

17 May 2015

## KEY FIGURES

**111,703**

Number of Burundian refugees who have sought asylum in neighboring countries since the beginning of April 2015

**76,520**

Refugees in Tanzania (17 May)

**26,000**

Refugees in Rwanda (14 May)

**9,183**

Refugees in DRC (14 May)

## PRIORITIES

- Relocation of refugees to safety from border areas
- Preparation of refugee sites allocated by governments of host countries
- Life-saving emergency protection and assistance interventions including in the sectors of registration, shelter, domestic items, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, health.
- Identification and protection of children including family tracing, family reunification and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children.
- Prepositioning of relief items for anticipated mass outflows into neighboring countries

## Highlights

- The UN refugee agency is taking urgent measures, in collaboration with authorities in Tanzania, to contain the spread of a severe watery diarrhoea outbreak among newly arrived Burundian refugees.
- Seven people have been reported dead since Wednesday. Two specimens have preliminarily been diagnosed as cholera, but we are awaiting official confirmation from a reference laboratory.
- Over 100 Burundians in Nyarugusu - in the western province of Kigoma - are being treated for severe watery diarrhoea. Another 300 people are being treated for watery diarrhoea at Kagunga – near the Tanzanian border - and at the Stadium in Kigoma. Numbers could rise.
- There is ongoing environmental sanitation, hygiene, and health education in Nyarugusu focusing on cholera prevention. Active case surveillance is underway to ensure early detection of patients, which is crucial.

### Burundian refugees in Tanzania (17 May 2015)

#### NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMP

• Registered	14,838
• Not registered	7,455
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>22,293</b>
<b>REPORTED/NOT REGISTERED</b>	
• On the way to Nyarugusu from Kagunga and other villages	4,191
• Kigoma-Kaguga island	50,000
• Present in Ngara district	34
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>54,227</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>76,520</b>

### Burundian refugees in DRC (14 May 2015)

• Living with host families	8,308
• Kavimvira transit centre	731
• Sange reception centre	139
• Monge Monge reception centre	5
• TOTAL	<b>9,183</b>

#### For more information, please contact:

**RWANDA:** Martina Pomeroy, [pomeroy@unhcr.org](mailto:pomeroy@unhcr.org) OR Erika Fitzpatrick, [fitzpat@unhcr.org](mailto:fitzpat@unhcr.org)

**DRC:** Celine Schmitt, [schmitt@unhcr.org](mailto:schmitt@unhcr.org) OR Chiara Cavalcanti, [cavalcanti@unhcr.org](mailto:cavalcanti@unhcr.org)

**GENEVA:** Karin de Gruijl, [degruijl@unhcr.org](mailto:degruijl@unhcr.org)

## Operational Context

- UNHCR Representative in Tanzania, Joyce Mends-Cole, has said the priority is to work with the Ministry of Health and international partners to prepare for the worst and quickly establish a cholera treatment centre in Kagunga as a precautionary measure. She noted that there is only a small dispensary in that village, lacking required diagnostics and treatment modalities - including medication.
- UNHCR is also flying in urgently needed medication, to supplement what can be found locally, and is taking urgent preventative measures to improve sanitation, hygiene and early detection, as well as a hygiene promotion information campaign.
- Efforts have been stepped up to expedite movement of refugees out of Kagunga, such as by hiring a second boat and collaborating with regional authorities and the International Organization for Migration to support the clearing of a path and the setting up of a way station along a mountain track that would allow refugees to leave Kagunga on foot rather than be stranded across the lake.
- Soap, 25 bales of *kangas*, and 10 rolls of plastic sheeting were received by the UNHCR Kagunga team to ease the situation of asylum seekers.
- Lake Tanganyika Stadium transit center in Kigoma is now operational. Asylum seekers are being shuttled from the ship to the center as they arrive in Kigoma. There were some 3500 asylum seekers staying at the stadium as of Sunday morning, with 1,500 schedule to be transported to Nyarugusu Camp the same day, even as the two boats were expected to bring more passengers from Kagunga.

## Protection

- Challenges and priorities:
  - Intra-camp tracing is a challenge because the population is moving from one center to another in the camp
  - Data reconciliation between family tracing and child protection partners.
  - Need to prioritize the tracing of relatives of separated elderly persons.
  - Strengthen community support to ensure that all persons with special needs in reception centers are assisted to receive NFIs, food and shelter.
  - Need to recruit additional staff to undertake family tracing.
  - Need for information desks at all centers
  - Lack of NFI for children (especially shoes and clothes and sanitary materials)

## Health

- The Ministry of Health is mobilizing cholera treatment supplies from their stockpiles in Dar-es-Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza.
- UNHCR is sending cholera treatment supplies enough to treat 200 persons by the UNHCR aircraft on 18 May. UNHCR is buying additional supplies from Dar-es-Salaam to send by road.
- Tanzania Red Cross Society is providing case management at the treatment centers and reception centers for new arrivals, including immediate referral as needed. So far, TRCS has all the medicines and supplies needed to deal with the outbreak. However, more supplies are needed to cope with the increasing number of patients. TRCS continues to be present to conduct medical screening whenever new asylum seekers arrive in the camp. TRCS is also routinely monitoring the various reception areas for health issues.
- MSF-Belgium is sending a team from Burundi to respond to the outbreak. They will arrive in Kigoma tomorrow. UNHCR is facilitating their entry using Manyovu border entry point.
- The health condition of asylum seekers arriving in Ngara is generally good. However, transportation capacity to relocate people to Nyarugusu camp is a continuing challenge.