UPDATE ON NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE EASTERN DRC

26 May – 08 June 2025

Since January, Uganda has received 66,521 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), making up the majority of the 111,046 individuals who have entered the country this year. Ongoing clashes between M23 and other armed groups continue to be reported across multiple areas in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces. The protection situation for civilians in Goma city as well as Nyiragongo and Masisi Territory remains extremely precarious.

As of January 2025, Uganda has received a total of 66,521 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with 59,570 individuals already registered. Last week saw a 38% decrease in new arrivals through Kisoro, but an overall 44% decrease compared to the last reporting period. The decline from Kisoro is attributed to increased control by non-state actors along the border and in areas affected by recent conflict and insecurity.

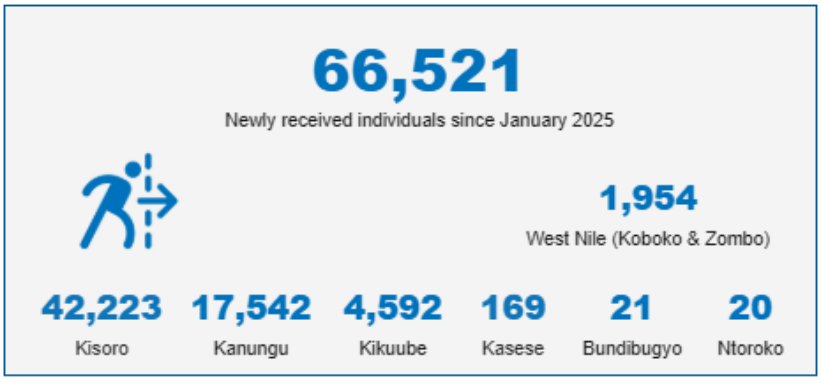
Month	New Arrivals	Registered
January	7,377	4,506
February	10,031	7,524
March	20,572	16,874
April	24,411	22,009
May	3,604	8,176
June (as of 08th)	526	481
Total	**66,521**	**59,570**

During the same period last year (1 January to 08 May 2024), Uganda received 11,974 new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); i.e. 2025 has seen a 456% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

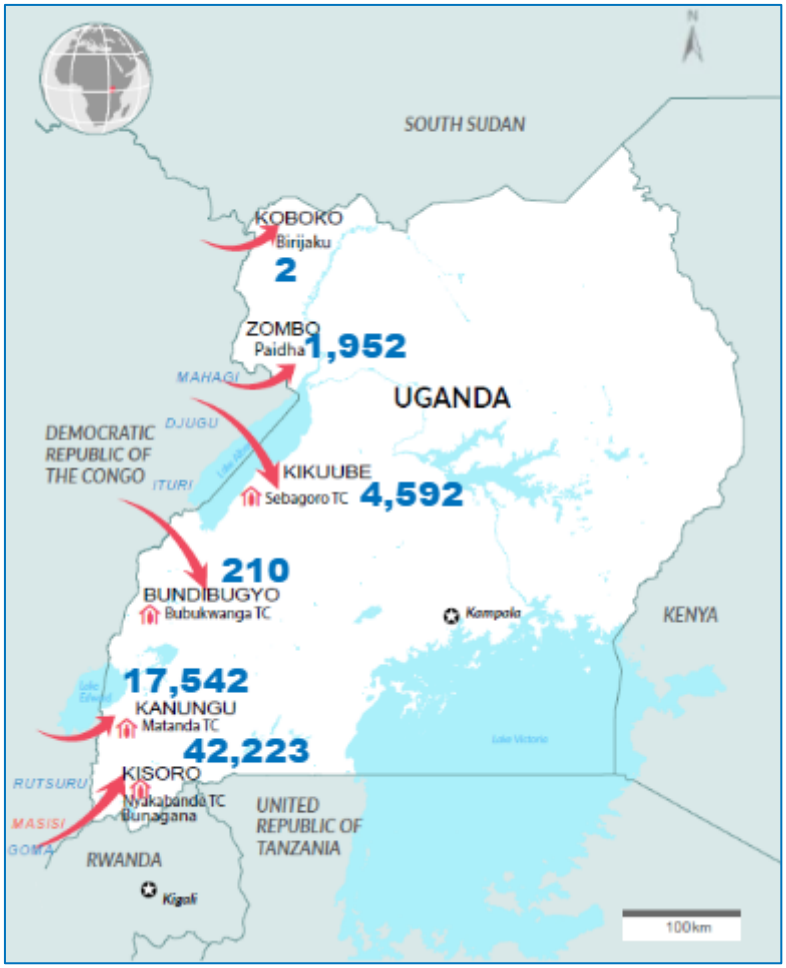
Children participate in a TEAM UP activity at Nyakabande Transit Centre. *Photo ©ALIGHT*

