

# BURUNDI SITUATION

## UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 23

15 March 2016

### KEY FIGURES

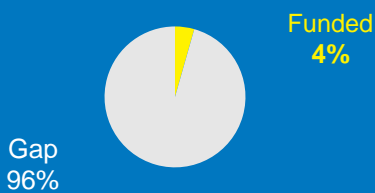
**253,670**

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

### FUNDING

**USD 175.1 million**

requested for the situation for January-December 2016.



### PRIORITIES

**Tanzania:** Expedite the establishment of the water network in Mtendeli and of the new Karago camp, located in the vicinity

**Rwanda:** Increase border monitoring and systematize screening procedures to reduce the risk of potential recruitment

**DRC:** Diversify and promote leisure activities in Lusenda to prevent the use of negative coping mechanisms

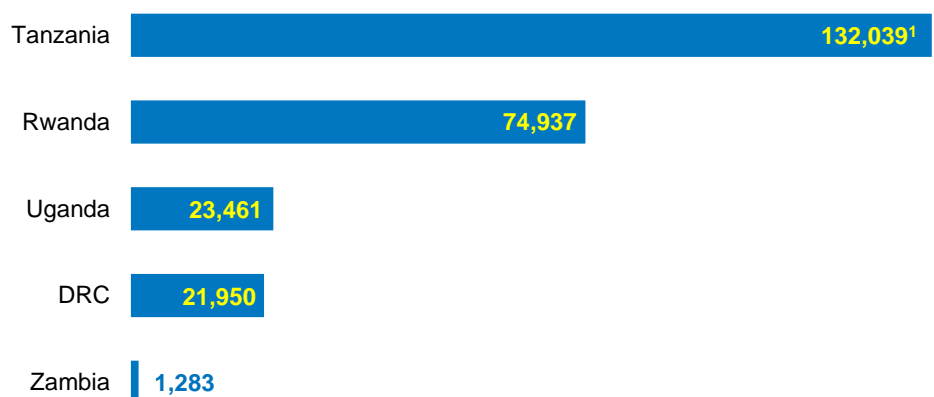
**Uganda:** Carry out malaria prevention

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the Secretary-General as well as the African Union High-level Delegation convened consultations with stakeholders involved in the crisis, little progress has been achieved in ensuring inclusive and transparent negotiations between members of the opposition and the Government.
- On 8 March, the Burundian Ministry of Justice (MoJ) initiated the release of 2,000 prisoners as per the presidential decree signed on 23 February. The spokesperson for the MoJ noted that political prisoners would not benefit from the pardon and that those targeted were predominantly the elderly and the sick.
- On 14 March, the EU suspended direct financial support to the Burundian Government. However, the EU will maintain its support to the population and to humanitarian aid.
- Refugees continue to report insecurity, abductions, assassinations, physical and sexual abuse, extortion by the *Imbonerakure* as well as the deteriorating socio-economic situation as the main reasons for flight.

#### Population of concern

A total of **253,670** people of concern as of 15 March



<sup>1</sup> In previous updates, the figure for Tanzania included refugees of Congolese origin displaced by the crisis in Burundi. The figure has been updated as of 15 March to include only Burundian arrivals.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Protection

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- As of 10 March, 21,950 Burundian refugees had been biometrically registered by UNHCR and the Government's National Commission for Refugees (CNR). The majority are located in the Uvira and Fizi territories. Over half of the refugee population originate from the Cibitoke and Bururi provinces as well as Bujumbura.
- Since the last report, 1,269 individuals have been relocated from transit centres and regrouping sites to Lusenda camp which currently hosts 15,315 refugees.
- The number of arrivals into the DRC has remained low but steady at a rate of approximately 24 per day. Small groups of Burundian refugees have arrived into the DRC and registered at the Kavimvira transit centre (TC) and Sange regrouping point. Others are reported to have arrived through unofficial entry points.
- UNHCR has tightened its registration procedure to avoid double registration and to identify Congolese nationals among those presenting themselves. UNHCR works with the *Direction Générale de Migration* (DGM) at entry points to screen the arrivals and to discourage fraudulent behaviour.

