

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON BURUNDIAN INFLUX

27 April – 3 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

24,795 (as of 3 May)

Burundian refugees have crossed into Rwanda.

Further breakdown of the above figure:

12,991

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp.

10,520

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center.

864

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center.

420

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center.

PRIORITIES

- Establishment/development of the new Mahama camp;
- Continue consolidating list of unaccompanied and separated children (UAM/SC);
- Meeting between UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC, Plan Int. this week to accelerate child protection issues related to UAM/SC.

- UNHCR has noticed a downward trend in the rate of new arrivals. Based on information received from new refugees, there are claims of systematic checks in Burundi of those suspected to be leaving the country and are either detained or asked to pay money. Many refugees are entering Rwanda with nothing or very little in terms of belongings.
- “Hundreds of students in Burundi have spent the night in front of the US embassy after their university was closed amid anti-government protests. [...]Social media has been blocked, radio stations closed and protests banned.” (BBC)
 - UNHCR has noticed a trend of young students (both High School and University students) crossing into Rwanda.

On 29 April, Mr. Saber Azam, the UNHCR Representative accompanied the Hon. Minister MIDIMAR to Mahama to assess the progress made in establishing the new camp. Additionally, the UN Resident Coordinator, Vice Mayor of Kirehe District Province Army Commander, Police and other Government Officials also joined. UNHCR Field Officer and the MIDIMAR camp manager led the visit while representatives of partners were present to provide technical information. Although pleased with the progress, the Minister urged an increase in the speed of constructing tents and requested safe play-areas for the children. During the visit, an additional 350 tents arrived in the camp (dispatched from the UNHCR warehouse in Tanzania). While addressing the refugee community, Mr. Azam requested the refugees to respect Rwanda’s laws, to treat their fellow refugees with respect, and to practice Umuganda – community service in Rwanda – to keep the camp clean and safe. He also reassured the refugees that UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda are looking into ways of providing schooling for children in the near future.

- ECHO Regional Office in the Democratic Republic of Congo sent a Technical Assistant to Rwanda to assess UNHCR’s initial response to the Burundi emergency and urgent needs. The mission visited both reception centers and the new refugee camp. ECHO’s assessment of UNHCR’s response to the emergency was positive.



L-R: Vice Mayor of Kirehe District, Hon. Minister of MIDIMAR, UNHCR Representative, UN Resident Coordinator and UNHCR Field Officer.



ARC and World Vision providing information on Health, Shelter and WASH facilities.



Hon. Minister of MIDIMAR and UNHCR Representative meeting with children refugees.

- The Belgian Ambassador, H.E. Arnout Pauwels, visited Bugesera reception center on 28 April to see firsthand the services being provided to Burundian refugees. UNHCR staff in the field and the MIDIMAR camp manager led the Ambassador to see the construction of shelters, the health center in use, WASH facilities, communal cooking, distribution and the warehouse. During the visit, Ambassador Pauwels discussed with refugees on their reasons of flight, and life in the camp. The Ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the team's camp coordination.
- UNHCR is leading the preparation of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) application to cover the initial, urgent needs for the refugee response. The proposal will be submitted to CERF Secretariat after review by UNHCR's Humanitarian Financing and Field Support Section.



Ambassador Arnout Pauwels meeting with refugees in Bugesera RC.

- UNCHR also chaired a UNCT meeting on the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Burundi refugee emergency in Rwanda. UNHCR's External Relations Officer in Nairobi's Regional Support Hub, Francesco Bert, joined the meeting via videoconference. Population planning figures and a timeline for the appeal were agreed upon. Francesco will be in Kigali as of Monday to coordinate the drafting and consolidation of the RRP with all agencies.
- WFP's Representative visited Mahama camp to assess the current situation of the camp. The Representative attended the coordination meeting and emphasized the start of the general food distribution on 6 May. The meeting was informed that there is Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in the camp, but the Representative promised to introduce blanket feeding shortly and to avail high energy biscuits to the newly transferred refugees in Mahama camp.

RESPONSE PROVIDED

▪ Child protection (CP) & Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) update:

- 772 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been identified so far; 759 UASC have been identified in the Reception Centers while 13 unaccompanied children who did not pass through the Reception Centers have been directly identified in Mahama.
- **148 UASC have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.**
- 5 SGBV cases have been identified and assisted by UNHCR's protection partner, Plan International.
- 54 volunteers have been recruited and are being trained to support child protection, youth engagement and SGBV prevention and response activities.
- Child-friendly spaces are now established in Bugesera and Nyanza while 3 child-friendly spaces have been identified in Mahama and will be developed as soon as possible.
- In Mahama, Plan Int. facilitated discussions with children on the safe and unsafe areas of the camp, and risks such as snakes, crocodiles, and hippos. Approximately 170 children have been reached.
- In addition, Plan Int. facilitated recreational facilities for 70-130 children in Mahama on a daily basis (1-2 sessions per day).
- Referral pathways in Bugesera and Nyanza are now in place while referral pathway in Mahama will be finalized by the end of the coming week.

▪ Mahama refugee camp:


- Latrines: 308 have been constructed (42 refugees per latrine);
- Showers: 200 have been constructed (61 refugees per shower);
- Water provided: 11L per refugee per day;
- Shelter: 798 family tents are installed. Another 4,050 family tents are scheduled to arrive this week (1,550 from Tanzania and 2,500 from Nairobi). Currently, 22 communal hangars have been constructed, with a capacity of 100 people each.

- **Nyanza reception center:** The congestion in Nyanza reception center is considerably reduced with the daily relocations of refugees to Mahama and low rate of new arrivals, which has resulted in a significant increase in WASH standards in the site.
- **Bugesera reception center:** Bugesera remains congested although relocation to the new camp is ongoing. For the moment, attention is directed towards WASH as there is only 7.5 L of water per person per day.

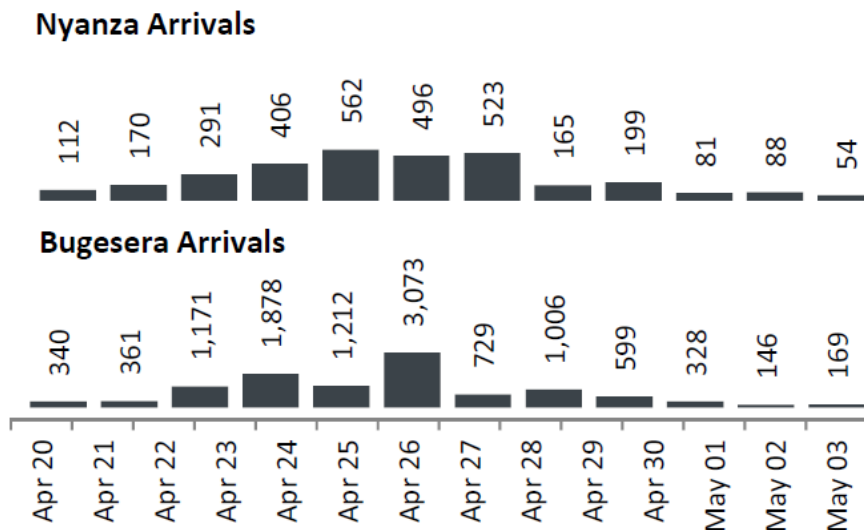
STATISTICS

UNHCR has put into place Level 1 registration in the two reception centers and Level 2 (full biometric registration) in Mahama camp to expedite relocation.



	24,795	Total
	8,816	Registered
	15,979	Pending

115 Individuals pending transportation from districts to the reception centers.



Thanks to our partners:



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