

BURUNDI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE 19

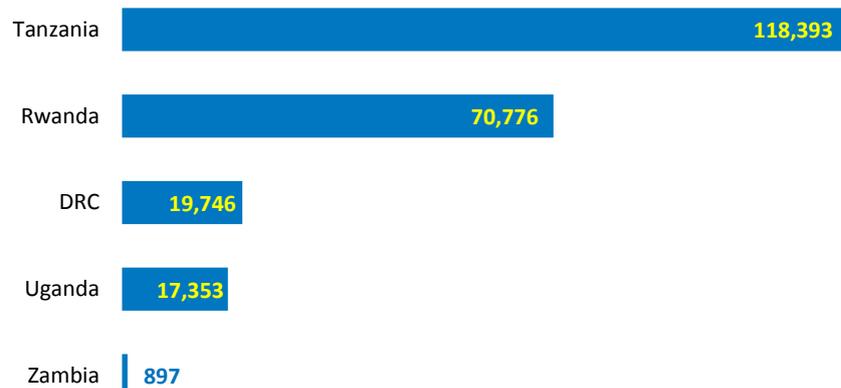
14 December 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 227,165 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived in the neighbouring countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, as well as Uganda and Zambia since April 2015.
- In the early hours of 11 December, coordinated attacks against military installations took place in Bujumbura. The army reports that 87 people were killed in the capital in the violence that broke out. Several areas of Bujumbura came under lock down during the period, but the overall security situation is reported to have calmed down since 12 December. Police checks are carried out in the streets but no major military presence has been reported, and foot traffic is authorised.
- UNHCR is scaling up its contingency planning and preparedness in the event of a sustained increase in arrivals in the weeks to come. Border and protection monitoring is being reinforced, the capacity of hosting structures is being extended and stocks of core relief items are being augmented.

Population of concern

A total of **227,165** people of concern as of 14 December



KEY FIGURES

227,165

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

FUNDING

USD 221.8 million

requested for the situation for April-December 2015



PRIORITIES

- **Tanzania:** Relocate 50,000 refugees to new camp sites from October to December 2015.
- **Rwanda:** Ongoing treatment of surface water in Mahama camp.
- **DRC:** Facilitate access to refugees with specific needs to provide enhanced protection and assistance.
- **Uganda:** Rehabilitate roads to improve access to refugee settlements.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Protection

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- As of 10 December, 19,746 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.
- During the reporting period, 1,897 individuals were relocated from transit centres and regrouping sites to the Lusenda camp set up to host the Burundian refugees. A total of 12,043 refugees are currently in Lusenda.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: The majority of arrivals comprise women and children. Some of the former stated that they had been threatened and had had to flee on suspicion of being married to *Imbonerakure* militia; others said that they had left their husbands in Burundi and brought their children with them to guarantee their safety. Among these arrivals were women who reported sexual assault; they are receiving psychosocial support.

- A number of people with specific needs (PWSN) such as recently arrived asylum seekers living in poor conditions outside the camp, isolated elderly people, breastfeeding women and abused children were identified and relocated, provided with nutritional support, and referred to specialised staff.

RWANDA

- According to the Government of Rwanda, as of 14 December, the number of new arrivals had reached 70,776 individuals with 45,212 registered in the Mahama camp. Following a discussion with Government and in an effort to report more accurately on refugees receiving assistance, changes have been made to the statistical reporting template. The total figure now indicates only 'active refugees' (i.e. those that are individually registered and those in reception centres). A number of refugees have been temporarily 'inactivated' because they have missed three consecutive distribution cycles. For its part the Rwandan Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) reports a higher daily figure which comprises both active and inactive refugees.
- Burundian refugees have been arriving directly in Mahama camp without passing through the Bugesera border entry point. Interviews with the new arrivals have indicated that they are wary of crossing through Bugesera because of the presence of *Imbonerakure* who are reportedly pushing back those fleeing Burundi. UNHCR and MIDIMAR are looking into the possibility of establishing a new reception centre at Kirehe where refugees will be screened prior to their transfer to Mahama camp.