### RWANDA

- As of 14 March, the number of Burundian refugees in Rwanda stood at 74,937 individuals with 48,022 registered in Mahama camp. On average, over the past month, 29 persons have been registered per day. Fleeing Burundians are choosing to reach other countries of asylum in light of the Rwandan Government's statement concerning the relocation of refugees to third countries. This, despite the Government's assurances that refugees would not be forcefully relocated, and that Rwanda would live up to its obligations under international law.

**Achievements and Impact:** During the child protection/SGBV sectoral coordination meeting which took place mid-February, participants reviewed the CP/SGBV SoP brochure. Copies were distributed and posters created to raise awareness about the CP/SGBV measures in place and the recourse available. Furthermore, additional CP committees were established.

- Community mobilization efforts are undertaken regularly in Mahama. Community mobilizers carry out door to door visits and discuss SGBV issues with inhabitants. Over the past week, over 2,700 households were reached.

### UGANDA

- The number of new arrivals into Uganda had reached 23,461 persons as of 15 March according to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), including 17,725 in Nakivale, 274 in Oruchinga, 507 in Kyaka II, 4,869 in Kampala, and 86 in Kisoro. Over the past month, the average daily arrival rate has stood at 81 persons. The majority of new arrivals in Nakivale are fleeing from Bujumbura, Musinga, Kirundo, Cibitoke and Bubanza.

**Achievements and Impact, in Nakivale:** UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the American Refugee Council (ARC) conducted a joint physical headcount at Kabazana reception centre last week and found that 424 new arrivals were residing there. Some 60% were found to be Burundians while the rest are Congolese. Over the past month, the average weekly number of residents staying in the 338 person capacity reception centre has decreased by 24%. Despite the improvements brought about by a less crowded space and week-long plot allocation process for *prima facie* refugees, Congolese and Burundian asylum seekers awaiting the Refugee Eligibility Committee's decision stay for much longer periods of time. Emergency teams are prioritizing relocations to further reduce overcrowding.

- Unable to bring their capital city with them when they fled Burundi, some refugees are creating a home away from home in Uganda. Read more about New Bujumbura: [tracks.unhcr.org/2016/01/welcome-to-new-bujumbura/](https://tracks.unhcr.org/2016/01/welcome-to-new-bujumbura/)

- The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) successfully traced the families of four unaccompanied minors out six family tracings initiated this year. The children were handed over to their parents and family tracing is on-going for the remaining cases.

**Identified needs and remaining gaps:** ARC conducted a meeting with eleven Child Protection Committee (CPC) members from various settlements to address their concerns. Child bartering, neglect, and labour were highlighted as pressing issues. Members observed that there is an increasing number of children stealing merchandise, when they should otherwise be in school. Many parents' increased tendency to engage in negative coping habits leave children idle and free to engage in leisure rather than attend classes. ARC committed to carrying out community awareness activities aimed at stemming violence against children and to caution owners of film halls and computer businesses against admitting minors.

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- The number of new arrivals into Tanzania had reached 132,039<sup>2</sup> persons as of 15 March according to UNHCR and Tanzanian authorities, including 76,390 in Nyarugusu, 50,327 in Nduta, and 5,322 in Mtendeli. Over the past month, the average daily arrival rate has stood at 137 persons. New arrivals come predominantly from the Makamba, Ruyigi and Bururi regions.

**Achievements and Impact:** International women's day was marked by a range of activities based around this year's theme of "Pledge for Parity". In Nyarugusu camp, four campaigns were carried out to address the gender inequalities that drive violence and lack of access to services. The IRC-led celebrations provided an opportunity for the Camp Chairperson to emphasize the need for female enrolment into programmes promoting autonomy and for men to be more actively involved in promoting equality.

