

## BURUNDI SITUATION

### UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #36

April 2017

#### KEY FIGURES

**409,662**

New Burundian refugees in asylum countries since April 2015 as of 30 April 2017

#### FUNDING

**USD 250 million**

Requested for the overall situation through UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal (Jan-Dec 2017)

Gap 98%



**funded 2%**

#### PRIORITIES

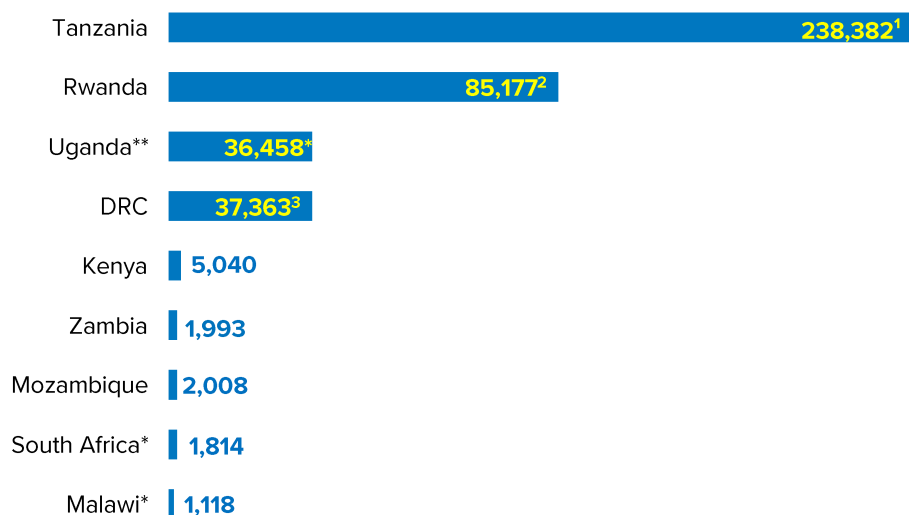
- **Tanzania:** Provide assistance to the Tanzanian Government in the development of the new Refugee Status Determination procedures.
- Keep pace with the construction of transitional shelters and school classrooms construction activities across all camps.
- **Burundi:** Preparing for capacity building workshops of Burundian Immigration Officials to take place in May 2017
- **DRC:** Advocate for funding to ensure the new site near Baraka (Mulongwe) can be developed.
- **Rwanda:** Continue to fundraise to ensure food rations are not cut for refugees in the month of June.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regional:** UNHCR has launched the [2017 Supplementary Appeal](#) for the Burundi Situation. This is due to the increased needs in the region, which have been readjusted to US\$250 million, as the refugee population is expected to grow to 534,000 by the end of this year. This figure includes Burundian refugees who fled before and after 1 April 2015. Currently **only 2% of funding requirements have been received.**
- **Tanzania:** The number of daily new arrivals from Burundi for the month of April 2017 dropped to an average of 25 individuals per day. After the Government of Tanzania installed screening processes for incoming Burundian asylum seekers, following the lifting of *prima facie* refugee recognition on 20 January, it is setting up Refugee Status Determination procedures. These are expected to become operational in the coming weeks.
- **Rwanda: 605 new arrivals** were received in April, which is a slight increase from March, averaging 20 Burundian refugees per day.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Despite efforts made to admit new arrivals in the already overcrowded transit structures, some 1,235 asylum seekers were staying outside of transit centers in extremely difficult circumstances. While Lusenda Camp has surpassed its maximum capacity in February, UNHCR faces challenges in setting up Mulongwe Site, due to limited available funding.

#### Population of concern

A total of **409,662** refugees as of 30 April 2017 since the influx began in April 2015



<sup>1</sup> | Nyarugusu: 135,308 (incl. old caseload) | Nduta: 123,810 | Mtendeli: 51,707 | Transit Center: 31

<sup>2</sup> | Mahama: 53,589 | Urban (Kigali + Huye): 31,241 | Reception Centers: 287

<sup>3</sup> | Lusenda: 28,528 | Out of camp/RCs: 8,835 |

\* | Based on Government figures (partially or entirely) | \*\* Since 1 January 2015

## UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

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For more information on the Burundi situation response in specific country operations, kindly refer to the Burundi refugee portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>.