Achievements and Impact: The 24th *16 Days of Activism* campaign against GBV took place from 25 November to 10 December under the following theme: *Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All*. In collaboration with its partners, UNHCR will prepare a report on the activities and collaborative efforts that have taken place during the campaign.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: UNHCR, UNICEF, PLAN and SCI undertook 28 focus group discussions (FGD) for unaccompanied minors (UAM) who had expressed interest to return to Burundi, but who are currently unable to do so due to the deteriorating security situation. The FGDs targeted UAM across eight villages in Mahama I, and out of the 715 children identified, 309 participated. Key messages were provided on family reunification and the current situation in Burundi, including the prospects for return. Findings indicated that while only 11 percent of UAM wished to return immediately, there is a strong interest in returning in the near future. UAM are conscious of the risks involved, however they cite inadequate food and NFIs as being the main motivator for wanting to leave Mahama. In addition to food and NFIs, 24 percent of those interviewed were not receiving follow up assistance from child protection agencies and 31 percent were not attending school because of the

constraints of providing for themselves. While 32 percent of those interviewed were living with a previously known adult, they repeatedly stated lacking care and support from caregivers and from the community. Many feel isolated, excluded and discriminated against by the community and report being routinely beaten, and harassed by community members. Out of those interviewed, 21 have been urgently referred to child protection agencies to follow up.

UGANDA

- The number of new arrivals into Uganda had reached 17,353 persons as of 10 December according to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), including 12,976 in Nakivale, 207 in Oruchinga, 291 in Kyaka II, 3,781 in Kampala, and 98 in Kisoro.

Achievements and Impact, in Nakivale: The American Refugee Committee (ARC), UNHCR and the OPM jointly conducted an awareness-raising session on GBV at Kabazana Reception Center as part of the activities marking the *16 Days of Activism* campaign. Some 55 refugees attended the session where they were encouraged to share the responsibility for GBV prevention and to make it a community responsibility. In Kashojwa C, the youth group presented drama and music productions to spread messages on preventing violence against women. They also engaged in community awareness-raising on the consequences of GBV.

- ARC identified 34 persons with specific needs (four separated children, 15 elderly persons without care takers and 15 persons at risk) at Kabazana reception centre (RC). The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has initiated family tracing for the separated children and is following up on the registration of the 15 elderly persons with the OPM.
- ARC received 20 protection cases related to insecurity (6), medical needs (11), single parenthood (1), a survivor of torture (1) and emotional stress (1), all originating in their countries of origin. Psychosocial support was provided to all the cases. Four of them were referred to the Police for follow-up while nine were referred to Medical Teams International (MTI) for further assistance.
- ARC conducted Best Interest Assessments (BIA) for eight children (including three from Kashojwa C) to identify their protection needs. Four girls were placed under foster care; two were assigned to caregivers; one was referred to MTI for medical follow-up and one separated child with special education needs was referred to the OPM. All the children have been referred to Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) for education support.
- UNHCR, the OPM, ARC and the District Probation Office conducted a joint community dialogue meeting in the newly established Nyakagando B village, to identify and respond to child protection issues. Among the issues raised by community members were high school dropout rates related to parents' inability to pay fees; domestic violence; poor hygiene in the Early Childhood Development centres (ECDCs) and food shortages. Those in attendance suggested that the community and parents should volunteer to clean the ECDCs. They also called for focused group discussions with men and women about domestic violence, and more awareness-raising activities on children's rights. In total, 17 people participated in the dialogue.
- In Ruhoko A, ARC conducted a focus group discussion with Burundian women to identify their protection concerns in relation to GBV. The key issues raised included high levels of domestic violence in their community linked to alcoholism, denial of resources by husbands and limited access to medical services. The women were urged to work as a team, form groups for income generating activities, and to promptly report GBV cases to protection offices. The participants requested that more GBV awareness-raising campaigns and outreach activities be organised.

