

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #33

January 2017

KEY FIGURES

386,833

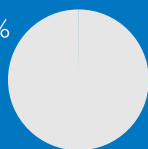
New Burundian refugees in asylum countries since April 2015 as of 31 January 2017

FUNDING

USD 214.5 million

Requested by UNHCR for the overall Burundi Situation in 2017

Gap > 99%



funded < 1%

PRIORITIES

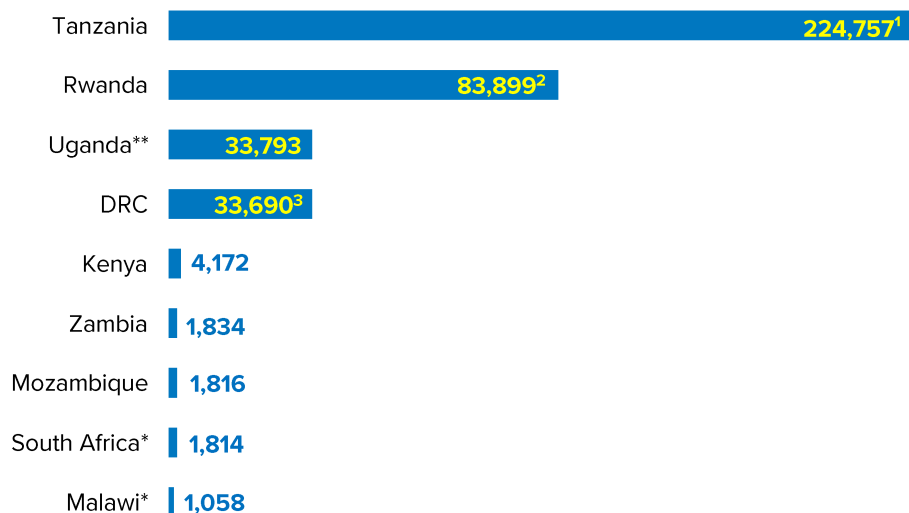
- **Tanzania:** Keep pace with the new arrivals from Burundi, providing them with shelter and to work with the Government to ensure asylum seekers are treated and processed properly.
- **Burundi:** Continuing the provision of assistance to IDPs.
- **DRC:** Advocate with the Government to allocate more land to expand capacity of Lusenda Camp or construct a new site.
- **Rwanda:** Advocating with the Government to allocate new land in order to increase capacity of Mahama Camp.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Burundi:** Over 22,000 Burundians fled the country to neighbouring countries in January alone. Besides the concerning human rights environment inside Burundi, the food security situation has deteriorated considerably.
- **Tanzania:** On 24 January 2017 the Government announced the lifting of the *prima facie* refugee recognition for Burundian refugees entering the country. The decision was officially published in the Government Gazette on 20 January 2017, meaning that all the asylum-seekers from Burundi who entered the country from 20th January 2017 should undergo Refugee Status Determination. In practice, the new procedure is not yet effective on the ground. UNHCR projects that the decision of the Government will have serious implications on the quality of refugee protection provided to Burundians fleeing to Tanzania.
- **Rwanda:** Two new durable health centers were inaugurated on 26 January in Mahama, with a capacity to provide health care to over 50,000 Burundian refugees currently living in the camp as well as new arrivals.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** 627 Burundian refugees were relocated to Lusenda in January. Overcrowding represents a serious concern with all transit centers at their maximum capacity. 2,647 Burundians refugees are waiting to be transferred to the camp because of lack of shelters.

Population of concern

A total of **386,833** people of concern as of 31 January 2017 since the influx began in April 2015



¹ | Nyarugusu: 131,954 | Nduta: 103,074 | Mtendeli: 50,911 | Transit Center: 718

² | Mahama: 52,486 | Urban (Kigali + Huye): 30,694 | Reception Centers: 719

³ | Lusenda: 25,547 | Out of camp/RCS: 8,149 |

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

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

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

- Peace talks are planned to continue in Arusha, Tanzania, on Thursday 16 February. Mediation efforts are much needed to bring together the various stakeholders to come to a peaceful resolution that will create conditions conducive for voluntary return.
- UNHCR has verified that in total 7,275 former Burundian refugees have returned spontaneously. According to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix (December 2016), there are 141,221 IDPs living in 11 provinces, out of which 42% is linked to the current social-political crisis that started in April 2015. The remaining 58% is linked to natural disasters.

