

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 2

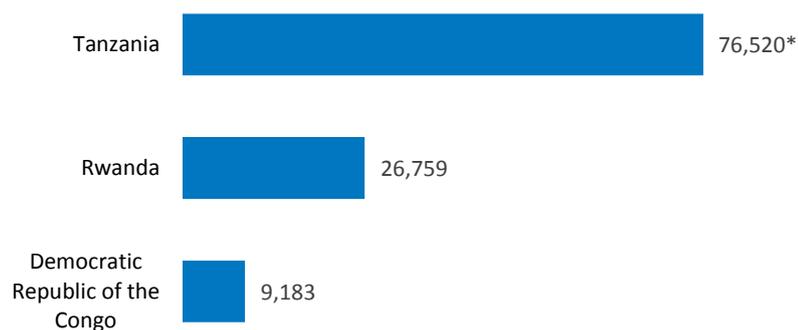
18 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 112,000 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived in the neighbouring countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda since the beginning of April 2015. This indicates an increase of over 60,000 new arrivals in the past ten days.
- In Tanzania, the number of new arrivals has risen dramatically over the past few days with local immigration authorities reporting that over 50,000 Burundians are in Kagunga, a peninsula on the shore of Lake Tanganyika.
- The coup attempt on 13 May in Bujumbura, whilst President Pierre Nkurunziza was in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, was thwarted by troops loyal to the Government. The 13th Extra Ordinary Summit of the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State sought to identify ways to resolve the current crisis in Burundi. It was, however, overshadowed by events in the country. The situation in Burundi remains tense with sporadic outbursts of violence.

Population of concern

A total of **112,462** people of concern



**This includes 61,682 newly arrived Burundians reported by local immigration officials in Tanzania but not yet registered by UNHCR.*

KEY FIGURES

112,462

New Burundian refugees in the neighbouring countries since the beginning of April 2015

21,543

Refugees in Mahama camp in Rwanda (17 May)

22,293

Refugees in Nyaragusu camp in Tanzania (17 May)

PRIORITIES

- Relocation of refugees to safety away from border areas.
- Preparation of refugee sites allocated by governments of host countries.
- Life-saving multi-sector emergency protection and assistance interventions.
- 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 influxes to neighbouring countries.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

- The DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania have continued to experience flows of people from Burundi. Refugees and asylum seekers cite intimidation, threats and/or fear of violence linked to the upcoming political elections as reasons for fleeing, amid reports of violence and intimidation carried out by the youth groups aligned to political affiliations. With the recent failed coup attempt and possible repercussions against those suspected to have been involved, it is possible that more outflows could be registered.
- The Regional Representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA and WFP met in Nairobi on 11 May and agreed to develop a Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) in order to respond to the influx of Burundian refugees into the DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania. The plan, due to be released this month, will cover an initial period of six months, April - September 2015.

Protection

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

RWANDA

- The number of new arrivals has reached 26,759 with the majority relocated to Mahama camp (21,543 as of 17 May). The arrival rate has decreased over the past few weeks. According to those who have managed to reach Rwanda, they have faced difficulty leaving Burundi due to various roadblocks and checkpoints.
- UNHCR is conducting biometric registration of new arrivals in Mahama refugee camp and level 1 registration in the two reception centres of Nyanza and Bugesera.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- The number of new arrivals has reached 9,183 as of 17 May. Burundians are entering primarily through Fizi in South Kivu, with over half the population originating from Cibitoke province. No major movement across the border has been observed since the attempted coup.
- The majority are being hosted by Burundian refugee families who have been in South Kivu for many years.
- On 9 May UNHCR started biometric registration of refugees in collaboration with the Government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR). Mobile registration teams are currently in the areas of Kamanyola and Sange (Uvira territory).
- The Government has determined a location site next to the village of Luzenda (Mboko), where refugees will be transferred. Assistance will be provided to refugees and the host community by helping improve existing schools, health centres.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- Two ships are transferring refugees from Kagunga to Kigoma after which they will be relocated to Nyragusu refugee camp. As of 17 May, there were 22,293 new arrivals in Nyarugusu camp.
- On 14 May, Lake Tanganyika Stadium transit centre became operational. A total 640 refugees from Kagunga will spend two nights there before being transferred to Nyrugusu.
- UNHCR has established a reception centre in Lumasi for new arrivals in the Kagera region.
- On 12 May UNHCR started biometric (level 2) registration of all new arrivals in Nyarugusu camp.



UNHCR assists a child board one of the small fishing boats used to ferry refugees to a ship that will then transport them to Kigoma.
UNHCR/T. W. Monboe

 Health

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

RWANDA

- UNHCR distributes mosquito nets to all families in reception centres, which they then take to Mahama camp. The majority of consultations are malaria-related, followed by respiratory diseases. UNHCR distributes nets on-site to the small numbers of refugees who are brought directly from border districts to the camp.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- New arrivals in Kavimvira and Sange transit centres with critical health conditions have been referred to local health structures.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- A severe watery diarrhea outbreak has been reported among newly arrived Burundian refugees in Tanzania and seven people reported dead since 13 May. Two specimens have preliminarily been diagnosed as cholera, however, official confirmation from a reference laboratory is being awaited. UNHCR and health authorities in Tanzania are taking urgent measures to contain the spread. A cholera treatment centre in Kagunga is being established.

 Food Security and Nutrition

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

RWANDA

- Latest information states that there are 220 new arrivals suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and receiving ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF). There are also 480 people with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) receiving supplements twice a day.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- WFP is to provide food to refugees in host families. Distribution will start in the next days.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- WFP has begun to provide food to families registered in Nyarugusu Camp.



A young child in Kagunga waiting to be transferred to Kigoma and then onwards to Nyarugusu camp. UNHCR/ T. W. Monboe

 Water and Sanitation

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

RWANDA

- In Mahama camp, as of 17 May, 560 latrines had been constructed (37 refugees per latrine) as well as 349 showers (60 refugees per shower). Refugees are receiving 12 litres per person per day, below the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- MONUSCO is providing 5,000 litres of water at the transit centre in Kavimvira for 731 refugees (18.4 l/p/d). So far 21 latrines and 21 showers have been constructed.
- In the Regrouping Centre of Sange, 2,000l of water is being provided to 139 people (20,4 l/p/d). Two shower blocs and 3 latrine blocs are available.

Shelter and NFIs

RWANDA

Achievements and Impact

- So far, 2,839 tents have been erected. There are currently 22 communal shelters that have been constructed with a capacity of 100 people each.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- In Kavimvira transit centre, 12 dormitories (9 for women and 3 for men) have been constructed.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The provision of shelter is a challenge in Nyarugusu camp as new arrivals arrive daily in large numbers.
- In Nyarugusu, new arrivals are presently staying in 15 areas serving as temporary reception centres. Five additional generators are being procured to assist with lighting temporary reception centres at night.
- A shelter area consisting of 4 blocks has been developed. All 220 shelters are now in the final stages of construction. Some shelters are already occupied. A trench is being dug to pipe water to the area. Communal latrines and bathing structures are also under construction.



A mother rests with her children on the shore of Lake Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo after a grueling 22-hour boat journey to reach safety. UNHCR/F. Scoppa

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