

# Burundian Refugee Situation in South Kivu Democratic Republic of the Congo

September 2017

## Highlights

- As of 30<sup>th</sup> September, there were 40,474 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who arrived since April 2015. During the month, 427 refugees were registered. 511 new arrivals were admitted in transit centres and were waiting to be registered.
- Following the **killing of 39 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in the locality of Kamanyola** (Uvira territory), 2,485 refugees and asylum seekers residing in Kamanyola took shelter in front of MONUSCO Company Operating Base (COB) and later moved to a field behind the base, where they have been camping there since. A UNHCR team has been deployed to respond to the needs of this community and explore the possibility of relocating the group for security reasons.
- Due to growing insecurity and combats in the territories of Fizi and Uvira, works on **Mulongwe site** were put on hold in the last week of September. To this date, on the three blocs cleared for construction, 4 communal dormitories have been entirely finalised (metal sheets on roof, tarpaulins for walls, concrete floor), while 16 other dormitories are in the process of being built. 3 kitchen hangars and 3 distribution hangars are also under construction (one for each bloc).
- The mass vaccination campaign against measles, funded by the UNHCR, in 12 health zones surrounding the Lusenda camp was finalised. 55,671 children between 0 and 15 years were vaccinated.

### KEY INDICATORS

**40,474**

Burundian refugees are **registered** in the DRC on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (new caseload from April 2015).

**51.2%**

**Percent** of the refugees living in Lusenda camp are women and girls.

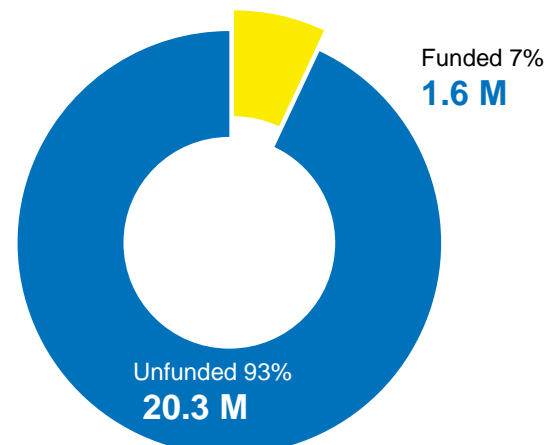
**30,432**

Refugees **live in Lusenda Refugee Camp**, as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### FUNDING (AS OF 26 SEPTEMBER)

**USD 21.9 M**

requested for the DRC - Burundi situation



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

- On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 39 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers living in the locality of Kamanyola (Uvira territory) were shot and killed by FARDC soldiers during a demonstration, and 94 Burundians were wounded and referred to hospitals. The group of Burundians were protesting the arrest of four of their compatriots.
- Following the incident, 2,485 refugees and asylum seekers residing in Kamanyola took shelter near the MONUSCO Company Operating Base (COB) and later moved to a field behind the base, where they have been camping there since. UNHCR deployed a team from Goma and Kinshasa to evaluate the situation and respond to urgent needs.
- In the territories of Fizi and Uvira, the security situation has deteriorated during the month of September, due to escalation of conflicts involving armed groups and FARDC.
- In the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the locality of Mboko (where a UNHCR office is located) and the zone of Lusenda fell under Mai Mai control. The armed groups did not enter Lusenda camp. However, refugees and partners in the camp expressed concern regarding the fighting between the armed groups and the military. This offensive halted all UNHCR activities south of Uvira and blocked the national road (RN5) between Uvira and Mboko.
- The armed groups advanced on Uvira. Attacks were countered by FARDC and MONUSCO forces and the Mai Mai retreated to the surrounding hills.
- Due to the deteriorating security situation south of Baraka, UNHCR halted all operations in the new Mulongwe site until the situation improves.
- Following the takeover of Mboko, 334 households of 1,357 individuals were not able to receive the monthly food ration that was planned to be distributed on 26<sup>th</sup> September. During the period of a week, they benefited from the solidarity of other refugees who had received their ration. Supply trucks are ready to deliver the food as soon as the security situation is improved.



