

26 May 2015

KEY FIGURES

72,618

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

46,061

Refugees in Tanzania (23 May)

26,759

Refugees in Rwanda (17 May)

9,798

Refugees in DRC (24 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 cholera situation remains critical although there is positive progress with no deaths reported since 21 May (see also <http://goo.gl/IGfPJO>)



Now almost deserted, during the past two weeks these grounds in Kagunga had crowds of people who fled Burundi. [UNHCR/T.W.Monboe]

- A head count of Burundian refugees in Kagunga and the reconciliation of numbers of people who relocated by boat and on foot has resulted in a

substantial reduction of previously reported numbers of Burundian refugees in Tanzania which were based on guestimates provided by refugees in Kagunga (see details below). The head count took place on 22 May in an effort involving the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Police, WFP, IOM, TWESA, Red Cross and UNHCR. 8,529 persons were recorded. With relocation activities continuing, there were less than 1,600 Burundian refugees remaining in Kagunga village as of this morning.

- Following the head count, a general food distribution was carried out in Kagunga on 25 May, with a three-day ration provided as agreed during the joint UNHCR/WFP food distribution assessment. Additionally, in order to foster host community-refugee relationship, around 200 vulnerable persons from Kagunga village will be included in the food distribution.
- In Rwanda, where there has been a decline in the size of the influx, new arrivals report that youth militia have set up road blocks in Burundi, which is preventing people from fleeing. Blockades and checkpoints are reportedly mainly around Bujumbura as well as en route to the Rwandan border.

TANZANIA: Revised refugee statistics by location (23 May 2015)

In Nyarugusu	32,578
In Kagunga	7,270
In various border areas of Kigoma region	0
Lake Tanganyika Stadium – Kigoma Transit Center	6,032
Manyovo Transit Center	75
Lumasi Tansit Center (Ngara district)	106
GRAND TOTAL	46,061
Total reported previously	76,520

For more information, please contact:

TANZANIA: Stephen Mhando, mhando@unhcr.org

RWANDA: Martina Pomeroy, pomeroy@unhcr.org OR Erika Fitzpatrick, fitzpat@unhcr.org

DRC: Celine Schmitt, schmitt@unhcr.org

Operational Context

- A team of eminent persons from the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) arrived in Burundi to consult with different actors on the situation in that country. This follows an emergency meeting by Ministers of EAC affairs in Arusha last week where agreements it was resolved *inter alia* that Ministers responsible for EAC affairs should visit camps hosting refugees from Burundi in both Tanzania and Rwanda to assess the humanitarian situation. Tanzania's Deputy Minister for EAC Affairs will visit the Kigoma refugee operation this week.
- In order to harmonize statistics, UNHCR protection monitors will receive daily arrival updates from Immigration. Meanwhile, refugees who may have missed the headcount (were out of Kagunga in neighboring villages) will be included in the population figure for Kagunga, and the information shared with Immigration.

Protection

- Shaded areas were erected along in Kagunga to protect the refugees from the elements, prior to loading. 29,826 refugees had been transported by boat as of 24 May. More than 800 left the village on foot. Families of men who volunteer to walk are being prioritized and simultaneously evacuated by ship. Women and children have also walked on their own volition, accompanying their husbands and fathers. IOM continues to lead the process, as well as provide ground transportation for the refugees at Mkigo.
- In Nyarugusu refugee camp, cumulative statistics are as follows:
 - Children: 417 unaccompanied minors and 735 separated children
 - Persons with special needs: 3,401 (413 are persons with disabilities)
 - Gender-based violence cases: 320 (including 59 rape cases that occurred during flight)

Health

- To respond to reproductive and maternal health, 100 delivery kits donated by UNFPA have been distributed in Kagunga and Nyarugusu camp as well as aboard MV Liemba. The kits are re-usable and are sterilized after use. A temporary health post to screen, identify and assist pregnant women to deliver safely will be set up in Kagunga village with support from UNFPA, UNHCR and TRCS. Two midwives will be deployed to serve in the health post. UNFPA is also procuring 100,000 condoms for Nyarugusu Camp.

Shelter and Site Planning

- The pace of clearing land and erecting new shelters in Nyarugusu camp remains low as compared rate of arrival crowded reception centers. TWESA, the implementing partner is to increase the number erected from 200/day to 1000/ day. Tanzanian security personnel are helping to clear the land for shelters erection.
- A technical team assessed the proposed new site (Miguga Hills) next to Nyarugusu camp on 21 May, and recommended against it considering the urgency to accommodate a minimum of 25,000 refugees. Site development will require extensive flood mitigation infrastructure, access roads, costly sanitation facilities and thorough investigation to access water. A minimum of nine months is needed for tendering (swamp backfilling, road works, hydrogeological investigation, drilling) and construction, assuming all resources are available.

Water and Sanitation

- The water-sanitation-and-hygiene situation in Kagunga has improved, even as local Immigration officials report an average arrival rate of 100 per day in the last few days. Since 20 May, refugees in Kagunga chlorinated potable water and bottled water have been shipped to the village every day. Hand washing facilities are conveniently placed near toilets, the health post and residential areas. Hygiene promotion is being done through Red Cross volunteers. 94 toilets have been constructed and are fully functional. Full toilets were decontaminated and back-filled. All boats and buses are being decontaminated routinely by a private cleaning company.