In Kabazana, ARC conducted BIA for six children at Kabazana RC. Two girls were registered by the OPM and referred to WTU for education support; three unaccompanied minors were placed under foster care and one girl with physical a disability was found to need specialised education support. All the children were assigned foster parents, who signed foster care agreements committing to protect the children from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- According to Tanzanian authorities, 118,393 Burundian refugees had arrived in the country as of 13 December, at an average daily arrival rate of about 230 persons. Among these, 98% have been biometrically registered. The most used entry points were Mabamba, Manyovu, Kilelema, Kitanga, Bihalu and Bukiriro with 49% coming from the Makamba region and 11% from the Bururi region. Transfers from Nyarugusu to the first of four new camp sites (Nduta) allocated by the government started in early October. Concurrently, all new arrivals are now received at Nduta camp, which hosts over 30,000 Burundian refugees.

Achievements and Impact, in Nyarugusu: During the reporting period, a total of 16,726 Burundian refugee children benefited from services provided in 12 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS).

- A total of 1,888 BIA were conducted for newly arrived refugee children. Findings indicated that the cases had predominantly been victims of forced labour and sexual abuse, and that children with disabilities had been neglected. Overall, many cases were not enrolled in school as they had missed the first enrolment phase.
- Child protection partner case workers conducted individual and group counselling sessions with 170 Burundian refugee children on issues including, family relationships, self-acceptance, resisting peer pressure, and the importance of education.
- Two awareness-raising campaigns on child protection were conducted and benefited 300 persons.
- Case workers visited a total of 73 (39 Female, 34 Male) foster parents. Some of the major concerns identified during home visits included a lack of clothing, shoes and sleeping mats, children not attending school, and the prevalence of illnesses. All concerned cases were followed up on and referrals were made for health concerns.
- The Communication with Communities (CwC) framework, which establishes ways for beneficiaries to properly communicate their needs to the appropriate actors, was strengthened through the recruitment of volunteers (74 in Nyarugusu and 15 in Nduta to date). A reporting mechanism was established to enhance the CwC and enable the volunteers to refer cases with the use of short electronic messages. The volunteers provide information to the community in the form of key messages prepared by UNHCR and CwC team.
- Child protection partners participated in conducting body mapping exercises (see update n°18) in the context of the Child Protection assessment for the benefit of 51 children.
- Some 28 unaccompanied minors were placed in foster care; these included children who had been left behind by foster parents who relocated to Nduta and children who had been removed from their foster families for protection reasons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: During the reporting period, the level of attendance declined in CFS due to heavy rainfall. This decline can also be attributed to food distribution cycles that affect children and teachers alike.

- The sports and recreational facilities in the youth centres are inadequate.
- Additional safe spaces are needed to handle serious protection and security issues.
- There are significant mental health gaps, and a need for specialised activities in this respect to support children and parents cope with trauma and adaptation to the new camp.

Education

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact: With the support of UNHCR, the *Agence de Développement Economique et Social* (ADES) and Save the Children (SCI) distributed 1,364 uniforms (728 in Isungu, 217 in Katungulu, 299 in Lulinda and 120 in Lusenda) and 189 school kits to children in primary schools located in and around the camp.

- A group of 30 teenagers from the Lulinda CFS were trained in child protection rights, juridical mechanisms, SGBV and child abuse. In Katungulu and Lulinda, 48 children benefited from informative sessions on sexually transmitted diseases, early pregnancy and personal hygiene. In assimilating this information at an early age, teenagers are able to adopt responsible behaviour and sensitize their peers.

- In Lulinda, the *Réseau Communautaire de Protection de l'Enfant* (RECOPE) organised an awareness-raising session on sexual violence at Kilimyonga Primary School and 81 children took part in the activities. Participants reported cases occurring in school as well as in their community. Additionally, RECOPE organised a session on economic exploitation in the Lulinda Primary school for seven teachers, who actively encouraged their pupils' participation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: In the Lusenda kindergarten, AIRD have flagged the need for latrines to be installed and for the maintenance of the outside playground.

RWANDA

Achievements and Impact: A rapid emergency education assessment was conducted at Mahama camp to ascertain the reasons refugee children may have for not going to school and those their parents may have for not encouraging their attendance. The assessment looked at refugees' perception of their integration into the Rwandan school system, including the hurdles they face in this process. An integration plan for Burundian refugees into the Rwandan education system has been developed and is being implemented by the relevant actors.

