

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

196,271

Number of registered and active Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers who have arrived in Uganda as of March 15th March 2016

162,430

Number of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers currently active and registered in Uganda before January 1st 2015

34,291

Number of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers currently active and registered in Uganda between January 1st 2015 to March 8th 2016

**statistics are provided by the Government of Uganda Office of the Prime Minister*

PRIORITIES

- Quick settlement of new arrivals to avoid overcrowding at TCs.
- Increased water trucking to improve water access/availability for new arrivals.
- Community sensitization on malaria prevention/control plus hygiene and sanitation.

- 1,610 refugees arrived in Uganda from the Democratic Republic of Congo over the last two weeks, an increase compared to the 1,040 people that arrived in the previous fortnight.
- New arrivals are typically arriving in Uganda from North Kivu province, where ongoing fighting is taking place between FDLR, Mai Mai and other militia groups. The militias are reportedly also killing civilian populations, looting villages and burning down houses.
- In Kisoro, refugee children are arriving at the Transit Centre tired and hungry. 33 children were found to be suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition and 56 were found to be suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition. While they are fleeing from DRC and travelling through the bush, many of the refugees have limited access to food. In addition, food is becoming increasingly scarce in some of the areas refugees are arriving from. UNHCR and World Food Programme are providing these children with supplementary food programmes in order to restore them to health.



Staff from Medical Teams International provide vaccinations to young refugees in Nyakabande Transit Centre. ©UNHCR/J. Ogwang

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- In Kisoro, 89 persons with specific needs, such as orphaned children, elderly, people living with disabilities, etc, were provided with clothing. Three were found to have medical needs and were referred to Medical Teams International.

Child protection

- In Nakivale, a young Congolese refugee child living with foster parents was provided with educational assistance by Windle Trust Uganda, supported by UNHCR, as he was unable to afford educational materials he needed for school.

Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- In Kisoro, three survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were provided with psycho-social support by HIJRA and Medical Teams International, supported by UNHCR. All three cases were in relations to assaults that occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A total of 43 survivors have been assisted in Kisoro since the start of the year.

Education

- In Nakivale, Windle Trust Uganda, in partnership with UNHCR, monitored attendance at six Early Child Development centers. 200 Congolese refugee children out of 824 from the relevant age group were in attendance. At primary school level, there was a small increase in the number of Congolese refugee children enrolled in education. Full enrolment rates will be available once the registration period has closed. Back to school campaigns are ongoing to encourage pupil enrolment and parents are being engaged through village meetings on the importance of sending their children to school. Secondary school attendance was low this week with just 45 Congolese refugee children attending. This is partially down to a food distribution taking place, which often prompts children to assist with collecting the food rather than attend school. A number of parents also reportedly kept their kids out of school in order to help with preparing their farms as the dry season begins to draw to a close. Nevertheless, secondary enrolment actually rose compared to the previous reporting period, and this is likely down to the verification exercise taking place. Pupils that are not present during the verification are able to apply for scholarships.
- In Oruchinga, Windle Trust Uganda in partnership with UNHCR are helping a number of primary schools to procure kitchen utensils in order that they may start providing lunches on site. Parents have agreed to provide the necessary food. It is hoped that this will help encourage pupils stay in school for the full duration of the day. Some pupils, especially those who live long distances away from the school, don't return to school after the lunch break.

Health

- At health facilities across the settlements hosting Congolese refugees, Medical Teams International, supported by UNHCR continue to immunize refugee children against communicable diseases, as well as providing antenatal care to pregnant women, including syphilis and HIV testing and counselling.
- In Nakivale, there was an increase in medical consultations this week. 1,232 consultations took place amongst the total refugee population including Congolese refugees, with the most common reason due to malaria. A recent survey by Medical Teams International, supported by UNHCR, found that less than 27% were effectively using long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets. Medical Teams International and UNHCR plan to carry out community

awareness campaigns to stress the importance of correctly using nets. In Kisoro, malaria is similarly the motivation for seeking medical treatment, though this is more to do with new arrivals having been exposed to mosquitos during their flight. In Kyaka II, 12,000 long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets were distributed and a community outreach campaign was carried out on the importance of using them effectively in order to combat malaria.

- In Nakivale, for the total refugee population, crude mortality rates were at 0%, within the UNHCR Emergency Standard of 75 per 1,000 people per month. Under five mortality was at 0% compared to the UNHCR Emergency Standard of 1.5 per 1,000 per month. The number of community workers per refugee population was at 1:50, within Government of Uganda Ministry of Health standards.
- In Kisoro, refugee children are arriving at the Transit Centre tired and hungry. 33 children were found to be suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition and 56 were found to be suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition. While they are fleeing from DRC and travelling through the bush, many of the refugees have limited access to food. In addition, food is becoming increasingly scarce in some of the areas refugees are arriving from. UNHCR and World Food Programme are providing these children with supplementary food programmes in order to restore them to health.

Water and Sanitation

- In Nakivale, the provision of clean water was at 19.3 litres per person per day, within the UNHCR Emergency Standard of 15 litres per person per day. However, when broken down at a village level, some of the villages are receiving less than the required emergency standard. This is the result of a mechanical breakdown at Misiera and Base Camp water plants. American Refugee Committee, in partnership with UNHCR, is in the process of making the necessary repairs.
- In Kisoro, the provision of clean water dropped from 66 litres per person per day down to 18 litres per person per day. This sizable drop was due to a power shortage at the National Water and Sewerage Power Corporation's site. Nevertheless, the provision remained above the UNHCR Emergency Minimum Standard of 15 litres per person per day.

Sanitation and Hygiene

- A pit latrine assessment was carried out in Rwamwanja by OPM, UNHCR and Lutheran World Foundation. The team agreed to cluster the households into groups of ten in order to make for easier monitoring by the Village Health Team (VHT). The digging kits, comprising 40 spades, 40 peak axes, 40 metallic buckets and 40 ropes, were distributed to the chairmen and the cluster to help the community to dig more pit latrines. Two latrine blocks were also built in Mahega Primary School by Lutheran World Foundation, supported by UNHCR.
- In Nakivale, the proportion of latrines per household for the entire refugee population increased from 62.6% to 66.4% due to the construction of an additional 52 latrines in Kyeibale B and Misiera B villages.

Working in partnership

UNHCR and OPM work in partnership with:

- In Oruchinga by OPM, HIJRA, WTU, MTI, ARC, PADEAP, R2P and Red Cross.
- In Kyaka II by OPM, DRC, WTU, NSAMIZI, Finn Church Aid, Ugandan red Cross, AHA, AIRD, WFP through Samaritan Purse,
- In Rwamwanja by OPM, LWF, WTU, AHA, Finn Church Aid, Ugandan Red Cross, AIRD, WFP through Samaritan's Purse, Tutapona
- In Nakivale by OPM, ARC, WTU, MTI, AIRD, Ugandan Red Cross, WFP through Samaritan's Purse, Tutapona
- Government partners in all locations: OPM, Arua and Koboko DLG authorities, various technical departments, and Uganda Police Force.

Koboko humanitarian partners: Danish Refugee Council (DRC) as the main IP implementing WASH, protection, Community services, and infrastructure. ACAV; farmer skills training and livelihood. Koboko District Local Government implementing Health, livelihood and Education sectors, while OPs include SCI for child protection related issues, Kato Echo Farming system for promoting commercial farming and War Child Canada for legal services.

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