- Since January 2016, the six entry points in the Kibondo and Kakonko districts, where Mtendeli and Nduta camps are located, have not been systematically covered by wet feeding, CRI provision and registration services. UNHCR, WFP and Tanzania Water and Environmental Sanitation (TWESA) undertook a visit during which CRI, dry food, minimum staffing and cooking implement needs were assessed. During the reporting period, CARITAS handed over food provision activities to TWESA, and the NGO began carrying out its activities on 1 March. It was also agreed that WFP would be providing dry food rations to all refugees while in transit.
- In preparation for the deployment of a response team to the border, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNHCR visited four entry points to assess health and protection gaps. It was agreed that IRC would train all health staff in the response team (IRC and Government) in SGBV, first aid, counselling, referral pathways and clinical care for sexual assault survivors. It has also been decided that IRC will train all newly recruited Community Health Workers in basic SGBV counselling and screening & referrals. Furthermore the NGO will raise awareness of SGBV in the border areas among community leaders, police and other authorities to enable effective referral procedures to take place.
- On 15 February 712 refugees were transported from Nyarugusu to Nduta and 192 reunifications took place over the next two days. The convoy was received by an inter-agency team composed of the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), PLAN International, DRC and UNHCR. PLAN International identified and registered all children to ensure their reunification was carried out as quickly as possible.
- Conversely, relocations to Mtendeli have been postponed because of shelter and water provision gaps. The relocation is expected to resume on 17 March, once additional water pumps have been installed. Mtendeli camp should be able to host 20,000 refugees, when land presently under agricultural use returned by the local community to allow for the construction of additional shelters.
- The Child Protection Information Sharing Protocols (ISPs) were signed in Dar es Salaam during the reporting period. These will facilitate the sharing of information on, and transfer of Burundian unaccompanied minors and separated child cases (managed by IRC in Nyarugusu camp) to PLAN International upon relocation to other camps. The protocols are in line with Draft Regional Information Sharing Protocol (RISP) and would allow for potential cross border movements in the future. Focus will now turn to revising the Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures for the Child Protection Working Group.

<sup>2</sup> In previous updates, the figure for Tanzania included refugees of Congolese origin displaced by the crisis in Burundi. The figure has been updated as of 15 March to include only Burundian arrivals.

- Solar lamps funded by the Safe from the Start Project were distributed to 3,185 families in Nduta camp to fill an urgent back-log. The distribution also served as an opportunity to hold specific informative sessions with women on security and safety, education and access to SGBV specific services. To date 4,312 solar lamps are still required to clear the backlog, which includes projections for future arrivals across the camps.

**Identified needs and remaining gaps:** During the AGDM participatory assessment in Nduta camp, SGBV against children was highlighted as a key issue. It has been recognized that the issue is underreported in the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) analysis. The need to significantly increase prevention activities in Nduta and Mtendeli camps in a systematic and strategic manner was repeatedly highlighted in the SGBV working group. This includes systematic engagement with men and boys, community dialogue, outreach activities and the involvement of youth. To address the issue, IRC have established SGBV prevention teams and recruited a Prevention and Advocacy Supervisor for each camp. Both will work with a team of awareness-raising/incentive staff, who will undergo specific SGBV training.

- In the absence of a partner able to provide psychosocial counselling to non-SGBV survivors, agencies, including UNHCR, continue to refer cases to IRC, UNHCR's main implementing partner for SGBV. This puts a significant toll on IRC's resources, which would otherwise be used for their original purpose.
- UNHCR has begun issuing proof of registration certificates to refugees with a view to enhancing their safety and security. While proof of registration documents and birth notifications are issued systematically, this is not the case for birth certificates. In response to this protection gap, an agreement on the issuance of birth and death certificates has been reached with the Government's Registration Insolvency Agency (RITA), but the RITA has not yet begun to implement it.
- In Nyarugusu, the Child Protection Working Group held a meeting with host community leaders and local defence personnel from the surrounding villages to discuss the issue of child labour within the host community. There have been reports that a number of children between the ages of 10 to 14 (mainly boys from the Burundian community), have been working on farms owned by the host community. The host community leaders conceded that the community is aware of the laws prohibiting this practice but that it continues to engage in it given its low cost. A number of actions were agreed to, and included working closely with the leaders to track the magnitude of child labour, raise in-camp and host community awareness and work with the leaders to report cases.