Achievements and Impact

- On 31 January 2017, the DRC authorities brought about 190 prisoners, mostly Burundian nationals, to the Kavimvira border crossing point, which is located between the cities of Uvira (DRC) and Bujumbura (Burundi). The return operation, which had been announced earlier in January, **included a smaller group of refugees and asylum seekers**. UNHCR had been previously in touch with the DRC authorities and requested them to not return asylum seekers or refugees against their will. Upon learning of the operation, UNHCR immediately deployed a team to the border and was granted access to screen the Burundians at the last minute - jointly with the Congolese asylum office (CNR). Before the screening was completed, 124 Burundians were sent back to Burundi, of which at least 16 registered refugees, 3 asylum seekers and 105 others. Another group, including 12 Burundians holding refugee status, were allowed to remain in DRC. UNHCR is following up and has conducted prison visits in Burundi to follow up on their treatment and protection.
- The emergency response funded through the CERF has been extended into the first quarter of 2017. The CERF project covers six provinces including Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura rural, Cibitoke, Makamba, Rumonge and Kirundo, assisting a total of 30,974 individuals (IDPs and spontaneous returnees).

Countries of Asylum

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- During the first two weeks of January 2017, a backlog of over 4,495 new arrivals waited to be moved from the reception areas, due to a lack of completed shelters and space in Nduta. This has led to a rapid increase of requirements for building material to construct emergency shelters. The maximum absorption capacity of the communal shelters in the reception area stands at 2,000 individuals. UNHCR and partners are working to identify immediate solutions in expediting the construction of more emergency shelters, as well as WASH facilities to accommodate for increasing number of new arrivals.
- While Nduta's maximum (and previously revised) capacity of 120,000 will soon be reached, the Government of Tanzania has not made a decision on a new camp site. UNHCR and partners continue the collective advocacy efforts with the Government of Tanzania for a positive response, while the Government has indicated it would like to assess interest in voluntary return in the camps before opening up a new site. UNHCR will ensure that return can only happen voluntarily and if and when conditions to return are conducive.
- Some 18,498 newly arrived Burundians crossed into Tanzania during the course of January 2017, with **an average daily arrival rate of 597 individuals**. A majority of the new arrivals emanate from the northern Burundi provinces of Ruyigi, Muyinga, Kirundo and Rutana. UNHCR is currently investigating the reasons for such a sharp increase of new arrivals from these provinces, which can be related to the deteriorating food security situation inside Burundi and persecution or violence against individuals.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** The newly established Community Watch Team (CWT) in Mtendeli was given training, building the capacity of some 100 CWT members. In Nduta Camp, the process of establishing a CWT is almost complete and is expected to operate soon, aiding in the prevention of SGBV and providing security to the Burundian refugees.
- The second school term for the academic year 2016/2017 started on 9 January 2017. Out of the total number of 67,196 Burundian students, 55,230 students have been verified as regular school going children. UNICEF provided educational materials. Concerns remain on the severe classroom shortage, **at least 652 additional classrooms are required** across all camps.
- UNHCR and its WASH partners, Oxfam and the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Services (TCRS), continue the search for water through borehole drilling in Mtendeli. The current water production and delivery there remains below the minimum standard of 20 liters per person per day, mainly due to receding ground water. The average water consumption in the camp now stands at 15 liters per person per day. UNHCR contacted consultants in mid-December 2016 to resolve the problem on which feedback is expected in February.
- Some 7,832 transitional shelters or equal to 70 percent out of the targeted 11,069 shelters for construction had been finalized by the end of January 2017 across all camps in the Kigoma region.
- In an effort to increase access to comprehensive health services in Mtendeli Camp, the Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS) completed the construction of the **Nutrition Stabilization Unit** with a 20-bed capacity to facilitate treatment and admissions for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases. In addition, the laboratory at Mtendeli's health facility was renovated and upgraded to enhance the capacity of the services offered. UNICEF has donated two incubators and resuscitation kits for care and management of premature and low birth weight babies as a continuous effort of the health sector to reduce neonatal mortalities.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- New arrivals continue to cite insecurity in Burundi and family reunification as the main reasons for fleeing to Rwanda.