### BURUNDI

#### Latest developments

- As the crisis moves into its third year, the situation inside Burundi is not stabilizing, explaining why people continue to flee the country. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) voiced concern mid-April over continuing reports of serious human rights violations in the country, including systematic use of torture by security forces, increasing cases of enforced disappearance, nightly raids by the *Imbonerakure* militia into homes of people who refuse to join the ruling party, and people targeted due to their ethnicity.
- UNHCR has verified that in total nearly 8,000 former Burundian refugees have returned spontaneously. According to the Data Tracking Matrix of the International Organization of Migration there are 148,490 IDPs living in 11 provinces, out of which 42% are linked to the current social-political crisis that started in April 2015. The remaining 58% are linked to natural disasters. In April, some 374 refugees returned to Burundi, including 309 from Tanzania and 55 from Rwanda and 10 from Uganda.
- The country is facing a severe fuel shortage, paralyzing the transportation of goods and persons, further hampering business in the country, as well as complicating ongoing operations of UNHCR and partners.

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is conducting border monitoring to identify returning refugees, internally displaced and those Burundians who have not been successful in reaching asylum countries.
- Since the beginning of the year, 897 Burundians (IDPs, spontaneous returnees and vulnerable members of the host community) were assisted with non-food items.

### Countries of Asylum

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#### TANZANIA

##### Latest Developments

- The number of daily new arrivals from Burundi for the month of April 2017 continued to drop at an average of 25 individuals per day and totaled 605 individuals.
- The total population in Nduta Camp, the only reception camp for Burundian asylum-seekers, stands at 123,673 individuals. Given the available plots assessed throughout the extended areas of Nduta, the camp is anticipated to absorb a maximum of about 127,000 individuals. Subject to the access of entry for the asylum seekers at the border entry points and against the latest trend of the new arrivals figure, Nduta Camp is expected to reach its maximum stretched capacity of 127,000 individuals within the next few months. No decision has been made by the Government of Tanzania with regards to the allocation of land to set up new camps.
- Progress is being made on the rollout of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Tanzania. A new team based at the UNHCR Representation Office in Dar es Salaam is being formed to support the Government of Tanzania in implementing the CRRF in the country. Furthermore, UNHCR is liaising closely with the Government on setting up the Secretariat of the CRRF and working towards launching the Framework in the beginning of June 2017.
- A number of refugees in Nduta Camp have reported both to MHA and UNHCR to request assistance to relocate to other countries, including Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, citing reduction of food rations as a major reason. They were sensitized about the efforts which are ongoing to restore the food pipeline of the World Food Programme. A few other refugees have also requested assistance to repatriate. They have subsequently been referred to MHA, which is currently generating a list to be shared with UNHCR.

##### Achievements and Impact

- Protection:** A workshop for the regional and district authorities in the Kagera Region on international refugee protection with emphasis on the principle of *non-refoulement* has taken place from 27 to 28 April 2017 aimed at sensitizing the authorities on State obligations in respecting international refugee law principles and reviewing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the impending ad-hoc status determination committees in light of the

revocation of the *prima facie* status in favour of Burundian asylum-seekers. A similar workshop was held in the Kigoma Region during the first week of May 2017.