## Education

### RWANDA

**Identified needs and remaining gaps:** School attendance remains low in the Paysannat School (at 62%). The education sector is faced with numerous gaps, such as insufficient amounts of text books for students and teachers, a lack of school uniforms and a school canteen for secondary students. Added to these material gaps is the general state of classrooms in Mahama, which are in grave need of rehabilitation as they pose not only health (lack of drainage in the new classrooms) but also SGBV risks (lack of safe space for girls in the Paysannat School). Furthermore, refugee students have not paid their fees and teachers strike frequently as their salaries are often delayed.

### TANZANIA

**Achievements and Impact:** Under the joint education strategy, UNHCR and UNICEF are making efforts to raise awareness of the critical need for increased investment in the education sector. In parallel, all education actors continue to advocate that additional subjects be added to the curriculum and for the use of semi-permanent structures for schooling (not currently authorized by the Government) in light of funding constraints and the continuing influx. As of 14 February, 60% of children of school going age in Nduta and Mtendeli were not enrolled. These constraints and requests for support were shared by refugees from the three camps and education partners with a mission composed of the French, Belgian and Senegalese ambassadors to Tanzania and development actors visiting the Kigoma region from 3-4 March.

### UGANDA

**Achievements and Impact:** In Nakivale, since the beginning of the school year on 22 February, the number of children enrolled in primary school has increased almost tenfold to over 1,170 students. In the context of the Uganda education strategy (2013-2016) and in the wake of the successful 'Go Back to

School' campaign carried out earlier this year, this development is a welcome one as it increases students' ability to access secondary education, skills training and tertiary education. As of end February, the enrollment rate stood at 61% for primary students.

**Identified needs and remaining gaps:** Enrollment at secondary level is low (15%) as parents tend to keep older children at home to assist with household chores and livelihood activities, usually at the beginning of the school term. Awareness-raising is ongoing to increase enrollment and attendance. Progress was made at the primary level in one primary school, where an appeal for parents to provide a given amount of food per term, for their children to be fed at school, was successful. Indeed, many children would not come home after lunch or return without having eaten, both of which limit their learning abilities.



## Health

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Achievements and Impact:** During the reporting period, the NGO *Agence de Développement Economique et Sociale* (ADES) carried out a total of 5,191 medical consultations. Malaria still ranks as the most frequent pathology registered, followed by intestinal parasites, respiratory infections and the flu.

### RWANDA

**Achievements and Impact:** While the incidence of malaria increased during the second half of February, the situation has improved throughout the first half of March. This can be linked to indoor insecticide spraying procedures which took place from 9-12 March as well as awareness-raising efforts promoting preventative measures. Training activities on the early detection of malaria and the treatment of cases has been planned and will be funded by UNICEF.

- The incidence of typhoid has also decreased throughout the past month, due in part to mass awareness-raising campaigns and to measures implemented following findings from a recent case study. The findings in question revealed that the incidence of the disease was highly correlated with bad hand washing habits, food consumption and proximity to latrines. Health sector actors are investigating the matter to determine whether the typhoid outbreak is endemic or epidemic.

### TANZANIA

**Achievements and Impact:** In Mtendeli, a treatment centre for HIV patients was opened by TRCS. On average 350 to 400 people visit the outpatient department per day, for an average of 30 to 40 admissions.