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 1,781 Burundian unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are currently registered. The total number of UASC has decreased by 314, which is also due to the fact that several have become over 18 years old and therefore no longer classified as UASC. To prepare them to take on adult responsibilities, decisions have been made to continue providing them with support for a transition period while support may be provided to most vulnerable cases (e.g. youth caring for his/her younger siblings, young mothers, etc.) beyond that period as relevant.
- **The construction of 81 new classrooms** was completed to accommodate all Burundian refugee students. Out of the 81 new rooms built, 21 were an extension to the local school, Paysannat L, which is located just outside of Mahama, proving classes to both Rwandan and Burundian students.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Latest Developments

- Military operations are ongoing against national and international armed groups in areas hosting refugees, namely FNL (Forces Nationales de Liberation) in Ruzizi Plain (Uvira territory) and Mai-Mai Yakutumba in Fizi territory.
- In January, 627 Burundian refugees were relocated to Lusenda. Meanwhile, 2,647 Burundian refugees hosted in transit centers are waiting to be transferred to the camp due to lack of shelters. Some 883 shelters are needed to accommodate them, but only 70 are under construction in Lulinda extension. **Therefore there is a need for a new site.** Since the most viable option has not been approved by DRC authorities, UNHCR is currently considering alternative locations for developing a new site.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to follow up with Congolese authorities in order to ensure that those twelve refugees that are at the border with Burundi will not be sent back (see more under Burundi, page 2).

- The Congolese National Commission for Refugees (CNR) reported that 12 refugees had been arrested at checkpoints by local authorities, military and police officials. As a result of advocacy by the CNR, the 12 refugees were released.
- Several visits were organized to the detention centers in Fizi and Uvira territories. There are currently **51 refugees** (43 Burundian refugees and 8 Rwandan refugees) **detained** in the Central Prison of Uvira. Advocacy was conducted through the Military Prosecutor's Office, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Military Intelligence Office (Bureau II).
- During the month, **4,554 medical consultations** were conducted by the UNHCR health partner ADES. The most frequent diseases continued to be malaria (35.6%), respiratory infections (17.3%) and intestinal parasites (5.9%). Most cases were treated in Lusenda's health post, while 72 cases were referred to external health care authorities.
- A total of 1,300 new latrine blocks and 685 new shower blocks were constructed in Lusenda, and the extension of the water network in the Katungulu III site has been finalized.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- On 3 January, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) allocated plots of land measuring 15m x 20m for construction of shelter for 257 Burundian refugees, settling them in Kashojwa B village, Base Camp Zone, in Nakivale. Prior to settlement, a sensitisation forum was conducted to create awareness of key services available at the camp offices.
- In Nakivale settlement, the ratio of health workers to refugees is one health worker per 50 households (1:50), which is within the standard set by the Uganda Ministry of Health. The family health care facility is within the standard distance of 5km from the villages.

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 1,412 newly arrived Burundian children were screened for malnutrition. Sixteen of these children were found to be moderately malnourished and one severely malnourished. The affected children were enrolled on the supplementary feeding programme.
- Safe water was supplied to nineteen villages in Nakivale settlement where Burundian refugees have been settled. The average water consumption stands at 22.3 litres/person/day compared to 21.7 litres/person/day reported in the previous month. This slight increase can be attributed to a water treatment upgrade at the Base Camp Treatment Plant.

Awareness raising on post-harvest handling was conducted to over 300 refugees to promote food security among Burundian refugees.

CRITICAL NEEDS & GAPS

BURUNDI

PROTECTION: Border monitoring will continue to be required to monitor cross-border movements between Burundi and neighboring countries.