Entry Points:

There are three major entry points for the new arrivals from DRC: Kisoro, Kanungu and Kikuube. Of the arrivals, 63.5% arrived via Kisoro (Bunagana, Nteko, Busanza), 26.3% via Kanungu (Butogota, Kahenyi, Kyeshero), 6.9% via Kikuube (Sebagoro), 2.8% via Zombo, Arua and Koboko (Padha, Birijaku), and 0.5% via Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.



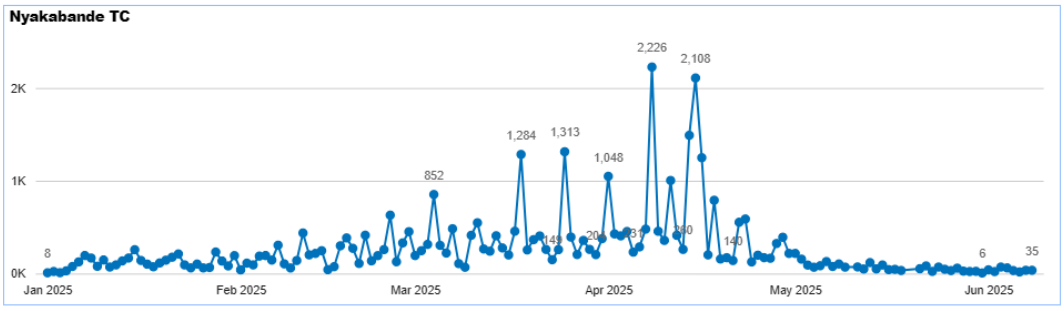
Among the new arrivals from the DRC, nearly 57% are aged 18-59; there is an equal split between men and women. About 40% are below 18, including 33% being children below 12 years. Most of the refugees (48,873) are from North Kivu (Giseguru, Gisahru, Binza, Gisigari, Bweza, Giseguro, Rutchuru, Masisi, and Goma City), Ituri region (Joo, Nyamamba and Tchomia) as well as South Kivu (Bukavu and Uvira). Refugees report they are fleeing due to forced recruitment, rape, kidnapping, hunger, armed civilians, militia, and disrupted social services. The majority of those arriving (92%) have no education and 4% have primary as their highest level of education, with some having a secondary education (2.45%), few university graduates (0.15%) and the rest not stated.



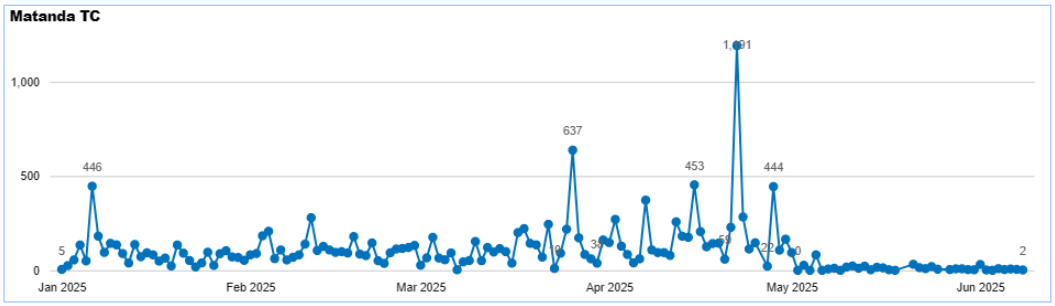
Arrival Trends:

During the reporting period, 926 individuals arrived from the DRC, a 44% overall decrease from the previous period. The daily average for this reporting period was 66, and the weekly average since January was 2,926.