Temporary site opened in Kamanyola to host 2485 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers outside the MONUSCO COB after the incident of 15 September. © UNHCR 2017/ F. Kitoko

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- Following the incident of 15<sup>th</sup> September in Kamanyola, UNHCR is working with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) to explore relocation options for the group of refugees and asylum seekers temporarily hosted near MONUSCO COB.
- UNHCR has sent a multi-sectorial team on the ground to evaluate the urgent needs of the Kamanyola refugees, who belong to a specific religious movement, and coordinate a response plan with partners and other humanitarian actors.
- In Kamanyola, level 1 registration of the group of Burundian refugees and asylum seekers was finalised on 30<sup>th</sup> September, concluding that a total of 2,485 individuals (998 households) currently reside near the MONUSCO COB. Over the last weeks of September, discussions were held with the Committee of Refugees on the importance of registration for assistance and protection measures, who have so far refused biometric registration for religious reasons. The committee has tentatively accepted a level 2 registration without biometrics, providing their own photographs.
- The UNHCR protection team visited the four detained Burundian refugees in Uvira Central Prison, whose detention sparked the 15<sup>th</sup> September shootings, in order to ensure the respect of their legal rights. The CNR is following the cases of these detainees.

- In Mboko, the sectorial meetings for Legal Protection and Social Cohesion were held on 8<sup>th</sup> September. A group was formed to monitor the situation of detention structures and will organise follow-up missions every 2 weeks.
- A group of 157 refugees (34 households) were relocated from the Transit Centre Kavimvira to Lusenda camp in order to relieve the transit centre. The group was hosted in communal hangars while a more permanent solution is found for their accommodation.
- New asylum seekers were admitted into the Transit Centers of Kavimvira and Monge-Monge in light of the security threats in the territories of Fizi and Uvira.



## EDUCATION

### Achievements and Impact

- In Lusenda, refugee children started school this month. However, shortly after the start of classes, insecurity broke out in Fizi territories and schools shut down. Schools will be reopened when the security situation allows it.



## HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

- The mass vaccination campaign against measles, funded by the UNHCR, in 12 health zones surrounding the Lusenda camp was finalised. 55,671 children between 0 and 15 years were vaccinated.
- Awareness campaigns against cholera were reinforced in Lusenda and in the Transit Centres in South Kivu, following the epidemic in Uvira and in the health zone of Nundu surrounding the camp.
- In Kamanyola, partner ADES and UNHCR medical staff have closely monitored the cases of the wounded in the hospitals of Kamanyola, Bukavu and Goma. On 30<sup>th</sup> September, 47 individuals remained in Bukavu hospital, 6 in Goma and 7 in Kamanyola.
- In the temporary site in Kamanyola, partner ADES and UNHCR Health officer have set up a tent for medical consultations and referrals to hospital. However, the Burundian community of Kamanyola have rejected a number of health measures due to their religious beliefs, and resist intake of external medicines and consultations with external health staff.
- In Mulongwe, UNHCR operational partner *Association des Femme pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène* – AFPDE (implementing partner of MEDEOR) started the construction of the health centre.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Kamanyola, UNHCR is in discussions with various humanitarian actors to cover the gap in mental health which persists, after such traumatic events.



### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

#### Achievements and Impact

- For the food fair of September, WFP organised monetary transfers on the electronic SCOPE cards for the buying of food supplies. 26,636 refugees (7,611 households) bought food supplies through the new electronic card system.
- In Lusenda, UNHCR and partners involved in the food distribution organised regularisation sessions to correct the issues faced in July and August. From 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, a team from WFP carried a mission to Lusenda to correct the errors and print new SCOPE cards for refugees when necessary. This exercise was to ensure that each refugee is given the food supplies they are allowed and diminish cases of fraud. This regularisation task will continue during the next food fair to ensure all errors are corrected.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There were still few cases in need for regularization as time allocated for WFP mission was not sufficient to respond to all pending cases. The SCOPE cards can only be printed in Bukavu or Nairobi, which slows the process down.



### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- In Kamanyola, the temporary site where the 2,485 refugees and asylum seekers are currently staying was connected to the local conveyance water structure, through two ramps of 6 taps each, providing drinking water to the refugees and asylum seekers between 9am to 2pm. The MONUSCO is facilitating the transport of 15m<sup>3</sup> of water from the river every day for washing.
- In Kamanyola, the UNHCR and its partners are giving technical support to refugees to build WASH infrastructures. 20 latrines have been completed and 20 more are being built. 08 showers have been completed on a total number of 16. The latrines are being disinfected 3 times a day by community hygienists.
- In Kamanyola, the UNHCR WASH team (including partner ADES) have worked with the refugee community to implement a waste collection system, and a team of refugees dug a waste pit. The WASH team is constantly following up of general hygiene practices with community relays to ensure best hygiene practices are being promoted and followed. 20 handwashing buckets, donated by UNICEF are in place around the site.

