

Burundian Refugee Situation in South Kivu Democratic Republic of the Congo

July 2017

Highlights

- There are now a total of 40,009 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who arrived since April 2015. Registration activities carried by National Commission for Refugees (CNR) together with other state services have been temporarily suspended.
- In the new site of **Mulongwe**, the demarcation of the different blocs has been finalised, and the clearing of the land started on the 18th July. 9 hectares have been cleared, and one bloc (of 13 planned blocs) of 8 villages was demarcated.
- During the month of July, the new system of “e-vouchers” was instigated during the **food fair**. 7,723 households received their SCOPE cards and went to buy food supplies in the shops installed around the 5 different sites in Lusenda.
- **218 measles cases** have been recorded in Lusenda camp, as of 31st July. In response, 17,795 children were vaccinated. Relocation of refugees to the camp has been suspended during the month of July as a prevention measure.
- **One Burundian refugee schoolgirl** supported by the UNHCR in Lusenda, won the TENAFEP prize given by UNICEF in collaboration with the Provincial Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Professional Education (EPSP).

KEY INDICATORS

40,009

Burundian refugees (12,884 households) are **biometrically registered** in the DRC on 31st July 2017 (new caseload from April 2015).

61.3%

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

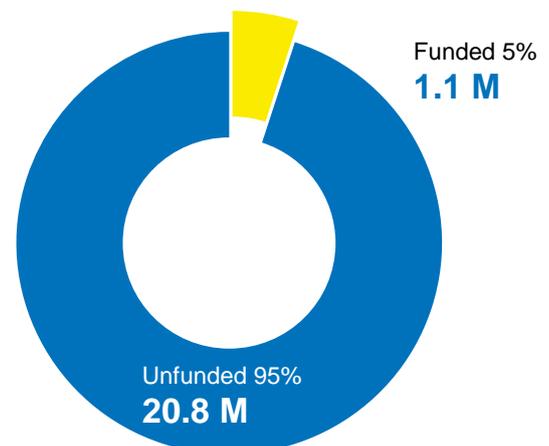
30,030

Refugees, regrouped into 9,042 households, **live in Lusenda Refugee Camp**, as of 31st July 2017.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 JULY 2017)

USD 21.9 M

requested for the DRC - Burundi situation



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

- This month, the town of Bukavu has been marked by unrest. On the 28th of July, around 40 prisoners escaped from the central prison of Bukavu. The clashes following the prison break resulted in 4 deaths, 10 people injured (2 of which suffered serious injuries). Military justice has started investigations to find the authors and the cause of the incident. Furthermore, a peaceful demonstration was organised in Bukavu on 31st July, concerning the calendar for the presidential election. The demonstration was dispersed by the police with teargas.
- The territories of Fizi and Uvira have been affected by the confrontations between the FARDC and various armed groups, especially on the Nyange-Lubonja and Kabumbe axis, and in Kafulo and Kasaka (in Fizi), and on the hills overlooking the town of Uvira. These confrontations affected UNHCR activities, due to the restrictions on movements. The situation is currently calm but unpredictable in the territory of Fizi.
- In the Ruzizi plain (Sange), one Burundian refugee living in a host community was killed at his home by unidentified men.
- In Lusenda, a drunk policeman fired shots in the air after a dispute with a refugee. Following the incident, a list of 30 policemen was submitted to the Field Safety Associate (UNHCR) for indiscipline, to ask for their replacement. An investigation is ongoing to complete the case.



