

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

June 2017

## Highlights

- Asylum seekers remained outside UNHCR hosting structures due to lack of space. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, approximately 372 asylum seekers camped outside the transit centre of Kavimvira (341 individuals) and the gathering point of Sange (31 individuals).
- A mission visited Mulongwe site (near Baraka, Fizi Territory, Sud Kivu) in June in order to start preparations for clearing and parcelling out the land. The planning of the Mulongwe site has been submitted to all actors involved to be discussed and finalised. Subsequently, access to the site was restricted due to the conflicts taking place in the zone since 29<sup>th</sup> June, and the preparations are on hold until the security situation improves.
- During the month of June, **219 people were relocated to Lusenda refugee camp**, and were hosted upon arrival in the two temporary dormitories recently built in Katungulu I.
- World Refugee Day**, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June was celebrated in Lusenda Camp, under the theme #WithRefugees, bringing together refugees, humanitarian actors, local populations and local authorities through theatre, traditional dancing and football matches.

## KEY INDICATORS

**40,015**

**Burundian refugees** (12,885 households), are **registered** in the DRC on 30 June 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.

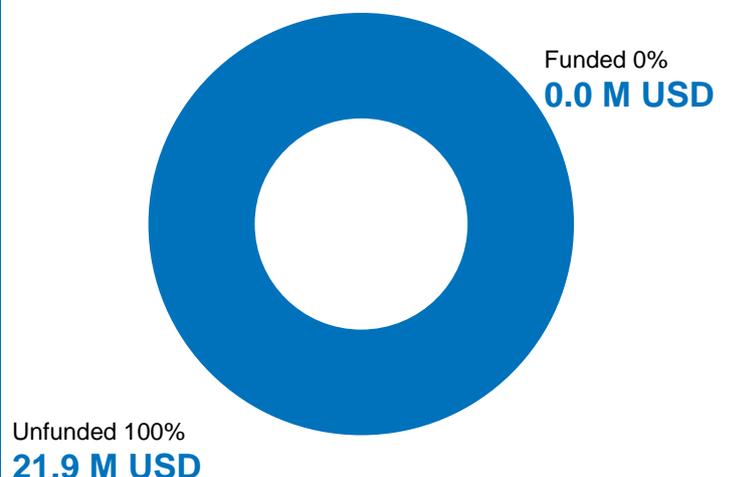
**30,036**

Burundian refugees (9,043 households), **live in Lusenda Refugee Camp**, as of 30 June 2017.

## FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2017)

**USD 21.9 M**

requested for the DRC - Burundi situation



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

- In the town of Bukavu, there has been a resurgence of kidnappings for ransoms with several incidents reported during the month.
- The precarious security situation in the southern part of South-Kivu, with persistent crime and effective presence of armed groups, sometimes in the vicinity of the asylum seekers transit centres and/or camps, affect humanitarian workers and beneficiaries, and remains an important concern for UNHCR operations. This month, the discovery of a cache close to Monge Monge transit centre, an ambush on the road to Sange assembly point and a failed planned attack on Uvira Central Prison, affected UNHCR operations.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> June, approximately 250 Burundian refugees residing in the Monge Monge Transit Centre decided to walk to the Lusenda Camp without the previous approval of the CNR or the UNHCR. After negotiations over several days, the UNHCR staff succeeded in bringing this group back to Monge Monge and promised to look into improving conditions at the centre.
- Since the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, the territory of Fizi has been marked by the onslaught of a MaiMai militia led coalition on key FARDC positions. At the time of the compilation of this report, FARDC was leading a counteroffensive to regain control of the lost ground. The UN has suspended movements in parts of the territories of Fizi and Uvira.



*A mother and her child sit down for a meal of fufu and beans at the gathering point of Sange. © UNHCR / C.Veale*

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 219 people (60 households), were relocated from the Sange assembly point to Lusenda refugee camp, and were hosted upon arrival in the two temporary dormitories recently built in Katungulu I.
- 869 households of 3,358 refugees lived in reception structures of Lusenda, Katungulu I, the transit centres of Kavimvira and Mongemonge, as well as the gathering point of Sange. Relocating refugees in individual shelters is currently difficult due to the lack of shelters, as the Lusenda camp is full.
- 5 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases were recorded this month in Lusenda camp, including 2 cases of rape (one on a minor), both of which were referred to the relevant structures within 72 hours for medical treatment and psychosocial support. The three other SGBV cases included a physical aggression which was referred for psychosocial support, and 2 cases of child marriages with early pregnancies. The two young girls were returned to their parents and followed medical treatment.
- The Best Interest Determination (BID) jury collaborated to find the family of an unaccompanied child of the camp in Burundi. The family reunification will be facilitated shortly. Furthermore, the BID jury made a decision about a child at risk, to facilitate the search for the child's grandparents through the ICRC.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees stay for long periods of time in common dorms which does not ensure proper privacy. Also, assistance provided in transit structures in terms of healthcare, sanitation and food is conceived for short periods of time, not for prolonged stay, which increase discomfort.



### EDUCATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- At the end of June, 59 Burundian refugee students took part in state exams. The results, which will determine whether or not they are eligible for further study, will be published at the beginning of July.
- In the last days of June, the NGO Pax Christi organised a football tournament for the children from primary schools of Lusenda camp. After the tournament, each school received an envelope of 80,000 Congolese Francs which will allow them to financially cover basic needs for the running of the schools.

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

- A vaccination campaign for children between 6 months and 15 years has been programmed for the beginning of July by partner ADES, with the support of MSF Holland to fight measles epidemic that is plaguing the Health Zone covering Lusenda camp since the beginning of June. In total, 84 cases of measles were identified and referred to Lusenda health post through the community mediators actively going shelter by shelter. ADES has collaborated with chief doctors from the Health Zones of Nundu, Uvira and Sange to implement rapid responses to address the situation. These measures include briefing community mediators on the clinical and community aspects of measles, and improved surveillance in the transit centres of Kavimvira and Sange.
- 3,890 medical consultations (for 1,736 men and 2,154 women) were carried out by medical partner ADES at Lusenda Health Post during the month of June. The most frequent diseases were malaria (47%), respiratory infections (21.5%) and intestinal parasites (9%), as well as watery diarrhoeas (3%).
- 2,322 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.
- 16,678 people followed prevention campaigns against measles.
- 21,847 people followed awareness campaigns against HIV/AIDS and 17,442 male condoms were distributed in Lusenda camp.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- The June food fair was held at Lusenda Camp from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, for which 29,650 vouchers were distributed to refugees to purchase the food of their choice.
- The UNHCR, AIRD and CNR organised an inspection of the distribution lists of beneficiaries for the fair, after several irregularities were observed. An investigation is on-going.
- The UNHCR and the WFP discussed the new distribution approach which would be adopted from July 2017. The WFP intends to replace the paper vouchers with electronic cards, to give refugees more freedom to buy food supplies during the whole course of the month. The WFP will take the necessary logistical measures to ensure suppliers have enough stock for a full month.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Achievements and Impact

- The construction of two blocks of 12 latrines in Katungulu III and one bloc of four latrines in Katungulu I were finalised.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, four liners of 70m<sup>3</sup>, as well as a ton of aluminium sulphate arrived at Lusenda camp to replace the tank liners that were deteriorating. However, the liner of the 70m<sup>3</sup> tank in Lusenda collapsed more than a week before the new liners arrived, which affected the water distribution in the camp. The process to rehabilitate the base and to set-up the new liners was ongoing at the time of the compilation of this report. In the meantime, the water network of Lusenda is connected to the water tank in Lulinda, as a temporary measure, and distribution is being done during specific schedules (water distribution 3 hours a day in Lusenda, and 3 hours a day in Lulinda), as it is no longer possible to provide everyone with water at the same time. Current water consumption in the camp is of 9,6 litres/person/day.
- A mission visited the transit centre of MongeMonge to suggest solutions to the water problem in the centre. A quote to build three 3000L tanks was submitted.
- In the gathering point of Sange, a canal for sewage disposal, as well as a soak pit to collect water and a construction to protect the bladder was built.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

### Achievements and Impact

- 219 refugees were relocated to Lusenda refugee camp, to the two temporary dormitories in Katungulu I, which were finalised in May. Four more temporary in Katungulu III are ready to receive refugees, but the relocation has been paused due to health risks linked to the measles epidemic.
- Two new storerooms for kitchen utensils were built in Katungulu III and Katungulu I.
- A mission visited Mulongwe site in June in order to start preparations for clearing and parcelling out the land. The planning of the Mulongwe site has been submitted to all actors involved to be discussed and finalised. Currently, access to the site is restricted due to the conflicts taking place in the zone since 29<sup>th</sup> June, and the preparations are on hold until the security situation improves.



## ACCESS TO ENERGY

### Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR raised awareness amongst organisations working on the reforestation of Lusenda and its surrounding areas, on the necessity to implement monitoring of environmental protection in that zone. A roadmap establishing each organisation's responsibilities was established. This initiative is important for the peaceful coexistence of refugees and locals, who blame the deforestation of their region on refugees.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- An evaluation of the current domestic lighting situation took place at Lusenda. 8,269 households or 24,920 refugees received solar lamps since the opening of the camp (144 convoys out of 161 who were transferred to the camp). 774 households of 5,166 people didn't receive any form of lighting due to lack of stock. Moreover, according to interviewed residents, the lamps received in 2015 during the opening of the camp no longer work. Currently, domestic lighting is ensured by lamps bought at the local market, but households remain poorly lit. Furthermore, public spaces such as the reception centre are not well lit.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

### Achievements and Impact

- Focus group discussions (FGD) with refugees are ongoing to review the main community structures (child protection, SGBV) and leadership in Lusenda camp. The topics of accountability and communication with UNHCR and partners were also included in these discussions. These discussions highlighted a need to clarify the roles of the existing structures and improve communication about the committees in the camp, as a significant number of refugees don't know about their existence. The need to improve access to information about the work, services and limits of partners in the camp was also noted. Participants of the FGDs value this process that enables them to express their opinions and formulate suggestions in view of greater community participation.

## 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 UNHCR's Burundian refugee response in 2017

No contributions earmarked for the Burundi response have been received.

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

United States of America (28.4 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (08.M) | Canada (0.7 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) | 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](#)