

15 May 2015

KEY FIGURES

105,000

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

70,187

Refugees in Tanzania (14 May)

26,000

Refugees in Rwanda (14 May)

9,000

Refugees in DRC (14 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 number of Burundians fleeing their country has crossed the 100,000 mark, with 50,000 concentrated in Tanzania's Kagunga village on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. A count conducted by the asylum seeker using the Cells and Communes administrative systems they have in Burundi revealed there are 15,000 families comprising 53,000 persons.
- The biggest challenge is to get the people off Kagunga, amid continuing fears of the outbreak of disease. The asylum seekers are in a confined space, with few latrines and drinking water in a village that is normally home to 12,000 people.
- In DRC, over 90% of asylum seekers are with host families in different villages. UNHCR has started biometric registration of refugees in collaboration with the Government's National Commission for Refugees. Mobile teams are going from village to village over a stretch of some 180 km. WFP has undertaken to provide food to assist refugees in host families. Distribution will start in the next days. Meanwhile, the Government has decided the location of a site where refugees will be transferred. It won't be a refugee camp but a site next to a village and we will assist the refugees on a community basis, helping the existing schools, health centres.

Burundian refugees in Tanzania (14 May 2015)

NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMP

• Registered	11,760
• Not registered	6,476
Sub-total	18,236
REPORTED/NOT REGISTERED	
• On the way to Nyarugusu from Kagunga and other villages	1,879
• Kigoma-Kaguga island	50,000
• Present in Ngara district	82
Sub-total	51,961
Grand total	70,187

Burundian refugees in DRC (14 May 2015)

• Living with host families	8,308
• Kavimvira transit centre	731
• Sange reception centre	139
• Monge Monge reception centre	5
• TOTAL	9,183

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Operational Context

- Kagunga is not an island, as previously reported. It is an isolated area jutting into the shores of Lake Tanganika which has a small coastland and rocky hills rising right from the coastal beaches. UNHCR's assessment mission early this week did not find 10,000 Burundians on the Tanzania side. However, with continuing uncertainty in the country, the likelihood of more people fleeing cannot be ruled out.
- The situation in Kagunga remains desperate. People managed to bring some food and can fish in the lake. However, they lack clean drinking water, latrines and proper shelter. Local health services are overwhelmed.
- To help expedite decongestion of Kagunga, able-bodied young people, particularly men, will be encouraged to walk to Kalinzi using a path that is normally used by villagers who reside in Kagunga. UNHCR will set up a "way station" to provide people with water and dates or biscuits. They will be fed before they start the journey and will be given water to carry. The walk to Kalinzi should take about four hours. UNHCR will set up a transit centre where they will spend one day before being transported to Nyarugusu in trucks or buses.
- The Lake Tanganyika Stadium transit centre became operational on 14 May. 640 refugees from Kagunga will spend two nights there before being transferred to Nyarugusu.

Protection

- Level 2 registration (family head count) is continuing at Nyarugusu camp. It is being conducted centrally, **after mobile teams encountered difficulties** locating people, particularly with family members being scattered. Female spouses are maintained as household representatives. All persons with special needs are being identified and documented for targeted assistance.
- The use of biometric technology is helping to identify individuals who previously resided in Tanzania and were repatriated with the help of UNHCR.
- To date 2,079 persons with special needs have been identified (including 210 persons with disabilities), 208 gender-based violence cases (including 23 rape cases which happened in Burundi), and 795 extremely vulnerable children (including 236 unaccompanied minors 467 separated children).
- The main reasons for separation from parents are (1) children joined the crowds fleeing after they did not find their parents at home on returning from school; (2) children were residing with relatives in abusive environment and took advantage of flight to leave those families; (3) some parents sent their children ahead while they remained in Kagunga. Night loading at Kagunga is very challenging children often become separated from parents.

Health (Kagunga)

- Two adult females died in Kagunga on 13 May. They reportedly had symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting. Because of poor communication between Kagunga and Kigoma, verbal autopsy could not be done from Kigoma by the UNHCR Health Officer. Based on the above, the acute diarrhea threat has been scaled up to 'suspected cholera', although the rectal swabs that had been submitted to the lab had so far been tested negative for vibrio cholera.
- UNICEF will deploy a doctor to support UNHCR to deal with the situation. UNHCR Headquarters is to send three cholera treatment kits, while UNICEF and WHO have been requested to share cholera treatment kits if available.

Shelter and Site Planning (Nyarugusu camp)

- New arrivals are presently staying in 15 areas serving as temporary reception centers. Five additional generators are being procured to assist with lighting temporary reception centers at night.
- Cluster plots: A UNHCR engineer has designed a shelter cluster consisting of 4 blocks. All 220 shelters are now in the final stages of construction. Some shelters are already occupied. A trench is being dug to pipe water to the area. Communal latrines and bathing structures are also under construction too.