for Burundian refugees near Baraka (Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province) and is appealing for funds.

# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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## Operational Context

- The security situation in Mboko and Lusenda (Fizi Territory) was relatively calm.
  - Burundian refugees living in and around the transit centres of Uvira Territory expressed their discontent over their living conditions on two occasions during the month, demanding their swift transfer to Lusenda camp. A group of refugees residing in Sange transit center protested at the beginning of the month, by blocking the road for 4 hours, which led to the intervention of the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR. On the 26th of April, another group of refugees living outside Sange went to MONUSCO asking them to advocate for their transfer to Lusenda camp.
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## Protection

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### Achievements and Impact

- On the 12th of April, 60 unaccompanied minors (15 girls and 45 boys) took part in a training organised by UNHCR and Save the Children at Lusenda camp. The training highlighted issues such as child protection, children's rights, the roles and responsibilities of host families, communication and behaviour with host families, as well as abuse and referral pathways.
- CNR followed up with 35 cases of Burundian refugees detained at Bukavu central prison. They will be transferred to Uvira when the CNR obtains the necessary documents related to their liberation.
- At the beginning of the month, the UNHCR and CNR Uvira visited Burundian asylum seekers hosted in a local community centre in Katogota. During the visit, 8 persons with health conditions were transferred to the gathering point of Sange, where conditions are better.
- A young woman who was raped in Burundi was referred to UNHCR partner ADES for medical care. The victim appeared to be HIV positive and was undergoing antiviral treatment.
- 4 victims of domestic violence were referred to RHA for appropriate care.

## Education

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### Achievements and Impact

- At Lusenda camp, 710 infants registered at the nursery (353 girls and 357 boys) took part in physical and creative activities with Save the Children. Children between 1 to 5 years old learnt languages (Kiswahili, Kirundi and French), and counting.
- A delegation from Club RFI Bujumbura and Bukavu visited Lusenda camp, and handed over a donation of 1,000 books to the camp library, as part of the establishment of a RFI Club at Lusenda.
- 100 school desks were donated by NGO PAX CHRISTI to 4 of the 5 schools near Lusenda camp (KATUNGULU, KAHUNGA, ISUNGU and ZAWADI) frequented by refugee children.
- 6,745 primary school students (Burundians and Congolese) from the 5 schools surrounding Lusenda camp received shoes and school bags from NGO PAX CHRISTI.



## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- 4,580 medical consultations were carried out by medical partner ADES in Lusenda Health Post. The most frequent diseases were malaria (48%), respiratory infections (18.5%), intestinal parasites (5%) and diarrhea (2%).
- 2,880 medical consultations were carried out in Kavimvira TC, the gathering point of Sange and Mongemonge transit center. The most frequent diseases were malaria (31%), respiratory infections (24%), intestinal parasites (19%) and diarrhea (10%).
- 22,652 people followed awareness campaigns against HIV/AIDS. 14,603 male condoms were distributed in Lusenda camp.




## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- 462 malnourished children under the age of 59 months continued to benefit from the nutritional programme at Lusenda. 53 of these children suffered from severe acute malnutrition, while 409 suffered from moderate acute malnutrition.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP faced challenges in supplying food for the hot meals provided in the transit centers, due to the increasing numbers of people and their prolonged stay.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

- A Focus Group has been set up including hygiene promoters, village chiefs and representatives from the refugees' committee to introduce a Cash Based Interventions for the construction of latrines. Refugees will be technically supported in the construction of their own latrines with locally purchased material and will receive cash reimbursement of expenses. encouraging empowerment and autonomisation.
- 19,810 refugees in Lusenda camp and the transit centers received sensitization on good hygiene practices and sanitation, around the theme "Bodily and environmental hygiene".

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 1,161 latrines (25 people per latrine) were operational in Lusenda camp, i.e. 80 less latrines than during the previous month. This is due to degradation of the structures which have not yet been rehabilitated. To reach the required UNHCR standard of 20 latrines/person, 239 extra latrines are needed.
- Water distribution average in Lusenda camp was around 15.7 l/p/d, due to the degradation of the tank liners. A local NGO AFPDE planned to provide the camp with tank liners and other needed WASH inputs, under funding from a German NGO (Action Medeor) and the Government of Germany.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

- After a joint UNHCR-AIRD evaluation of available spaces in Lusenda camp, the construction of 5 additional semi-transitional communal warehouses (concrete foundation with tarpaulin covers) started, which will be able to relieve the transit centres once completed. Furthermore, 3 communal warehouses are being transformed into dormitories, each able to host 80 people. Two of these dormitories were completed in the last week of April and were allocated to refugees waiting to be sheltered.
- Following the identification in March of 157 empty plots in Lusenda camp, refugees built new shelters with 157 construction kits. An awareness campaign was launched in Lusenda to encourage refugees to built their own shelters with the help of these shelter kits provided by UNHCR partners AIRD.
- In Kavimvira transit centre, 2 dormitories were completed, each hosting 80 refugees, who were previously residing outside of the centre.

### Working in partnership

- For this operation, UNHCR's programme is implemented with the partners: AIRD, CNR, ADES, INTERSOS and SAVE THE CHILDREN. Other partners include ADE, ADED, AFPDE, BVES, EBEN EZER, FAO, ICRC, MSF, NRC, OCHA, RHA, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, WAR CHILD HOLLAND, WFP, WHO, SCI and WORLD VISION.

#### Donors for UNHCR's Burundi refugee response in DRC in 2017

No contributions earmarked for the Burundi response have been received.

#### Donors for UNHCR's programmes in DRC operations in 2017

United States of America (23.3 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | UN Fund for Intl Partnerships (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.06 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

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