Women in Lusenda Camp carry firewood back to their homes. © UNHCR 2017 / C.Veale

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- In July, the child protection structures at Lusenda were reviewed with all the actors involved in the protection field (CNR, Save the Children, War Child, Community mediators for child protection, and foster families). Gaps and priorities were identified for the next trimester, especially concerning better coordination, communication and harmonisation of tools to follow individual cases.
- A meeting was held with the CNR, AIRD and Save the Children after a consultation with a young girl and her mother, following suspicions of child recruitment for sexual exploitation. The issue is being investigated to establish whether this is an isolated case, or a common phenomenon. The CNR is also conducting a legal follow-up to bring the presumed perpetrator to justice.
- On the 5th and 6th July, 50 village chiefs, as well as the refugees' committee of Lusenda camp followed a training organised by UNHCR and local authorities on international and community protection, rights of refugees and interaction with local communities. A participative approach was adopted to ensure community leaders would feel ownership concerning their role and responsibilities. Refreshing sessions twice per month will complete this training to build strong partnerships with the humanitarian actors.
- UNHCR Mboko is working with UNHCR Bujumbura to search for the families of unaccompanied children at Lusenda. Two unaccompanied minors will soon be reunited with their families after confirmation from the Congolese authorities. Following the success of this operation, UNHCR Bujumbura and UNHCR Mboko discussed collaborative procedures for child protection issues, specifically in the cases of family reunification for 69 unaccompanied minors in Lusenda.
- 120 refugees in Lulinda followed a session on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) related issues to discuss forced marriage of minors and the psychological and medical consequences. The refugees who participated unanimously agreed they would denounce and condemn this practice.
- In the framework of giving refugees more autonomy in Lusenda camp, an evaluation was carried out to determine the needs to set up Income-Generating Activities (IGA) for 100 Burundian refugees with specific needs. Livestock rearing and small commerce were the most popular activities suggested.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Registration activities carried by National Commission for Refugees (CNR) together with other state services have been suspended due to non-payment of registration agents. UNHCR has conducted advocacy to resolve the issue and activities will resume in the coming weeks.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- Among the 58 laureates who won prizes in South Kivu for the TENAFEP (*texte national de fin d'étude primaire*), one Burundian refugee girl supported by the UNHCR in Lusenda, from the Isungu primary school won the prize given by UNICEF in collaboration with the Provincial Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Professional Education (EPSP).
- In view of the preparations of the start of the school year 2017-2018, a “morning of reflection” was held on 14th July to discuss ways of getting refugee parents to participate more actively in their children’s schooling, as well as how to prepare them becoming autonomous in enrolling children at school. Partners also discussed the UNHCR’s intention to cover education costs as of next year.
- Following the end of the project cycle for activities led by WAR CHILD HOLLAND in Lusenda in April 2017, the NGO presented their plan to redirect their focus on a number of activities to support school reintegration for students. UNHCR advised the NGO to focus on 2 to 3 activities in view of the lack of funding.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- 218 measles cases have been recorded in Lusenda camp, as of 31st July 2017. In response, a first round of vaccinations reached 16,710 children (children between 6 months and 15 years living in Lusenda camp), during the first weeks of July. A second round took place during the food fair and 1,085 additional children (from Lusenda camp and outside) were vaccinated, bringing the total number of vaccinated children to 17,795. Vaccination campaigns continue in the local population.
- 4,117 medical consultations (for 1,848 men and 2,277 women) were carried out by medical partner ADES at Lusenda Health Post during the month of July. The most frequent diseases were malaria (36.5%), respiratory infections (24%) and intestinal parasites (8.3%).
- 2,526 medical consultations were carried out in Kavimvira TC, the gathering point of Sange and Mongemonge TC. The most frequent diseases were malaria, respiratory infections, and intestinal parasites.
- In Lusenda, awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS targeted 22,694 participants, including 9,402 men and 13,292 women, and 14,627 male condoms were distributed.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The number of nurses in Lusenda Health Post is insufficient to respond to the increasing demand from refugees. More nurses are needed to respond adequately and efficiently.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- During the month of July, the new system of “e-vouchers” (SCOPE cards) was instigated during the food fair. This system gives each family in Lusenda an electronic card with the amount allocated for each individual in the family. This card allows refugees to pay for supplies in the shops of the food fair, which are all equipped with electronic machines for payments. As opposed to the previous system of paper vouchers, this system is more secure and allows refugees to buy what they need from each shop, spending the exact amount on goods, and giving them the freedom to buy food in their own time, during the whole duration of the fair. At the end of the fair, each shop owner receives the money owed from the WFP. On the estimated 8,067 families to serve (WFP), 7,723 families received their SCOPE cards and went to buy food supplies in the shops installed around the 5 different sites in Lusenda.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The planned number of beneficiary families by WFP (8,064) differs from the 9,038 of UNHCR, resulting in 974 families who are still not registered in the SCOPE card system. A harmonisation of numbers is necessary between the two databases.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- On 31st July 2017, the water consumption at Lusenda camp had increased to 14 litres/person/day, thanks to the rehabilitation of a 70m³ water tank. The rehabilitation of the base and set-up of the liners for 4 other tanks in Lusenda have started.
- In Monge Monge, the base for two tanks (2000L and 3000L tanks) was finalised.
- At the new site of Mulongwe, the rehabilitation of the pumping station built by Tearfund for the local community has been finalised. This system will allow the supply of water to refugees in Mulongwe during the initial stages of the set-up of the site.
- The partner AFPDE has started construction works for the water supply in the new site of Mulongwe.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- During the first half of the month of July, the general distribution of soap for June and July was conducted, where a total of 50,760 bars of soap (multiple use) were distributed to 25,380 people in Lusenda camp.
- A quote for the set-up of a waiting room and a consultation room (infirmary) at the Kavimvira TC was finalised, as well as a quote to build a fence around the TC.
- A joint mission (UNHCR, AIRD, ADES) was conducted in the village of Mulongwe to present to the local population the action plan concerning the settling of refugees in the new site, including types of shelters, latrines and the general plan of the site.
- In the new site of Mulongwe, the demarcation of the different blocs has been finalised, and the clearing of the land started on the 18th July. 9 hectares have been cleared, and one bloc (of 13 planned blocs) of 8 villages was demarcated.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Achievements and Impact

- An awareness campaign for refugees on the new Cash-Based Intervention approach was conducted in the Transit Centres and Gathering Points of Monge Monge, Kavimvira and Sange.



ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- On the 5th of July, the actors working in environmental protection in Lusenda met to establish a Task Force which will offer solutions to the environmental problems linked to the presence of refugees in the area. Recommendations were issued, including the need for an alternative to wood for fuel, to reduce cutting trees in the Tanganyika sector.
- A Commission of Environmental Protection trained by the UNHCR, AIRD, CNR and civil society started to raise awareness amongst wood suppliers about the need to reforest the tree cutting areas in the Tanganyika sector.
- The promotion of biomass briquettes is ongoing in Lusenda camp. Five groups of refugees have been trained on the production of briquettes by AIRD. These groups are composed of around 300 people and have received tools to increase production capacity. This technique could be a cheaper and less environmentally destructive solution to the

high demands of energy in the camp. If the project is successful, awareness campaigns will be organised to promote the use of biomass briquettes.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to organize a meeting with local chiefs and authorities about the environmental problems facing the area of Lusenda camp.

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 Burundian refugee response in DRC in 2017

Belgium (1.1 M)

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (28.4 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 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) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.05 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](#)