- In Mulongwe, UNHCR operational partner AFPDE has finalised two base structures for water reservoirs, as well as the construction of latrine pits for two blocs of latrines (in brick). Two more latrine pits are in the process of being dug.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Water is currently a point of concern in Kamanyola site. The UNHCR is working with partners and OCHA to ensure the arrival of additional bladders and tanks for the provision of drinking water at the site.



#### SHELTER AND NFIS

#### Achievements and Impact

- In Lusenda camp, the reception centre of Katungulu I was rehabilitated to host and additional 157 refugees (34 households).
- In Lusenda camp, the depot used for luggage was transformed to store briquettes. Further storage hangars are being built for briquettes.
- In the Transit Centre of Kavimvira and gathering point of Sange, due to the security situation prevailing in the area, asylum-seekers camping outside have been admitted (294 people in Kavimvira and 88 in Sange). Two emergency communal dormitories were set-up for this purpose.
- In Kamanyola, AIRD completed the construction of 01 communal hangar for registration procedures and 01 hangar to serve as a communal kitchen. A medical hangar is in the process of being built.
- 600 plastic tarpaulins were distributed to the group in Kamanyola for the building of individual shelters.
- 1250 blankets, 1250 mats and 260kg of soap have been transported by the UNHCR to Kamanyola and distribution is planned as soon as the registration lists are finalised.
- In Mulongwe, three blocs have been cleared for construction (out of five) and partner CARITAS is in the process of building a total of 24 dormitories. To this date, 4 communal dormitories have been entirely finalised (metal sheets on roof, tarpaulins for walls, concrete floor), while 16 other dormitories are in the process of being built; 2 dormitories are in the final steps of being paved (last steps of construction plan), 12 dormitories have a roof (missing the tarpaulin walls and the concrete floor), and 2 further dormitories are in the first stages of construction (wooden structures). Furthermore, 3 kitchen hangars and 3 distribution hangars are also under construction (one for each bloc).
- In Mulongwe, partner AIRD is continuing to clear land for the 5 planned blocs which will allow Caritas and AFPDE to build the infrastructure they are responsible for.
- When the construction works took place at Mulongwe site, the host community contributed to the works through a “cash for work” approach, which hope to have a positive impact the on the local economy.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The unstable and volatile security situation in the territories of Fizi and Uvira this months have impeded on the speedy advance of works in Mulongwe, with construction being halted entirely in the last week of September.



### ACCESS TO ENERGY

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR Mboko shared recommendations to firewood suppliers for the protection of the environment. Each supplier will have to produce 10 000 seedlings for each species and will be in charge of planting them following indications from the National Service for the Environment of Tanganyika Sector.
- In Kamanyola, firewood was supplied to the Burundian group of refugees and asylum seekers. However, a long-term approach needs to be explored if the group is to remain at the site longer than anticipated, with awareness campaigns on environmental protection and the possible supply of briquettes to the site.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the month of September, the refugees in Lusenda did not receive any firewood.
- The supply of biomass material for the production of briquettes in Lusenda is often delayed due to transport issues.
- It has been observed by the refugee community in Lusenda that the biomass briquettes damage their pots, due to the intensity of the heat. The production and distribution of more appropriate cooking stoves adapted to briquettes is urgent in order to convince beneficiaries to use this source of energy.

## 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 ADED, AFPDE, BVES, EBEN EZER, CARITAS, GEADES, FAO, ICRC, OCHA, PAX CHRISTI, RHA, UNFPA, WAR CHILD HOLLAND, WFP, SVH and WORLD VISION.



*A refugee in charge of the production of briquettes in Lusenda camp shows the stock of his workshop. ©UNHCR 2017 / C.Veale*



## External / Donors Relations

### Donors for the Burundian refugee response in DRC in 2017

Belgium (1.1 M) | United States of America (0.5 M)

### Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (38.4 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 BDI situation](#) - [DRC page for Burundi situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#) - [Story : diner gives Burundian refugee taste of self-reliance](#)