- Kitchens were constructed in Mahama I and II and the school feeding programme began on 7 December.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: In Kirehe, the host community secondary school teaches a limited number of subjects (history, economics, and geography) but there is marked interest from the refugees to study scientific subjects. UNHCR is advocating that the district education officer expand the number of subjects on offer to meet the needs of Burundian students.

UGANDA

Achievements and Impact: Schools closed on 4 December for the end of year holidays and will reopen on 22 February 2016. A total of 3,013 Burundian children attended ECDCs, primary and secondary school out of the estimated 5,000 new Burundians of school-going age. Attendance during the last week in all the schools was regular as children were sitting their year-end assessment exams.

In Nakivale, WTU conducted end of year meetings with Centre Management Committees in the six ECDCs of Misera A, Misera B, Kashojwa B, Ruhoko, Kabahinda and Ngarama to discuss their progress, achievements and the challenges faced. Caregivers raised the issue of monthly allowances and congestion in classrooms. And committee members were urged to mobilize parents to contribute towards the proper functioning of ECDCs.

- In Nakivale, 16 youths were enrolled for basic computer training at the Community Technology Access (CTA) centre. However, enrolment has remained low because of the 10,000 Ugandan shillings charged for training. Efforts are being pursued to secure some scholarships from partners.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Achievements and Impact, in Nyarugusu: There is a total of 30,984 children enrolled in the schools, including 2,505 in pre-school, 21,904 in primary school, and 5,301 in secondary school.

- Preparations are underway to conduct demographic assessments in the coming weeks to identify children who are not attending school and their reasons for not doing so. These assessments will serve to rapidly put mechanisms in place to ensure at least 80 percent of children are enrolled in school by the end of the first quarter of 2016.
- Plan International handed over two out of its seven ECDCs to Save the Children as Plan will be withdrawing its services from Nyarugusu camp and providing them in the Nduta and Mtendeli camps.
- The inter-agency *Back to School* campaign was launched, which resulted in increased enrolment of children in the Temporary Learning Spaces for remedial lessons.
- All the temporary classrooms that had been affected by recent heavy rainfall have been renovated, and an additional 10 temporary classrooms (made of plastic sheeting and wood) are under construction.
- Some 30 teachers were trained in mathematics teaching methodology and techniques to hold classes for elementary grade level students.
- Partners conducted a joint awareness-raising campaign leading up to *World AIDS Day* (1 December) and the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* (3 December). Humanitarian organizations, community leaders

and community-based groups organised events such as keynote speeches, theatre productions, dancing, puppet shows, music and testimonials under the respective themes: “Getting to Zero” and “Inclusion Matters: Access and Empowerment for People of all Abilities”.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: There are not enough classrooms to accommodate all students in primary and secondary grades. The number of teachers in Burundian schools is also too low. Furthermore, the latter do not have access to sufficient guidance materials.

- Students and teachers have been missing school during distribution days to collect food and other relief items.
- There are water shortages in schools receiving Burundian refugees.
- There are increased numbers of absentees in schools due to the heavy rains.



Health

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact: A total of 1,729 refugees received medical care at the transit centres and in Lusenda camp. In descending order, malaria, intestinal parasites, acute respiratory infections, and diarrhoea are the most frequent illnesses detected.

- Refugees hosted in the transit centres and Lusenda benefited from awareness-raising organised by ADES on environmental sanitation; personal hygiene; the correct use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets; good conduct in reception facilities; HIV/AIDS prevention; and the prohibition of cannabis use in reception facilities and public areas.
- In partnership with *Médecins d’Afrique*, WHO initiated a project that will support a total of 18 health structures in the Uvira and Fizi territories, in areas where there is a high concentration of Burundian refugees such as Kavimvira, Mboko, and the Nundu health centres and general hospitals. The structures targeted by this initiative have been provided with drugs, and staff are receiving training.