TANZANIA

PROTECTION: Now the Government of Tanzania has discontinued granting prima facie refugee status to incoming Burundians it is important to verify quickly the refugees coming into Tanzania, ensuring them of the right (legal) protection and assistance, especially since there is already a significant backlog of asylum seekers' cases.

HEALTH: The increase of refugees is putting a strain on the provision of adequate health services to the refugees. Capacity of health posts need to be increased in camps and reception centers.

SHELTER: The continued increase in new arrivals has posed significant challenges in moving the new arrivals from the communal shelters/reception area of the only camp currently receiving Burundian refugees, Nduta. To keep pace with the growing population, it is estimated that an average of **200-300 emergency shelters may be required to be constructed each day**.

RWANDA

SHELTER: Due to lack of available land in Mahama, construction of a remaining 2,363 shelters is still pending. A total of 30 hectares of land are required to complete all the shelters. Lack of space also increases **protection concerns**.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

PROTECTION: Due to lack of funding, protection monitoring activities have been strongly scaled down for 2017 in areas hosting Burundian refugees (Uvira and Fizi territory). **The number of protection monitors was nearly halved** (from 30 to 18), despite a continued need for these activities. This situation leaves refugees and others far more vulnerable to protection incidents without appropriate response and follow-up.

NUTRITION: Therapeutic milk F100 and F75 is out of stock at the two therapeutic units of Lusenda Camp for severe malnutrition treatment (*Unité nutritionnelle thérapeutique de malnutrition severe sans complications – UNTA and Unité nutritionnelle thérapeutique de malnutrition severe avec complications. – UNTI*). UNHCR and partners are working to replenish the stock as soon as possible.

UGANDA

HEALTH: Work is ongoing to raise community awareness on the causes and prevention of malaria by village health teams, as malaria rates have gone up significantly during the rainy season.

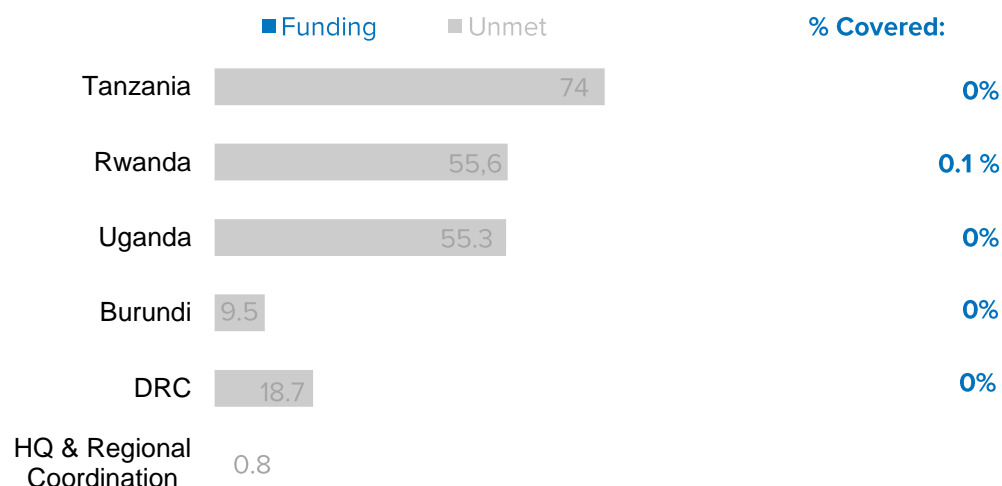
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Burundi Situation in 2017 currently amounts to USD **214.5 million**. 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 0%.**

A total of **USD 100,000** has been funded:

Donors:

African Union



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

Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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Contacts:

Mr. Guido van Heugten, Associate External Relations Officer, vanheugt@unhcr.org Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 7711

Ms. Felicia Mandy Owusu, Senior Desk Officer, owusu@unhcr.org Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8465