- In Nyarugusu, MSF-CH handed over health activities to TRCS but will remain in the camp to work on malaria treatment and prevention, as well as establishing a mobile clinic for the Congolese refugees.
- UNICEF donated a substantial amount of routine immunization vaccines to the Kigoma regional immunization and vaccines office (RIVO) for Burundian refugee children in all three camps. This donation comes as part of an agreement between the Tanzanian Government, UNICEF and UNHCR to ensure that all Burundian children are vaccinated according to Government guidelines.

**Identified needs and remaining gaps:** In Nduta, since mid-February, MSF-CH has reported an increased amount of malaria cases. Indeed, with the peak of the wet season spanning from March to May, this pattern is not expected to change before April at least.

### UGANDA

**Achievements and Impact, in Nakivale:** Although malaria continues to account for the majority of consultations (35%) over the past month, the incidence of cases has decreased by 1% since the last report, after spiking multiple times throughout the month.

- MTI immunized over 1,500 children against measles, tetanus, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. This group was also dewormed and given Vitamin A supplementation.
- In partnership with the Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development (ACORD), MTI conducts regular health education activities with pregnant mothers in the new settlements. Among other activities aimed at promoting antenatal assistance, both actors carry out pregnancy mapping and ensure linkage to care services.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Achievements and Impact:** Since its launch in October 2015, the cash voucher distribution has been highly appreciated by members of the refugee and host community. This method enables the former to benefit from greater control over the food they choose to eat and for the latter, the vouchers constitute an important source of income. AIRD distributed some 13,470 vouchers for the month of February.



## Water and Sanitation

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Achievements and Impact:** In Lusenda a total of 572 latrine blocks and 100 washtubs are available for refugees. The continued construction of latrines has considerably improved sanitary conditions and the ratio currently stands at 26 persons/latrine. Awareness-raising activities are ongoing and a team of 30 hygiene promoters has been identified to ensure good hygiene measures are enforced in the camp. To date, activities carried out by the team have reached a total of 11,000 persons.

### TANZANIA

**Achievements and Impact:** In Nduta camp, the amount of water available per person/day remains stable at 22 L, allowing a ratio of 181 persons per tap (standard: 250) and 24 persons per latrine (standard: 50). In view of MSF CH's departure from the WASH sector, efforts are being made to increase water supply in Nduta, by constructing additional water points and installing a new pump. This will further decrease the distance refugees have to walk to obtain water as 85% currently live within 250 m and 15% live within 500 m (standard: 500 m) of taps.

- In Mtendeli camp, the amount of water available/person/day stands at 24 L allowing a ratio of 88 persons per tap and 20 persons per latrine. All taps are within the 500 m distance standard. The Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), MSF-Holland and Oxfam are engaged in the construction of boreholes in the camp which should help determine how many persons can be hosted in Karago (see Shelter and NFIs below).
- In Nduta, following a participatory assessment, UNICEF provided UNHCR with 9,500 20 L water storage containers to reach the 40 L/person standard. Any containers in excess will be distributed to Mtendeli, where UNICEF also provided three 5,000 L storage tanks to increase the availability of drinking water, as well as for latrine cleaning and hand washing in the hospital and two schools. Finally, in Nyarugusu, UNICEF provided buckets and water treatment tablets to refugees in isolated locations to reduce the latter's vulnerability to water related diseases.

### UGANDA

**Achievements and Impact, in Nakivale:** The average amount of water available per person/day is 20 L. Over the month, this amount has increased by 3 L and is a result of more frequent water trucking trips. In certain settlements where new arrivals are being settled the quantity remains at 10-15 L/person/day.

- Encouragingly, good hand washing practices are on the rise in 47% of households, up from 42% during the first week of March and up from 5% last year. This can be attributed to a distribution of jerrycans for handwashing by IOM.