UGANDA

Identified needs and remaining gaps: In Nakivale, a total of 1,639 consultations were recorded, with malaria accounting for the majority of cases (32%). With the rainy season, mosquito-breeding has risen; but the rise can also be attributed to households planting crops too close to their homes, not clearing vegetation around dwellings, and poor use of insecticide treated nets. MTI continues to conduct community awareness-raising and outreach activities on malaria prevention and control measures, including early health-seeking behaviour.

- Through UNFPA and the Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development (ACORD), 11 pregnant women were mapped and continuously followed up on by Village Health Teams (VHTs), who encouraged them to seek antenatal care services and deliver at Health facilities. Eight Burundian deliveries were reported at Nakivale Health center III and all the women were provided with dignity kits. Fifteen referrals were made from Nakivale Health Center (six to Rwekubo Health Center and nine to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital).

TANZANIA

- **Achievements and Impact, in Nyarugusu:** A total of 3,684 pregnant and 2,753 lactating women benefitted from supplementary feeding assistance. To date, 1,112 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition are enrolled in the supplementary feeding programme. Furthermore, 360 HIV/AIDS patients received supplementary feeding assistance.
- A total of 630 refugees were medically screened on 4 December for relocation to Nduta, and 28 were found unfit for travel.
- With the improvement of health services in Nduta, MSF have moved out of the medical screening centre. Nevertheless, IOM will continue to undertake screenings as usual.



Food Security and Nutrition

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact: In coordination with AIRD, WFP provided 8,986 Kg of food for the preparation of hot meals in the transit centres and in the common shelters at the Lusenda camp. AIRD also provided 194 Kg of supplementary food (sugar, manioc flour, vegetables) to persons with specific needs (PWSN) in the same locations.

- A joint UNHCR/AIRD/CNR evaluation of cash voucher use was conducted and refugee feedback was positive. WFP and UNHCR received thanks from traditional authorities for contributing to improving coexistence between refugees and the local community through this assistance method. At the beginning of December, the second WFP cash voucher distribution was initiated. AIRD is working with the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) to consolidate the list of refugees temporarily out of the camp to ensure they also benefit from the distribution.
- Within the context of its Emergency School Feeding programme WFP began constructing communal kitchens in the five schools surrounding Lusenda camp.



Water and Sanitation

TANZANIA

Achievements and Impact, in Nyarugusu: A total of 238 latrines were constructed in zones 8, 9, 10, 11 and departure centre 1, and 136 were replaced. Furthermore, 54 new bathing shelters were constructed and the construction of 131 others is in progress. Drainage systems were dug for 491 latrines to protect them from rain damage.

- A total of 101 hygiene promoters were trained in cholera prevention.
- Fumigation and disinfection was carried out in all the mass shelters latrines, bath shelters, brick-making shelters and in the relocation and departure centres.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps: In zones 8 and 10, markets have been established without consent from the Ministry of Home Affairs' office or site planner. As a result, there are no WASH facilities in these areas.



Shelter and NFIs

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Impact: An extension of the Lusenda camp (Lulinda) is under construction: 3,667 hectares have been prepared, 612 plots delineated, one hangar for NFIs and one hut for the police have been built and 515 shelters are under construction.

- In Lusenda, construction works on a health post, concrete offices, and a maternity ward started during the reporting period. The NGO *African Initiatives for Relief and Development* (AIRD) has completed the construction of a market, with the use of UNHCR funds.
- Recently arrived refugees received washing powder at Sange regrouping point and Kavimvira TC. In Lusenda UNHCR and AIRD distributed a total of 364 mats and blankets, 239 kitchen sets, 362 mosquito nets and 135 buckets to 523 refugees before they were relocated to family shelters.
- New volunteer hygiene promoters were identified for training by OXFAM, to carry out awareness-raising activities on oral-faecal transmitted disease, waste management, and latrine sanitation. They also undertook door-to-door hygiene and sanitation promotion and meetings were organised to compile feedback. Furthermore, AIRD provided the promoters with tools for data collection. Finally, focal points were designated in various villages to follow-up on water distribution monitoring.
- The installation of the VSAT signal station on Sangya hill was completed.