- The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) proposed by UNHCR for the ad-hoc Refugee Status Determination committees in favor of asylum-seekers from Burundi was shared with the Refugee Services Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for review and feedback. Once accepted, the document will serve as a roadmap for access to Tanzanian territory and determination of refugee status in light of the revocation of the *prima facie* recognition for the Burundian asylum-seekers.
- **SGBV:** UNHCR and partners launched a campaign against Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Mtendeli Camp under the theme “*Break the silence, break the barriers, lead healthy relationships at home.*” The campaign event was attended by approximately 300 refugees.
- The Child Protection Sub-Sector Working Group (Sub-SWG) in Kibondo District has been reactivated with the support of relevant partners. In addition to the traditional actors, including the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other child protection partners, including from the local authorities.
- A total of 80 refugees were assisted to reunite with their families from Mtendeli to Nyarugusu Camps, while another 246 refugees were assisted to reunite from Mtendeli to Nduta Camps, with transportation provided by IOM under the adult, non-vulnerable family reunification programme, led by UNHCR.
- **Education:** Education infrastructure remains the major barrier for access to education. At the onset of the rainy season, the average attendance rate dropped from 94 percent to 77 percent and in April it dropped further to 76 percent. The progressive drop is anticipated to continue given the number of students forced to study outside of class structures, such as under trees.
- **Health:** The newly constructed surgical facility in Mtendeli Camp, funded by the Government of Germany, has been inaugurated. The facility will provide the much needed emergency surgery capacity to both refugees and the host community in Kakonko District.
- The Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) and Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) remain stable within 0.3 deaths per 1,000 persons per month and 0.8 deaths per 1,000 persons per month, respectively, which is above the minimum UNHCR standards. The high malaria morbidity rate continues to remain a challenge in the health sector.
- **Food Security:** WFP has announced an improvement in the food pipeline situation for the refugees and asylum-seekers in Kigoma Region. The General Food Distribution (GFD) rations will increase up to 80 percent of the ration for cereals (cereals and super cereal with sugar) and 100 percent of all other commodities (pulses, vegetable oil and salt). The increase of food rations will be applied during the distribution activities across the three camps for the month of May 2017, following the cut of food rations for all commodities under the GFD programme of more than 50 percent in the month of April 2017.
- **WASH:** The Lake Tanganyika Basin Water Board and the Regional Water Engineer’s Office have participated in the water sources assessment mission for Nduta and Mtendeli Camps. Some springs have been identified to be used as a short term solution for the current water shortage in the camps. Meanwhile, assessments are being done in several streams to see if these sites are suitable places to construct new boreholes, to supply water to Mtendeli Camp.
- **Shelter:** Some 14,663 transitional shelters have been completed, out of the total number of 16,724 targeted to be constructed under the Transitional Shelter Project. This is equal to about 87 percent of completion rate.

## RWANDA

### Latest Developments

- During the reporting period 605 new arrivals entered Rwanda. Despite the fact that Government of Tanzania has revoked *prima facie* recognition of Burundians, this has so far not resulted in an increase of Burundians fleeing to Rwanda.
- Refugee’s food rations have been restored, as WFP has received sufficient funding to ensure full food assistance (in-kind and cash-based food assistance) for all refugees in May. However, a possible drastic cut in food rations is foreseen in the month of June (40%) and onwards, if no further contributions are received from donors, so reported by WFP.



©UNHCR/Erika Fitzpatrick – View of semi-permanent shelters in Mahama Camp. The camp continues to grow in order to accommodate new arrivals from Burundi.

## Achievements and Impact

- To date, a total of 4,940 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama Camp, which currently house 34,654 Burundian refugees. An additional 343 shelters are in the final stages of construction.
- Rehabilitation works were carried out to repair 40 communal shelters and 15 semi-permanent shelters through community involvement.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Latest Developments

- Burundian refugees living in and around the transit centers of Uvira Territory expressed their discontent over their living conditions on two occasions in April, demanding their swift transfer to the (already overfull) Lusenda Camp. A group of refugees residing in Sange Transit Center protested at the beginning of the month, by blocking the road for several hours, which led to an intervention of the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR. On 26 April, another group of refugees living outside Sange went to MONUSCO, asking them to advocate for their transfer to Lusenda Camp. The lack of funds to develop the new site is preventing these refugees from being relocated to areas where UNHCR is able to give them shelter and basic assistance.

### Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** On 12 April, a total of 60 unaccompanied minors (15 girls and 45 boys) took part in a training organized by UNHCR and Save the Children at Lusenda Camp. The training highlighted issues such as child protection, children's rights, the roles and responsibilities of host families, communication and behavior with host families, as well as abuse and referral pathways.
- The CNR followed up with 35 cases of Burundian refugees detained at Bukavu central prison. They will be transferred to Uvira when the CNR obtains the necessary documents related to their liberation.
- In the beginning of the month, UNHCR and the CNR in Uvira visited the Burundian asylum seekers hosted in a local community center in Katogota. Following the visit, eight persons with health conditions were transferred to the gathering point of Sange, where conditions are better.
- **Education:** A delegation from Club RFI Bujumbura and Bukavu visited Lusenda Camp and handed over a donation of 1,000 books to the camp library, as part of the establishment of a RFI Club. This club has previously been successful in boosting educational opportunities for Central African refugees in the DRC.
- **Health:** A total of 4,580 medical consultations were carried out by UNHCR's medical partner ADES in Lusenda Camp. The most common diseases were malaria (48%), respiratory infections (18.5%), intestinal parasites (5%) and diarrhea (2%).
- **Nutrition:** Some 462 malnourished children under the age of 59 months continued to benefit from the nutritional programme at Lusenda Camp. A total of 53 of these children suffered from severe acute malnutrition, while 409 suffered from moderate acute malnutrition.

