

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON BURUNDIAN INFLUX

8 – 15 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

5,817 (as of 14 April)

Burundian Asylum Seekers have crossed into Rwanda.

Further breakdown of the above figure:

4,341

Asylum seekers in Bugesera Reception Center.

1,476

Asylum seekers in Nyanza Reception Center.

61%

Of the new arrivals are children.

PRIORITIES

- Identification of appropriate sites for reception and/or transit, as well as possible new camp
- Biometric registration to be expanded to Nyanza next week
- Urgent need for additional hand-washing facilities, toilets and showers
- Distribution of condoms, sanitary pads, clean clothes and mosquito nets

- A delegation of Burundian authorities scheduled to arrive in Rwanda on 15th April has been postponed. The Governor of Kirundo Province and civil servants from different ministries were expected to visit Bugesera reception center. UNHCR has been assured by its counterpart, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) that such visits will not lead to refolement of refugees and that Rwanda will assume its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the 1951 Convention. More detail will be provided in the next weekly bulletin.

- On 14 April, representatives of the U.S. Embassy, DFID, the British High Commission and Consul, and the Embassy of Belgium *(pictured left-right)* visited Bugesera



reception center where 4,341 refugees from Burundi are currently accommodated. During the mission, led by UNHCR, the delegation visited ongoing construction of hangars and shelters, communal cooking stations, WASH facilities and the distribution center, being conducted by UNHCR and MIDIMAR, with partners. In addition, the group traveled to Kamabuye sector, where asylum seekers crossing into Rwanda are initially received before being relocated to the reception center. There, new arrivals gave their testimonies of escaping violence and intimidation from the “Imbonerakure” in Burundi which led them to flee to Rwanda. At the end of the visit, the UK representative presented a donation of clothing for the asylum seekers in Bugesera reception center.

- On 13 April, “President Paul Kagame received the Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza in Huye Town in the Southern Province of Rwanda. The two presidents discussed Burundi’s political turmoil and insecurity concerns that has [sic] caused an influx of Burundian refugees to Rwanda.” **(News of Rwanda)**
- “Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza reportedly called for the repatriation of Burundian citizens who have fled to Rwanda since March, urging them to return to Burundi within one month.” **(The East African)**
- On 13 April, UNHCR and MIDIMAR led the second emergency coordination meeting to evaluate the situation and response provided by different humanitarian agencies. UNHCR partners (ARC, ADRA, WV, Plan International,

PAJER and AHA, ICRC and the Rwanda Red Cross) as well as UN Agencies (UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA) attended the session that was chaired by UNHCR Representative, Mr. Saber Azam. The Government was requested to urgently allocate land in order to relocate new arrivals from the reception centers in Bugesera and Nyanza that have become overcrowded. Another major concern is the presence of some 125 unaccompanied and separated children identified so far, which will require much closer cooperation between UNHCR and ICRC. Due to the sharp increase in new arrivals in the reception centers, it was agreed to hold daily coordination meetings in the field under the leadership of MIDIMAR and UNHCR.

- On 11 April, Maria Håkansson, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Sweden, made a spontaneous visit to Bugesera reception center (*pictured right*). She was accompanied by UNHCR staff and the MIDIMAR camp manager and proceeded to visit the construction of shelters, the communal cooking station, ongoing distribution and the health centers. Asylum seekers had the chance to express their reasons of leaving Burundi and fears of returning.
- In response to a request by MIDIMAR, a rapid assessment was conducted jointly by UNHCR and partners on Wednesday 8 April in order to determine the suitability of Rukomo as a future camp to accommodate the Burundian asylum seekers, and it was determined that the current area would not be sufficient for the ever increasing number of refugees. Recommendations of the assessment mission have been shared with MIDIMAR and a decision is expected to be announced by the Government on 15 April when the UNHCR Representative will meet the Honorable Minister of MIDIMAR.
- On 8 April, biometric registration began in Bugesera reception center. Registration is still ongoing, however, due to the sharp increase in arrivals and gap of human resources, reducing the backlog has proved to be challenging. Biometric registration in Nyanza will start next week.
- Daily (Bugesera and Nyanza) and weekly (Kigali) coordination meetings with partners will continue. UNHCR welcomes the participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the emergency response to assist particularly in family tracing and reunification.
- As many asylum seekers are arriving with very few belongings and are in need of extra clothing (*see photo below*), UNHCR has informally requested partners to collect and donate used clothing, especially children's clothing. Distribution will commence next week.



PROTECTION (INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION AND SGBV)

Ongoing Response:

- Biometric registration is ongoing for all new arrivals
- Identification of children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children
- Mapping of Child Protection (CP) & SGBV referral points
- Development of alternative care options
- Development of temporary child friendly spaces with support of child/youth committees
- Family tracing and reunification efforts are underway.



UNHCR staff guiding new arrivals in Bugesera reception center to the registration center. @UNHCR/E. Fitzpatrick

RESPONSE PROVIDED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Primary Health Care (in both reception centers):

- Community-level health response is being provided
- Mosquito nets supplied to both centers and being distributed
- Fumigation of reception centers ongoing
- Primary health care services are provided at reception center health posts
- Essential medicines are supplied
- Referral mechanism has been established
- General coordination meetings are ongoing including health and nutrition
- UNHCR is coordinating with WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to consolidate the response, and a technical coordination meeting (health and nutrition) is scheduled for 15 April
- Health sector minimal data collection is in place
- Regular coordination with WASH sector is maintained



First baby born to mother in Nyanza reception center (10th April). Delivery occurred at nearby government health center. Both mother and child are doing well.

Reproductive health:

- **Bugesera:** 152 lactating mothers and 92 pregnant women were identified during screening. One delivery occurred in the reporting period. 100% institutional delivery rate was maintained.
- **Nyanza:** 20 pregnant women identified during screening and 2 deliveries occurred in the reporting period. 100% institutional deliveries maintained.

Shelter:

- **Bugesera:** construction of 4 hangars is ongoing; three are already in use.
- **Nyanza:** construction of 3 hangars has commenced and one is in use already.

WASH (in both reception centers):

- 16 L of water per person per day is being provided while the minimum standard in an emergency is 15L.
- Urgent needs for 35 water stands to reduce distance of travel to fetch water.
- 64 hygiene promoters have been identified and trained.
- 71 latrines have been provided, but there remains a current gap of 64 latrines to be provided.

Food:

- High energy biscuits are being provided by WFP to new arrivals.
- Communal cooking and hot meal distribution is ongoing. Asylum seekers are provided with 2 hot meals per day.

Non-food Items:

- Distribution of jerry-cans, soap, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, blankets and mosquito nets are ongoing.

Thanks to our partners:



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