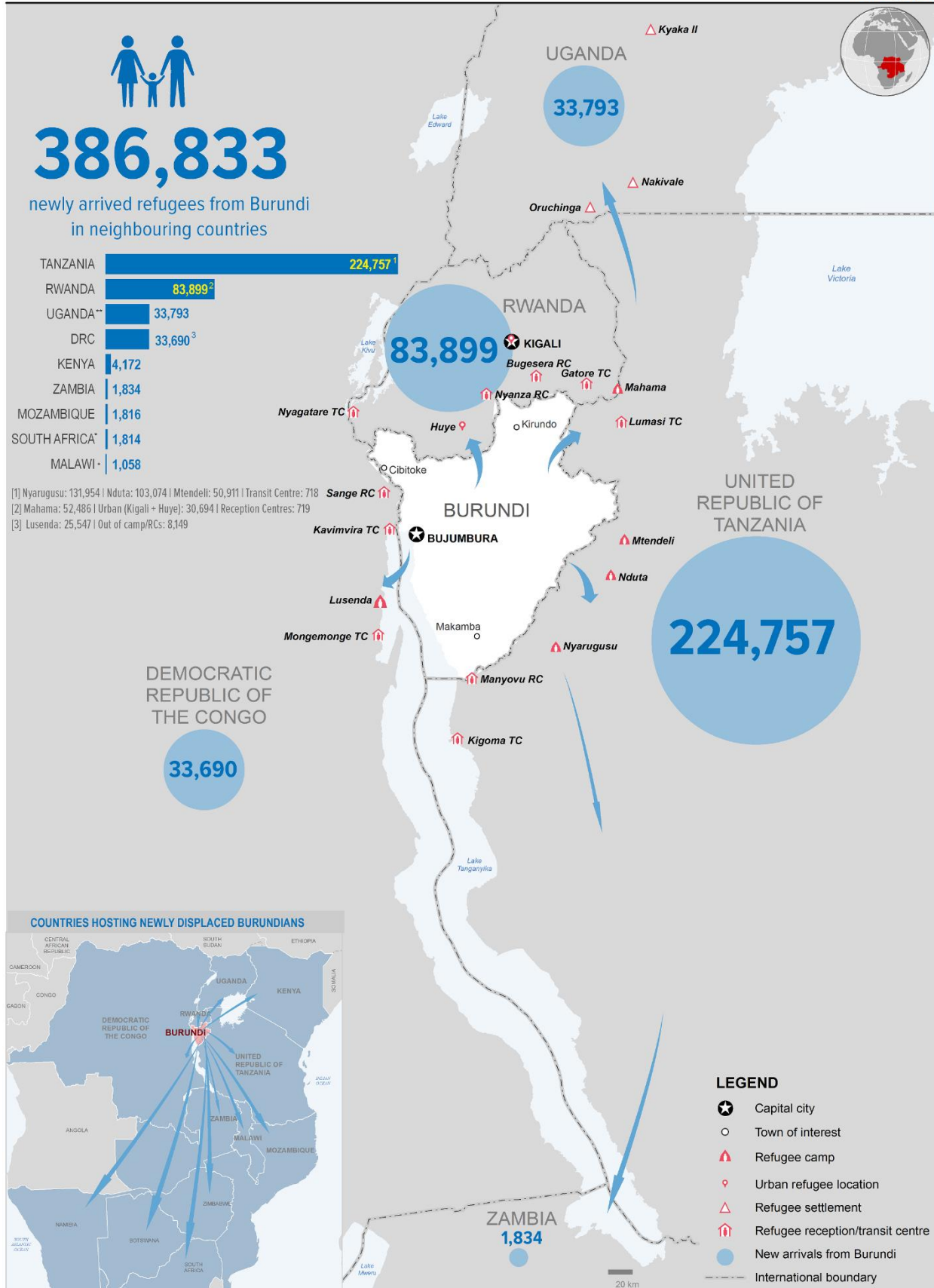
Ms. Wendy Rappeport, Senior External Relations Officer, rappepor@unhcr.org Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8993



Burundi Situation

Displacement of Burundians into neighbouring countries since April 2015

as of 31 January 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: kenrgis@unhcr.org