## Shelter and NFIs

### TANZANIA

**Achievements and Impact:** The opening of a third site called Karago, located in the vicinity of Mtendeli is underway. The new camp layout was prepared in late February and revised shortly after to take suggestions from the Kibondo inter-agency coordination meeting into account. In theory Karago will accommodate up to 50,000 refugees but for the time being, a general lack of water in the area is setting the most positive estimate at 15-20,000 persons. WASH experts have confirmed that the water network currently being established in Mtendeli will have to serve Karago as well. Once the boreholes currently

under construction in Mtendeli are complete, Karago camp's true capacity will be assessed. In the past, actors have relied heavily upon surface water to establish new camps, but in light of the adverse impact camps are having on the environment, the Government is emphasizing the need for sustainable water sourcing. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently appointed an Environmental Coordinator to support this process.

- At this stage, partners have not been selected nor have funds been allocated for the development of the new camp. In light of the on-going influx and the Nyarugusu camp relocation exercise, compounded with land and water challenges in Mtendeli camp, it is vital that Karago be opened or that another site with better access to water be identified. Encouragingly, following recent meetings between UNHCR, the MHA and the local community – it was agreed Mtendeli would be expanded into land currently under use for farming by the local community, once the harvest is over.
- The Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for Shelter Allocation in Nduta and Mtendeli camps were completed by end February and have been implemented since. The SOPs aim to ensure the systematic allocation of shelters, that persons with special needs are prioritized, and that the time spent by refugees in mass shelters is reduced. With decreasing arrivals recently, shelter allocation has improved thanks to a larger amount of trucks available for the transportation of poles as well as increased amounts of plastic sheeting and the fact that refugees pitch their own tents. These developments coupled with a higher availability of kitchen sets has further reduced the amount of time refugees are dependent on the distribution of hot meals in the mass shelters.

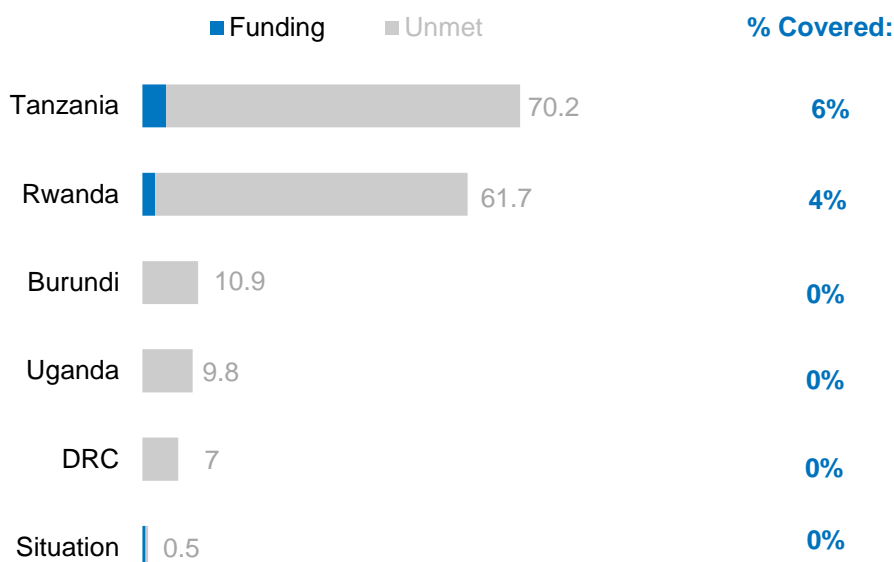
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

On 22 December 2015, UNHCR released a Supplementary Budget Appeal for the Burundi Situation, which includes needs for Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda from January to December 2016. UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Burundi Situation currently amounts to USD **175.1 million**. This includes USD 154 million for the response in the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda from January to December 2016, as presented in the Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 15 December. 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 4%.**

A total **USD 7.7 million** has been funded:

### Donors:

European Union  
France  
Japan



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# Burundi Situation

Displacement of Burundians into neighbouring countries since April 2015

as of 15 March 2016

