

## UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

17-23 March 2025

Since January, Uganda has seen 31,313 new arrivals following increased violence in eastern DRC in December 2024. Planned peace talks in Luanda, Angola failed due to EU sanctions on some M23 leaders and Rwandan officials. Last week, M23 captured Walikale territory but have indicated that they would withdraw. However, as of yesterday, they were reportedly still in the area. On 18 March, the State of Qatar convened a trilateral meeting between President Kagame of Rwanda and President Tshisekedi of the DRC, where they reaffirmed their collective commitment to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

The total number of new arrivals across the border is 31,313. From that, 20,583 individuals have already been registered. There was an increase of 11 percent in terms of arrivals from last week into Kisoro.

Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,505
February	10,031	7,538
March (as of 23 March)	13,905	8,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,313</b>	<b>20,583</b>

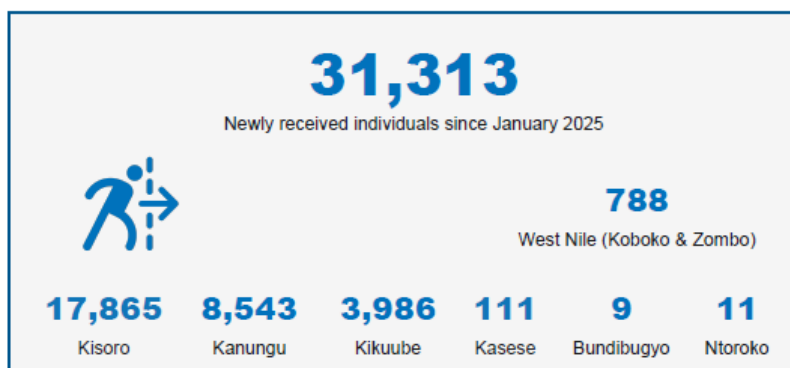
As a comparison, in 2024, Uganda received 5,689 new arrivals for the period of 1 Jan - 23 Mar. This is a 450% increase for the same period in 2025.



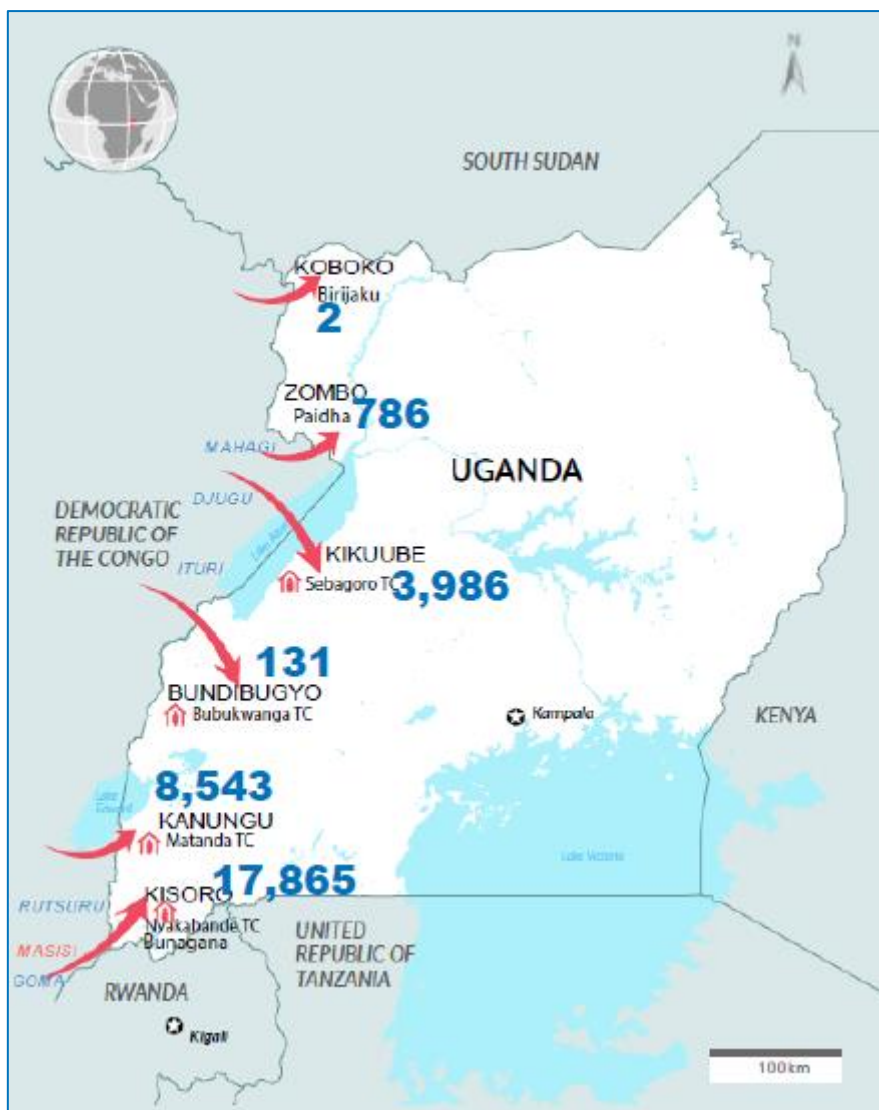
*New arrivals from eastern DRC at Nyakabande Transit Center, Kisoro District. Photo by © UNHCR/Jimmy Ogwang*

### Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC, which are Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 57% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 27% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 13% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.5% via Zombo and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.5% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



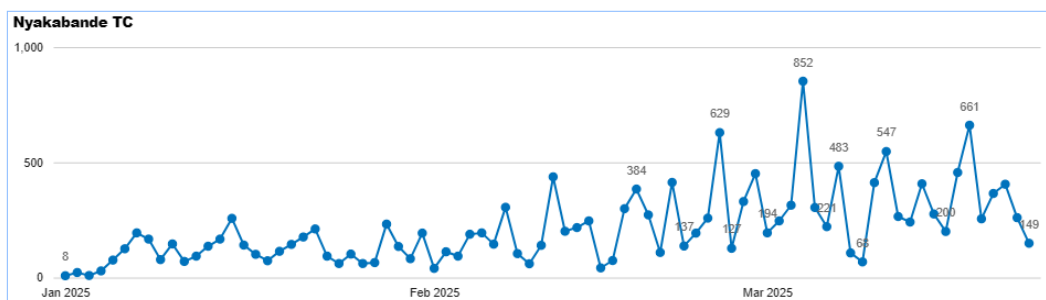
Most arrivals fled from Rutshuru, Masisi, and three communities of Goma, entering through Bunagana border-point, due to armed conflict, looting, rape, killings, hunger, and collapsed social services. Arrivals through Kikuube district mainly came from Joo, Tchomia, and Nyamamba, were fleeing ethnic clashes and human rights abuses, including maiming, killing, and forced conscription into the army, especially for the young men.



**Arrival Trends:**

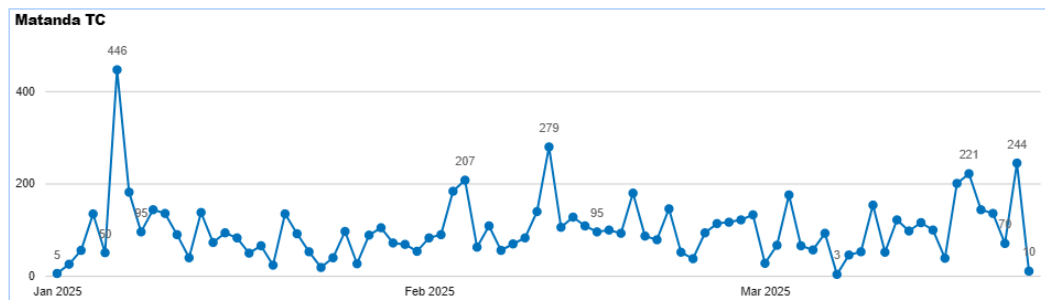
The total number of arrivals from the DRC during the reporting period was 4,106. An overall decrease of 14% compared to the last reporting period. The daily average was 382, while the weekly one was 2,674. At this pace there will be over 10,000 new arrivals this month.

