

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

No. 0017

5 June 2015

KEY FIGURES

96,720

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

51,603

Refugees in Tanzania (1 June)

29,117

Refugees in Rwanda (2 June)

10,000

Refugees in DRC (5 June)

6,000

Refugees in Uganda (28 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 Government of Burundi announced the postponement of general elections and there are discussions and negotiations within the political parties.
- In Burundi, UNHCR is receiving a lot of requests from urban refugees to be relocated to camps. Like Burundian nationals, urban refugees are moving for security reasons as well as loss of livelihood opportunities.
- In neighboring countries the rate of arrival of Burundian asylum seekers has reduced significantly amid continuing claims of people being prevented from leaving Burundi. Reasons for flight remain mainly intimidation and fear of arrest.
- **Tanzania:** UNHCR has a mobile team conducting visits to Kagunga every other day, and maintaining daily remote contact with various stakeholders to ensure systematic access to information on new arrivals. UNHCR has secured a location near Kagunga to serve as a reception facility for Burundian new arrivals.
- **Rwanda:** The Government has allocated an additional 50,000-capacity for refugees who continue to arrive at an average rate of 200 per day. About 80% of new arrivals have been registered by UNHCR.
- **Dem. Republic of Congo:** About 10,000 refugees registered so far including a group of 110 persons who arrived in Lubumbashi over the last few days. 800 refugees have so far been relocated to Lusenda Refugee camp.
- **Zambia:** secondary movements of Burundian Refugees through Tanzania are reported and need to be verified.
- In Tanzania, no cholera/acute watery diarrhea-related death has been reported since 19 May, and high vigilance, sustained health, WASH and control measures and hygiene promotion activities are continuing.



For more information, please contact:

DRC: Celine Schmitt, schmitt@unhcr.org

RWANDA: Martina Pomeroy, pomeroy@unhcr.org or Erika Fitzpatrick, fitzpat@unhcr.org

TANZANIA: Stephen Mhando, mhando@unhcr.org

UGANDA: Charles Yaxley, yaxley@unhcr.org

NAIROBI (Regional): Teresa Ongaro, ongaro@unhcr.org

GENEVA: Karin de Gruijl, degruijl@unhcr.org

Operational Context

- **Dem. Republic of Congo:** Following deliberations between UNHCR Regional Representative and the Vice Prime Minister the Government has accepted to grant temporary status to newly-arrived Burundian refugees. National security considerations, notably the presence of FDLR in the areas hosting new arrivals, constitute a serious concern for the DRC Government.
- **Tanzania:** Nyarugusu camp has reached capacity with well over its 40,000 person limit. Negotiations with the Government for a new site are ongoing. Meanwhile, tensions are growing among longer-staying refugees of Congolese origin in Nyarugusu amid perceptions that new arrivals are receiving more attention. Open communication is being encouraged about services and distribution of essentials to ensure cohesiveness between the two communities and mitigate such tensions.

Protection

- **Tanzania:** According to UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan International a total of 1,133 unaccompanied and separated children, (366 separated and 767 unaccompanied children) were identified and registered. Child protection/education working groups have started in Nyarugusu. IRC will implement non-formal education funded by UNICEF incorporating basic education, peace education, life skills and recreational activities. Plan International will implement early childhood education through Child Friendly Spaces.
- **Rwanda:** A key protection challenge is the high number of unaccompanied minors; about 400 have been registered. SGVB cases are also a concern. UNHCR has established referral pathways for SGBV which are currently implemented in both reception centers and in Mahama camp. Thus far 23 SGBV cases have been identified and assisted by different actors. Plan International has conducted community awareness sessions in Mahama on SGBV prevention and reporting, gender equality and services provided by partners. The Salvation Army Rwanda donated 1,078 new pairs of children's shoes; ADRA transported them from Kigali while SAR is collaborating with Plan International to identify children who are most in need of shoes. 300 members of various refugee community groups are involved in a sensitization campaign on the life in Mahama camp.

Health

- **Tanzania:** UNHCR has arranged for shipment of nets and medicines in the coming weeks to supplement existing supplies for prevention/treatment of diseases like malaria, respiratory tract infection, etc. A health team including a Ministry of Health representative from the visited the site. Discussions are being finalized with MSF-B and IRC on possible transfer of services to the new site.
- **Rwanda:** In Mahama camp, the health center is treating an average of 1,500 cases per week. There have been 67 births to date and pregnant women receive antenatal care at the health centre. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates have significantly reduced since the onset of the emergency from 30%-14%. Moderate and severe acute malnutrition programmes are running with support from UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, ARC and AHA. UNFPA has contributed 6,500 condoms for refugees, as well as dignity kits to assist women give birth, and post-rape treatment kits. 350 community health workers have been identified and are ready to receive training from the Ministry of Health.

Water and Sanitation

- **Tanzania:** assessment teams confirm there adequate water supply in the new Kigunga reception site. TWESA will erect 6 block latrines (3 for women). OXFAM will thus construct latrines and. OXFAM-TWESA will take charge of water and sanitation whilst IRC will do hygiene promotion.
- **Rwanda:** the biggest challenge remains to find durable water sources in Mahama camp. Water trucking is costly but the office manages to provide 15 litres per person per day. UNHCR and partners continue to source alternatives and to consider treatment of surface water from the nearby Akagera River.