



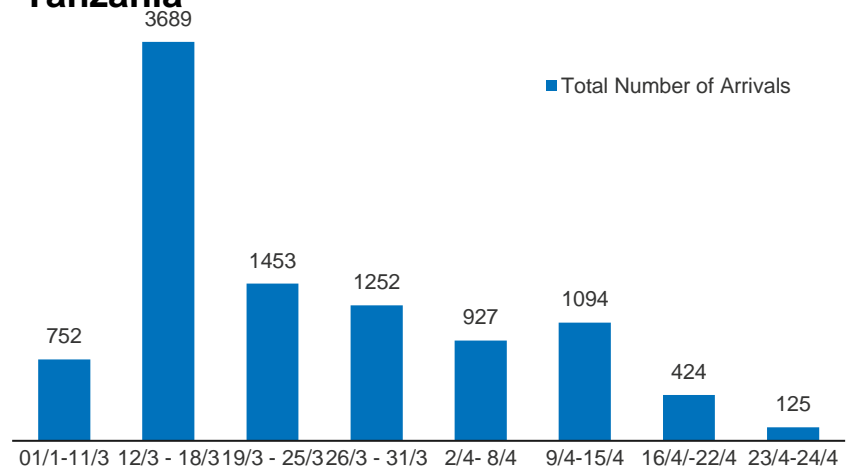
DRC NEW INFLUX TO TANZANIA: UPDATE #5

24 April 2023

KEY STATISTICS

- **9,881** total individuals (including new arrivals and others already in Tanzania not yet registered).
- **8,317** asylum seekers transferred to the Nyarugusu refugee camp.
- **871** asylum seekers accommodated at a transit center in Kigoma.
- **2,801** registered in Nyarugusu camp, of which **1,682** (60%) are children under 17 years.
- **56%** are female.

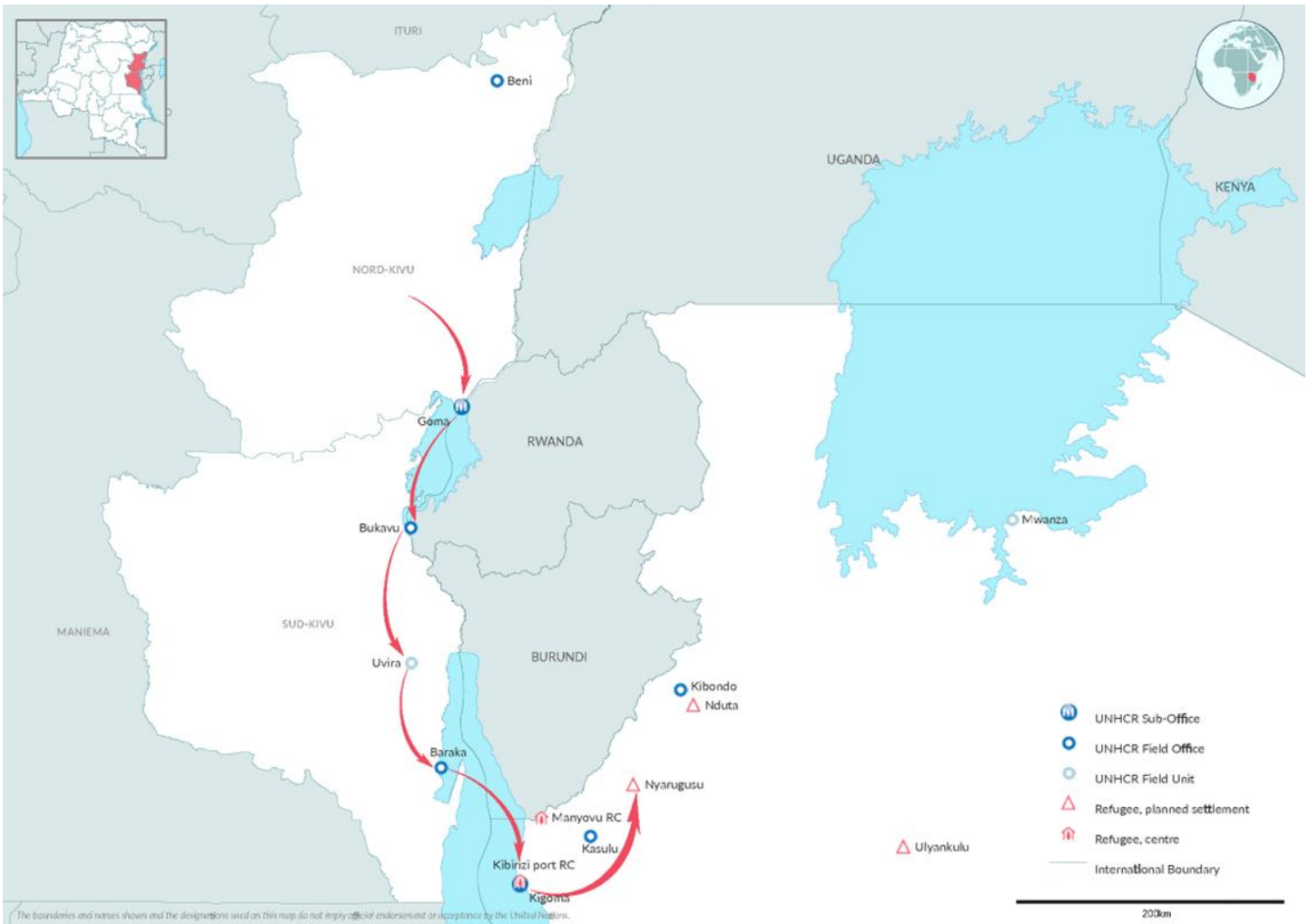
Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Tanzania