In Nyakabande, 2,684 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 11 per cent higher than from the previous week. The daily average was 213 and weekly one was 1,491. At this pace there will be over 5,900 new arrivals this month.



In Matanda, 1,074 new arrivals were received, a 59% increase from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 100 and weekly one is 700. At this pace there will be about 2,800 new arrivals this month.

There are 2,911 new arrivals (2,753 at Nyakabande TC and 158 at Matanda TC) received from Goma, since its takeover by M23 rebels on 27 January 2025.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 266 during the reporting period, having decreased by 84% from the previous week. Sebagoro has a daily average arrival of 133 individuals. It has been reported that some individuals have not been able to cross Lake Albert due to strong winds, Ok. making it challenging to safely navigate the crossing. Bubukwanga transit centre has relatively low numbers, with the highest daily figure being 37 individuals since the year started.

### Population at Transit Centres:

The total population at the transit centres impacted by the DRC emergency was 15,119 individuals as of 23 March 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Current reporting week ending 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
Nyakabande TC	1,136	5,665	6,698	590% occupancy
Matanda TC	720	2,748	2,997	416% occupancy
Kagoma RC	984	3,048	3,198	325% occupancy
Bubukwanga TC	520	173	252	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	240	62	39	Within capacity

### Response by UNHCR and Partners:

- UNHCR has set up four additional large tents, each measuring 72 square meters, along with 17 family tents, increasing the accommodation capacity from 850 to 2,470 individuals.
- Relocation from Nyakabande and Matanda remained a priority, with 2,724 individuals transferred to the Kabazana reception centre in Nakivale, and 1,934 relocated to the Juru zone in the settlement, as of 19 March 2025.
- Efforts are underway to expedite processing and removal of non-asylum seekers from the reception centre. From 11-14 March, the REC session in Nakivale settlement reviewed pending cases, targeting 1,044 new asylum seekers and 3,414 individuals who missed verification. Of 1,241 individuals (445 households) reviewed, 954 (375 households) were granted asylum, 286 (79 households) rejected, and one individual's case was deferred.

### Challenges:

Severe overcrowding continues in reception and transit centers like Matanda (416%) and Nyakabande (590%), heightening the risk of medical outbreaks and straining resources such as WASH, protection, health, shelter, and nutrition. Overcrowding also increases the risk of gender-based violence against women.

- **Water Supply:** Nyakabande averages 11 liters per person per day, while Matanda averages 7.7 liters.
- **Facilities Gaps:**
  - **Matanda:** 27 bathing facilities and 106 latrine stands short of standards.
  - **Nyakabande:** 116 bathing facilities and 253 latrine stances short of standards.
- **Health Concerns:** In Nyakabande, 20 children were found to be severely malnourished out of 544 children screened. This is higher than the recommended standard of less than 2%. In Matanda, 4 children (3 moderate & 1 severe) were found to be malnourished out of the 196 children screened.

### Immediate Resources Required:

The growing intensity of new arrivals from DRC is overwhelming and has outpaced the available resources.

Sector	Description	Requirement in USD
Protection	Increase registration and documentation capacity  Enhance protection response capacity at transit/reception centres and settlements	1,200,000
WASH	Enhance capacity of WASH services especially in new areas for settling newcomers	500,000
Health	Increase capacity at health facilities to reduce risk of an outbreak.	1,200,000
Logistics	Increase logistics capacity to ensure dignified and timely relocation of asylum seekers from border points through transit/reception centres to settlements.	400,000
NFIs/Shelter	Increase stock of core relief items and make provision for CBI in lieu of some core relief items.	1,500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,700,000</b>