

Burundian Refugee Situation in South Kivu Democratic Republic of the Congo

May 2017

Burundian refugees continued to arrive in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, totaling a number of **39,928 registered refugees** on 31st May 2017 (new caseload 2015-2017).

Overcrowding at Lusenda Camp in South Kivu has resulted in **1,757 refugees waiting for transfer in transit centres**, with 1,017 refugees currently residing outside host structures.

The opening of a new site in the upcoming months would relieve the pressures beneficiaries face in the current structures.

Highlights

- The UNHCR registered 1,379 new Burundian refugees, including 1,199 newly arrived refugees, and 180 births of children born within our hosting structures.
- During the month of May, 122 households of 443 refugees were transferred from the Kavimvira transit centre and the Sange gathering point to Lusenda camp, in dignity and security.
- Nonetheless, other 1,757 refugees were still waiting in transit centres for transfer to more suitable accommodations, while 1,017 are camping outside.
- 9 temporary dormitories have been set-up in three different areas of Lusenda camp, to host up to 90 people each. This will allow Lusenda camp to welcome more refugees from the TC and gathering points, reducing the number of families waiting outside host structures.
- WASH and shelter evaluations were ongoing at the new site of Mulongwe. Lack of funding remained the major constraint for the setup of this second site.

KEY INDICATORS

29,730

Refugees living in Lusenda Camp, as of 31st May 2017.

62,6%

Percent of the refugees living in Lusenda refugee camp are children under the age of 18 years old.

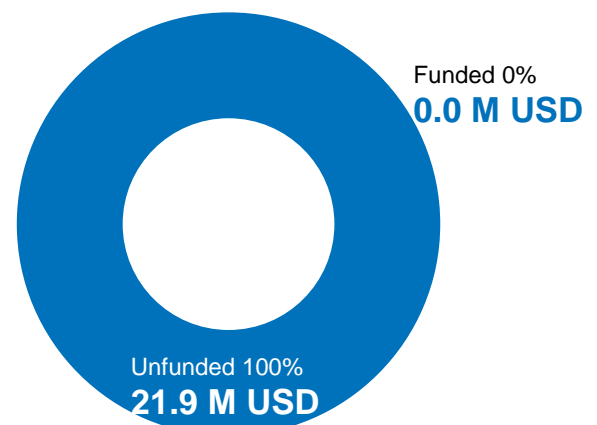
38,037

Refugees biometrically registered in South Kivu province.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 MAY 2017)

USD 21.9 M

requested for the DRC - Burundi situation



Operational Context

- The security situation in South Kivu province remains relatively stable, but continues to be marked by criminality, armed robberies, ambushes and kidnappings that affect humanitarian workers and beneficiaries.
- At the beginning of May, vehicles from three NGOs were ambushed and the passengers taken hostage but released subsequently.
- In view of improving security in Lusenda Camp, the UNHCR Bukavu Head of Office held meetings with the refugee committee and refugee security focal points (called *Sungu-Sungu*), as well as with the police deployed in the camp. During the meetings, the responsibility of each entity in ensuring security in the camp was discussed, and the police force mentioned the late payments of their bonuses.
- Burundian refugees living in and around the Transit Centres (TC) of the territory of Uvira continued to express their discontent over their living conditions and demanding their swift transfer to Lusenda camp. Tensions were being resolved on a case by case basis by UNHCR staff, in the hope that the new site will relieve material strains on the TC and help improve conditions.



A young woman waits, along with over 1,000 other Burundian refugees, outside the UNHCR host structures for as place inside the transit centres, with little access to food, shelter and medical assistance. © UNHCR / C.Veale



A woman washes her family's clothes outside the gathering point of Sange. She has been waiting for a place inside the centre for over 3 months. © UNHCR / C. Veale

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR registered 1,379 new Burundian refugees this month, including 1,199 newly arrived refugees, and 180 births of children born within our hosting structures.
- During the month of May, 122 households of 443 refugees were transferred from the Kavimvira transit centre and the Sange gathering point to Lusenda camp, in dignity and security.
- During the month of May, 940 protection incidents were recorded by protection partner INTERSOS in Uvira and Fizi territories, affecting host families, IDPs and asylum seekers, including 64 sexual and gender-based related incidents. Most incidents (63%) were violations of property rights (extortions, illegal taxes and pillages).
- At Lusenda camp, over the course of the month of May, six new cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were documented, of which 2 are cases of rape on minors, 2 cases of physical aggression, 1 case of psycho-emotional violence, and 1 case of resources denial. For the rape cases, both victims were directed to get medical support with partner ADES within 72 hours, and were also referred to partner RHA for psychosocial support. Juridical action was limited due to the fact that the perpetrators have not been arrested.
- A physical evaluation of People with Specific Needs was organised in Lusenda camp, identifying 1,216 cases, of which 280 are people living with a handicap, 367 are

chronically ill, 240 are elderly people and 329 are unaccompanied children. These refugees received support from partner Save the Children.