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- Kabazana Reception Centre in Nakivale, with a capacity to host 338 individuals, currently hosts 1,659 refugees and asylum seekers, out of which 1,325 are from Burundi.
- The refugees stated *Imbonerakure* forces continue to harass the population. Some of the new arrivals said they fled because their names were listed on notices posted in public areas as being accused of being part of the opposition, forcing them to flee their homes.

## CRITICAL NEEDS & GAPS

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### REGIONAL

**Funding levels for the Burundi Situation are critically low**, currently at 2% of the overall regional needs. New funding is urgently needed for UNHCR to provide assistance and protection to the needs of the Burundi refugee situation.

### BURUNDI

**PROTECTION:** Border monitoring will continue to be required to monitor cross-border movements between Burundi and neighboring countries and to provide assistance to the IDP population and voluntary returnees.

**LOGISTICS:** National fuel shortages in Burundi are a challenge for the operation, as fuel is increasingly hard to come by.

### TANZANIA

**PROTECTION:** The development of Refugee Status Determination procedures for incoming Burundian asylum seekers is a priority, as well as the expansion of camp facilities in the Kigoma Region, to improve the protection environment.

**EDUCATION:** The lack of education infrastructure remains the major barrier for access to education. Over 600 classrooms need to be built to normalize education for Burundian refugee children.

**HEALTH:** There is a critical need of increasing the access to health and nutrition services in Mtendeli and Nyarugusu Camps through the establishment of additional health posts, as well as expansion and renovation of the existing health and nutrition facilities. The need for additional staffing to maintain the equity of access to care is another critical gap. Access to health services is a challenge due to funding constraints.

**WATER:** UNHCR and partners have observed that some WASH-related Non-Food Items were being sold at the market. While investigations are ongoing, some preliminary findings have indicated that the reason for the selling is linked to the cut of food rations, forcing the refugees to sell NFIs to buy food for their families.

### RWANDA

**SHELTER:** Some 18,654 refugees continue to live in 126 communal plastic shelters in Mahama Camp. Despite continued advocacy by UNHCR, the 30 hectares of land requested has still not been provided to complete the construction of all semi-permanent shelters.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**SHELTER & PROTECTION:** The newly identified site near Baraka needs to be developed as soon as possible, in order to decongest Lusenda Camp, as well as the transit sites.

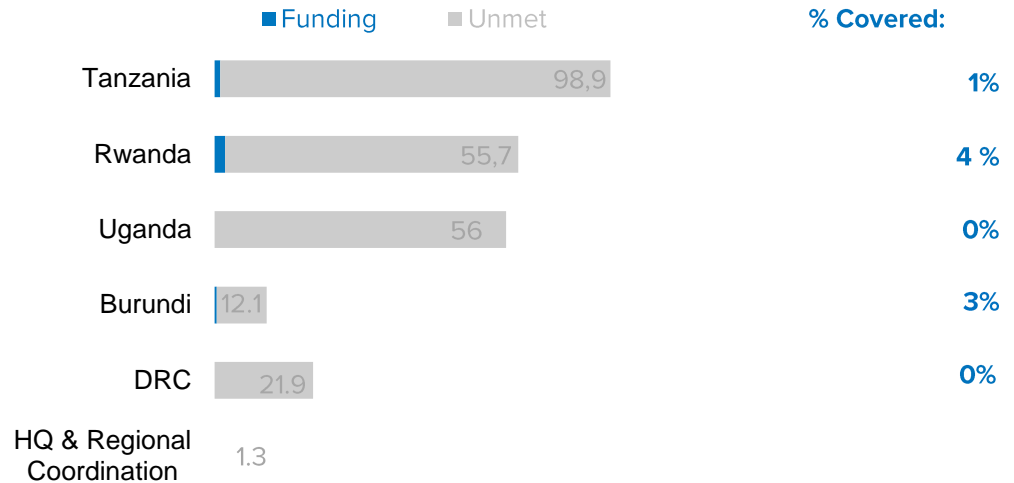
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's total financial requirements for the regional Burundi Situation amount to USD **250 million**. This is specified in the UNHCR's 2017 Supplementary Appeal, which covers the needs of Burundians in Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda and Burundi. UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have already contributed to the Burundi Situation. **The organization's overall needs for this situation are currently funded at 2%.**