In Nyakabande, 526 forcibly displaced persons were received during the reporting period, 38 per cent lower than from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average was 261 and weekly average was 1,827.



In Matanda, 228 new arrivals were received, a 34 per cent decrease from the previous week. In 2025, the daily average is 104 and weekly is 728.



The number of new arrivals into Sebagoro, Kikuube district stands at 63 during the reporting period, having decreased by 27 per cent from the previous week. Bubukwanga transit centre has relatively low numbers, with the highest daily figure being 39 individuals since the year started.

Population at Transit and Reception Centres:

The total population at the transit and reception centres impacted by the DRC emergency was 3,382 individuals as of 08 June 2025.

Top Locations	Capacity	Population on ground		Status
		Past week ending 25 May	Current reporting week ending 08 June	
Nyakabande TC	1,420	713	1,188	Within capacity
Kabazana RC	1,500	1,669	633	Within capacity
Bubukwanga TC	650	359	543	Within capacity
Kagoma RC	1,230	420	438	Within capacity
Sweswe RC	800	308	276	Within capacity
Matanda TC	900	654	270	Within capacity
Mahani RC	500	29	29	Within capacity
Sebagoro TC	300	15	5	Within capacity

Response by UNHCR and Partners:

Health and Nutrition

Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels among Under Fives (U5) and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW) refugees from DRC remain concerning despite some reduction.

At the transit and reception centers—Nyakabande, Matanda, and Kabazana—there has been some improvement in the nutrition status of children under five. However, the situation remains serious for both children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Current GAM rates are: Nyakabande (12.7% for children, 4.5% for PBW), Matanda (12.3% for children, 20.0% for PBW), and Kabazana (14.6% for children, 27.1% for PBW).

Child Protection:

During the reporting period, partners identified and assessed 28 children with protection concerns (27 in Nyakabande and 1 in Matanda Transit Centres). The most pressing concerns were identified as alternative care, medical services, tracing, material support and case-management.

In Nakivale settlement, the number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) continues to increase due to the influx of new arrivals, family separation cases, and a growing trend of caregivers leaving the settlement in search of livelihood opportunities. Some children are left behind without adequate care and protection, thus increasing their vulnerability. UNHCR in coordination with child protection partners have been mobilized to provide support to the most critical cases.

WASH and Sanitation:

At the Nyakabande transit centre, the total quantity of water available per person per day was 20 litres, while Matanda transit centre had 156 litres per person per day (l/p/d); this exceeds the emergency thresholds and has been achieved due to the decrease in population at both Transit Centres. The receiving zones in Nakivale refugee settlement have low water supply of 7 lpd in Juru and 6 lpd in Rubondo zones, with an overall average of 10 lpd. They are far below the emergency standard of 15 lpd.

At Nyakabande Transit Centre, the latrine stance ratio was 1:55 individuals, while at Matanda Transit Centre it was 1:13. This is within the standard ratio of 1:50. There was a 4% decrease in the number of individuals per stance compared to the previous week which was 1:81.

Critical Gaps in the DRC Emergency

- Additional funding is urgently needed to support the **treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**, which is currently limited to transit and reception centres. Once children leave these centres, there is no continuity of care within the settlements. To reinstate and expand this support, more nutrition commodities and trained personnel are required.
- **Support** to increase health and education of staff in settlements receiving new arrivals.
- **Purchase and distribution** of in-kind Core Relief Items for new arrivals at the transit centre and support to provide cash assistance for new arrival packages upon relocation to the settlement.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US$2.5 million to enable three UN Agencies – UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF continue to deliver critical services such as food, nutrition, water, medical care, and protection for refugees in their first two weeks of arrival. The response will focus on Uganda's overstretched transit and reception centers in Kabazana, Nyakabande, and Matanda, in the Southwest sub-region.

The EMERGENCY APPEAL: DRC Refugee Situation in Uganda - April 2025, covering the needs of 80,000 new arrivals has been issued. It requires $21M in additional funding and $23M reprogrammed under the UCRRP, involving 7 UN agencies, 15 International NGOs, and 2 National NGOs.