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

OVERVIEW

Violent clashes in the eastern DRC between non-State armed groups and government forces drive hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in search of safety. In the past month, there has been a sudden surge in the number of asylum seekers in Tanzania, arriving from Masisi and Rutshuru territories in North Kivu, the DRC. Asylum seekers are traveling from these territories and rest at Goma, then continue to Tanzania via Bukavu and Uvira. During initial interviews with recent asylum seekers, they've indicated fear of being targeted by all armed groups, forced recruitment of young men, and generalized violence, including gender based. Since late last year or the beginning of the current, other individuals sought asylum in Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. However, Tanzania (9,881) now is the fastest-growing influx among other asylum countries. Noteworthy is that among those who presented themselves as new arrivals are also Congolese living in Nyarugusu camp and Kigoma villages without a known legal status, mainly due to restricted access to Tanzanian territory and asylum procedures to Congolese and Burundians since 2017. The Government of Tanzania decided to include those in the ongoing registration exercise by the regional authorities. Based on the recent and new events in Congo and on the UNHCR Position on returns to North-Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and adjacent areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo affected by ongoing conflict and violence Update III, the prima facie refugee status could apply.



Humanitarian Response and Updates

In close coordination with the Government of Tanzania and other UN agencies and NGO partners, UNHCR provides protection and lifesaving assistance, including food, medical care, water and sanitation, child protection, and gender-based violence prevention and response activities. UNHCR coordinates the overall response, while its partner, Medical Teams International, provides the necessary health services to asylum seekers and refers others to the town hospitals. The Danish Refugee Council is responding to protection, including children, and is handling case management which supports the identification of Gender Based Violence cases and the provision of psychosocial support. The Norwegian Refugee Council erected temporary shelters and improved WASH facilities at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) office in Kigoma and the National Milling Centre (agreed UNHCR and MoHA transit center). African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) has deployed buses and trucks for movement to the Nyarugusu refugee camp. Furthermore, WFP provides food at MoHA’s office and in the camps. Moreover, UNFPA, UNICEF, and TRCS have supported with Non-Food Items, using their own resources, and Water Mission has provided the water treatment plant and installed the pump at the National Milling Centre (NMC).

Most asylum seekers in Tanzania are sheltered at the National Milling Centre with UNHCR’s financial support. The center started hosting new arrivals on 10 April, providing a space for actors to centralize the assistance in one place. The center has WASH facilities, a cooking area, a clinic, and a space for prescreening interviews. Currently, NMC hosts 1,084 asylum seekers and is the only transit center in Kigoma with an estimated capacity of 2,500 individuals. UNHCR provides Non-Food Items (NFIs), including soap, blankets, and sleeping mats that asylum seekers take with them once transferred to the Nyarugusu camp.

Asylum seekers’ first point of contact remains the Ministry of Home Affairs offices in Kigoma. The government is carrying out preliminary registration and prescreening at arrival. Once this is done, asylum seekers are transported to Nyarugusu camp, where they are formally registered and can access assistance and support from MoHA, UNHCR, and partners.

Advocacy

Tanzania has welcomed refugees for decades and currently hosts 250,000 refugees, mostly from the DRC and Burundi. UNHCR is grateful to the government for continuing to open its doors to these families forced to flee.

Under the Refugees Act 1998, granting prima facie refugee status is possible. Even though the trend of arrivals remains unpredictable, UNHCR advocates for prime facie status to be granted.

Everyone- including refugees and asylum seekers - should be able to access asylum procedures to transport them to the Nyarugusu refugee camp and have easier access to essential services.

The Government and the local host communities have generously welcomed the new arrivals and are doing what they can to help them. However, funding is stretched. More support is needed from the international community to ensure the refugees have access to protection and assistance.

Contingency plan for refugees from the DRC

While assistance continues, jointly with the government of Tanzania, UNHCR developed a contingency plan to prepare and respond to this new influx of asylum seekers from the DRC in a coordinated manner should numbers continue to increase. The Contingency Plan is in its finalization process jointly with the Government of Tanzania.

Resources

UNHCR and partners continue to work hard to respond but need support. UNHCR is appealing for funding in line with the [Regional Refugee Response Plan for the DRC situation](#).

UNHCR has, so far, been able to provide the basic needs of those who continue to arrive. However, the UN Refugee Agency still hasn't received the financial support to respond to unexpected refugee situations.

Last year, UNHCR was only 38% funded; this year, out of the US 116 million needed, it has only received 7%.

Other information

Out of the total 250,000 refugees in Tanzania, more than 207,000 are living in the Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps, representing 83% of the camp-based population. This figure includes some 80,000 refugees from the DRC.

Others mostly live in settlements and villages around the Kigoma region and other parts of the country.

Media

- [Video on the situation of the DRC refugees in Kigoma](#) (link)

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