TANZANIA

- During the reporting period, 18 mass shelters and 145 family shelters were renovated in Nyarugusu.
- There are increasing amounts of shelters that need to be renovated due to the heavy rainfall. The shelter team has opted for a community based approach to carry out this task. As of last week, refugees residing in areas where renovations are needed will be directly involved in the various tasks. They will be provided with construction materials, and given support and supervision. Refugees will collaborate with community leaders and will be supervised and assisted with building materials.



DRC/Burundian refugee children at the Katungulu 1 annex, Lusenda camp ©UNHCR/Gloria Ramzani/November 2015

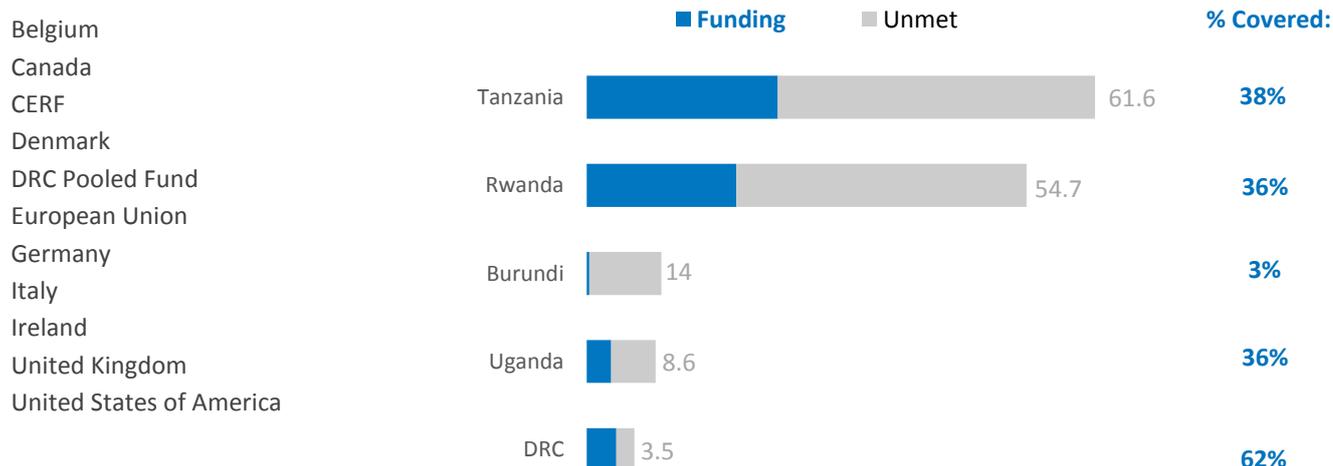
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

On 10 August 2015, UNHCR released a revised Supplementary Budget Appeal for the Burundi Situation, which includes needs for Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. UNHCR's total 2015 financial requirements for the Burundi Situation currently amount to **USD 221.8 million**. This includes USD 207.2 million for the response in the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda from April to December 2015, as presented in the revised Regional Refugee Response Plan launched on 6 August and revised on 1 October. **The organization's overall needs for this situation are currently funded at 37%**. UNHCR is finalizing the revised appeal for the 2016 requirements. It will be shared in the near future.

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.

A total **USD 81.9 million** has been funded:

Donors:



Private Donors:

Germany
Spain

Contacts:

Mr. Ulysses Grant, Reporting Associate, grantu@unhcr.org Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8730