A total of **USD 4,3 million** has been funded:

### Donors:

African Union  
Denmark  
Global Fund  
France  
Sweden



### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Priv Donors Spain (18 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M)

### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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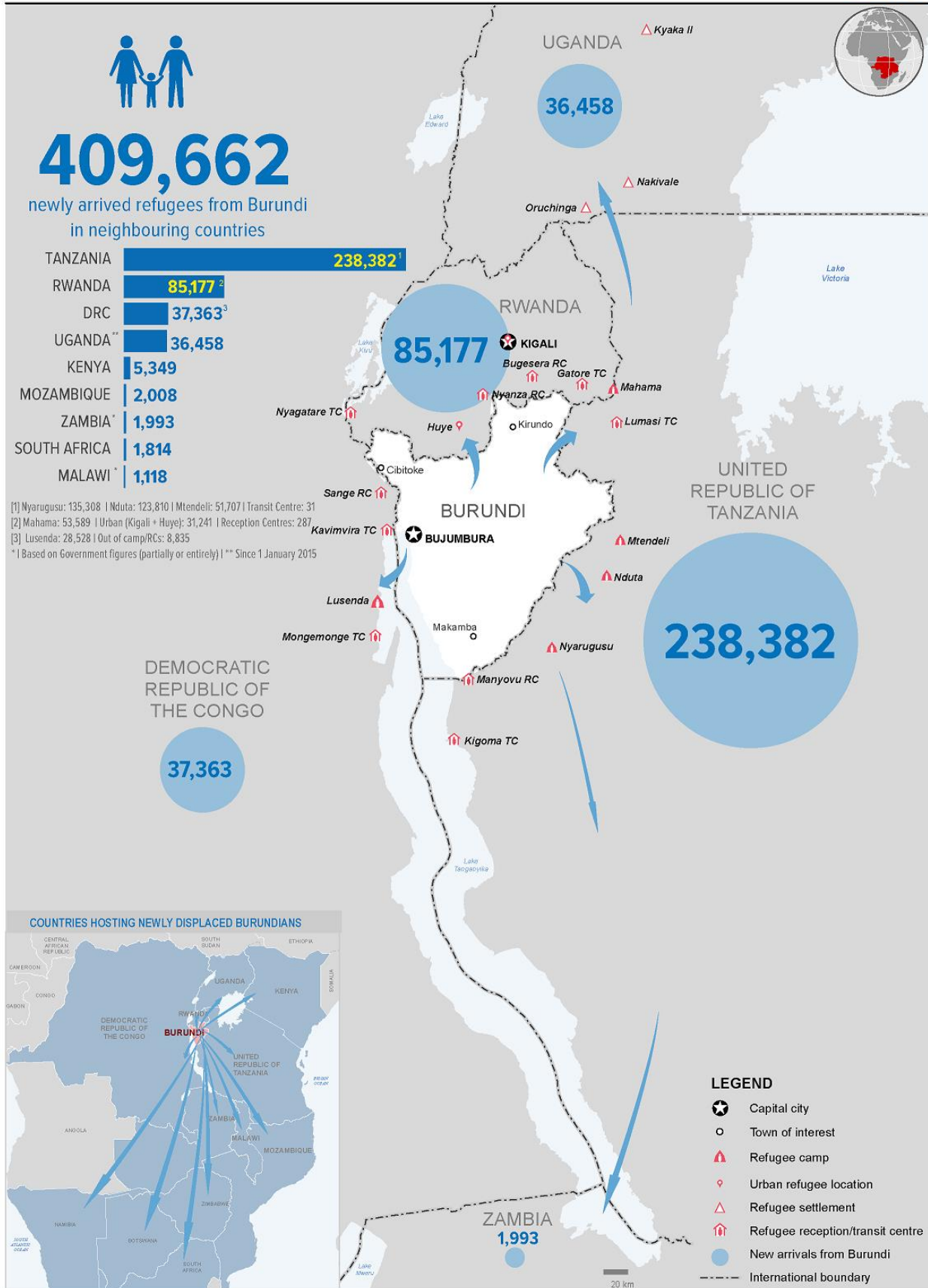
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# Burundi Situation

## Displacement of Burundians into neighbouring countries since April 2015

as of 30 April 2017



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS Author: UNHCR Regional Service Centre Nairobi Feedback: kenrsgis@unhcr.org