- 35 Burundian asylum seekers were released from the central prison in Bukavu without charge after the intervention of the UNHCR and the CNR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Several refugees have been arrested by police force over the course of the month due to the expiration date on their identification documents. It is recommended to ensure rapid renewal of expired registration documents.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- In the first week of May, 59 Burundian students completing secondary school took part in the preliminary state exams in Mboko.
- 2,138 school uniforms were made for students at Lusenda by 30 seamstresses (15 Burundians and 15 Congolese) who were trained through the ADED initiative.
- School fees were paid for 143 Burundian students (15 to 18 years old) attending ITM (Institut Technique Medical) in Nundu.
- During the month of May, 1,055 children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old, of which 495 girls and 560 boys were attending pre-school.
- This month, 16 instructors were selected to run the youth centre, the library and the ICT space run by the partner NGO War Child Holland, in Lusenda camp.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- 4,296 medical consultations were carried out by medical partner ADES at Lusenda Health Post during the month of May. The most frequent diseases were malaria (52%), respiratory infections (24%) and intestinal parasites (7%).
- 2,716 medical consultations were carried out in Kavimvira TC, the gathering point of Sange and Mongemonge TC. The most frequent diseases were malaria, respiratory infections, intestinal parasites and diarrhoea.
- 15,330 people followed awareness campaigns against HIV/AIDS and 11,358 male condoms were distributed in Lusenda camp.
- During the month of May, 469 children in Lusenda camp were vaccinated through the preschool vaccination program (including vaccines against measles, poliomyelitis, yellow fever, tuberculosis, tetanus, pertussis, diphtheria, hepatitis B, etc...).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Shortage of Plumpy Nut supplies in nutritional centres in the three health zones hosting refugees.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- During the month of May, 29,730 WFP vouchers were distributed in Lusenda camp for refugees to buy food supplies during the fair of the month of May.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- Current water production in Lusenda camp is of 360 m³/day which translates as an average of 12,8 l/p/d, due to the degradation of the tank liners. The NGO AFPDE has ordered tank liners and other WASH materials which should arrive by mid-June.
- In Lusenda camp, 44 latrines and 44 showers, with hand washing stations and garbage disposal systems are in the process of being completed. This would be added to the 1,005 latrine blocs and 565 shower blocs that are currently operational in Lusenda Camp.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- During this month of May, 9 temporary dormitories have been set-up in three different areas of Lusenda camp, to host up to 90 people each. This will allow Lusenda camp to welcome more refugees from the TC and gathering points, reducing the number of families waiting outside host structures. 5 of these dormitories were converted from communal distribution spaces, whereas 4 were built on unused space in Lusenda camp. 3 of these dormitories have already been filled.
- After an evaluation was carried out at the planned Mulongwe site (near Baraka), it was determined that the site is 600 hectares large.
- Near the Mulongwe site, the local population has given 800 hectares of land for agricultural exploitation and for the building of a market.
- An agreement with the NGO Caritas Uvira would allow the NGO to support the building of 600 semi-transitional shelters in the new Mulongwe site, in line with the UNHCR strategy. This proposal is under discussion.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Space is still a major impasse when it comes to accepting more new arrivals. Lusenda camp is saturated, and only the opening of the new site would allow for long term solutions to the issue of shelter.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- A committee was set up in Lusenda camp for the coordination of different farming and fishing community groups in order to improve communal life and promote the refugees' autonomy. The UNHCR in Mboko met with the committee and will bring technical support.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- A list of 50 households of 151 refugees who have expressed interest in repatriation to Burundi was finalised and submitted to UNHCR in Burundi.

Working in partnership

- For this operation, partners financed by the UNHCR are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, INTERSOS and SAVE THE CHILDREN. Other partners working with their own funds include ADE, ADED, AFPDE, BVES, EBEN EZER, FAO, ICRC, MSF, NRC, OCHA, RHA, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, WAR CHILD HOLLAND, WFP, WHO, SCI and WORLD VISION.

External / Donors Relations

Donors for UNHCR's Burundian refugee response in 2017

No contributions earmarked for the Burundi response have been received.

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (26.4 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | France (0.5 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

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LINKS

[Regional portal for CAR situation](#) - [DRC page for Burundi situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#) - [Story : diner gives Burundian refugee taste of self-reliance](#)