Ms. Mandy Felicia 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

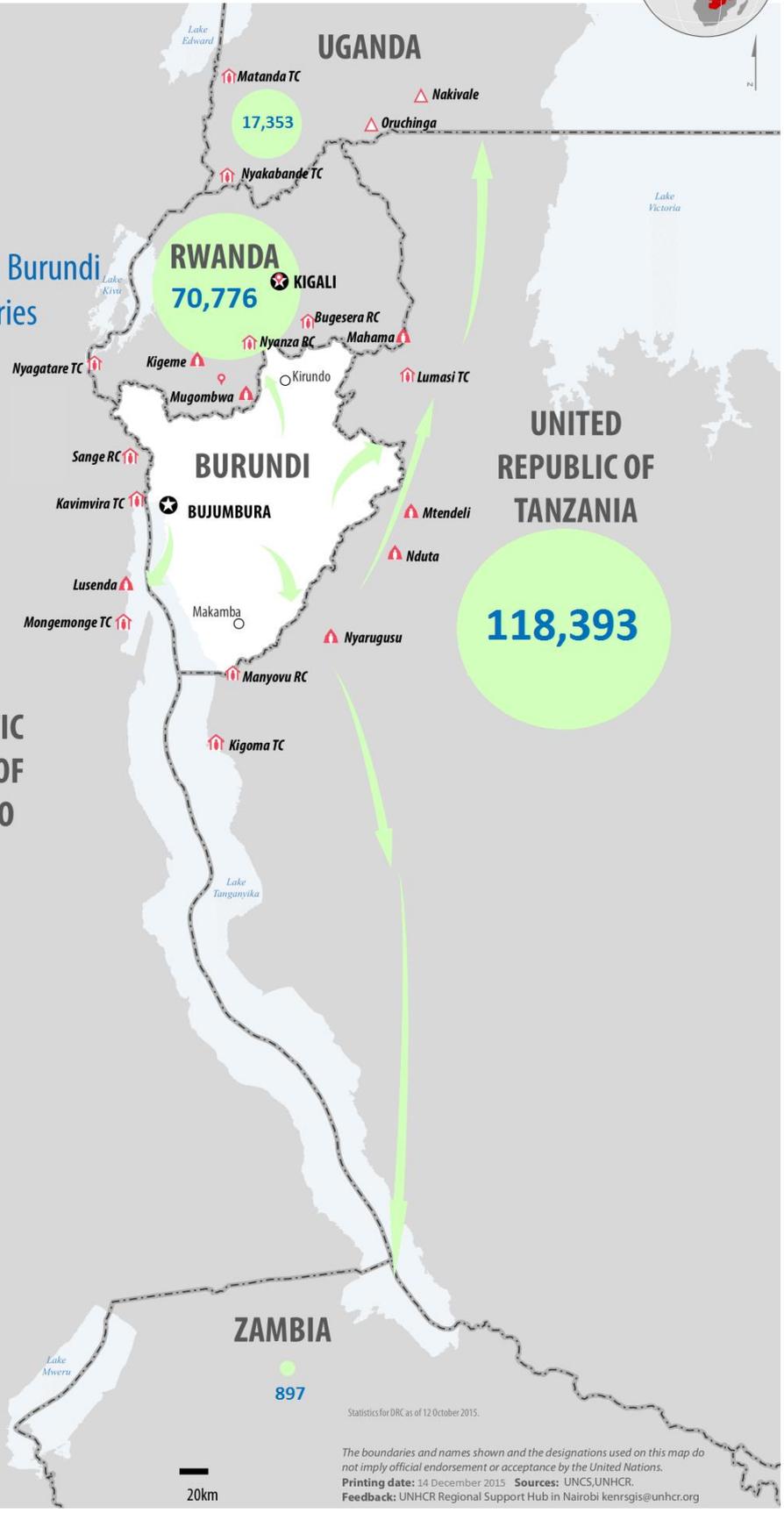
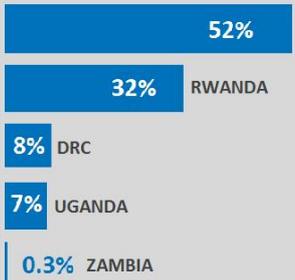


BURUNDI SITUATION: Displacement of Burundians into neighbouring countries | As of 14 December 2015



227,165

newly arrived refugees from Burundi in neighbouring countries



- LEGEND**
- ★ Capital city
 - Town of interest
 - ▲ Refugee camp
 - △ Refugee settlement
 - 🏠 Refugee reception/transit centre
 - New arrivals from Burundi
 - International boundary

Statistics for DRC as of 12 October 2015.
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Printing date: 14 December 2015 Sources: UNCS, UNHCR.
 Feedback: UNHCR Regional Support Hub in Nairobi kenrsgis@unhcr.org