

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

196,985

Total number of registered and active Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers who have arrived in Uganda (as of 29 March, 2016).

Further breakdown of the total number of Congolese refugees received in Uganda:

162,430

Number of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers received in Uganda before 1 January, 2015.

34,555

Number of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers received in Uganda between 1 January, 2015 to 29 March, 2016.

10,013

Number of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers received in Uganda this year alone (As of 31 March)

**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 benefits of education to improve enrollment, especially in ECDs and secondary schools.

- There has been an increasing trend of new arrivals from DR Congo through Nyakabande Transit Centre (TC) in Kisoro, over the last couple of weeks. A total of 1,601 new arrivals were received at Nyakabande TC in the reporting period, up from 1,777 individuals reported two weeks ago and 1040 previously. This brings it to a total of 7,230 Congolese new arrivals received at Nyakabande TC since January this year. Most of the new arrivals are from North Kivu areas of Binza, Bukoma, Masisi, Gisigari, Gisharu and Rutchuru in North Kivu, citing forceful eviction of the population living near the Virunga National Park in Binza, Rutcuru territory by the park authorities. They also report killings, abductions, looting and burning people's homes by the Maimai militias and FDLR rebels in other areas.
- The current total population of new arrivals residing at the TC is 1,892 individuals against the centre's shelter capacity of 500 persons. As such, all the temporary structures at the TC, including partners' offices and registration shades are currently being used as shelters for the new arrivals to accommodate the increasing numbers. To cope with the increasing pressure on available shelter facilities, one additional communal shelter that can accommodate up to 100 individuals was constructed. This brings the current shelter capacity at the TC to 600. Plans are under way to construct five additional improved shelters that can accommodate 500 persons to raise the shelter capacity to 1,100 individuals.
- As a preparedness measure, OPM and UNHCR continued to undertake site assessment and site planning activities in Rwamanja and Kyaka II settlements. The site planner completed surveying works of settlement areas for new refugee arrivals, and is in the process of developing structured settlement site plans. The site plans will indicate in which settlement areas new arrivals will be allocated plots, detailed plot numbering and the location of additional facilities required. As a result of site assessments, there will be a detailed understanding of how many additional refugees can be accommodated on lands currently gazetted as refugee settlement areas.



New arrivals settled in Ngarama "C" during a community village meeting mobilized with support of refugee leadership to identify major challenges facing the community. © UNHCR/Sam kulu.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- In Kisoro, 163 new arrivals were reported to have spontaneously returned to DRC through Bunagana border compared to 240 a fortnight ago. Of these, 147 individuals were from Rwamwanja, eight from Nakivale and another eight from Kyangwali mainly returning to Gisiza, Jomba, Bukoma and Bwisha. The main reasons for returning to DRC were family reunion, small size of land being allocated by OPM, high malaria incidence and some few mentioned peace in DRC. This brings the total number of spontaneous returns to DRC recorded at Bunagana border to 1,794 individuals since January this year.
- In order to prevent/minimize 'recycling', OPM Kampala communicated a resolution that 'any refugee new arrivals who are returning through Nyakabande TC, after having been registered previously, allocated land in the settlements and had spontaneously returned to DRC on their own, will not be assisted with transportation to the settlements.' Resultantly, on 31 March 2016, a total of 255 refugees were asked to leave the TC and arrange their own private transport to the settlements where they had earlier been allocated plots.
- In Kisoro, a total of 539 new arrivals were relocated to different settlements from Nyakabande TC last week. Another 524 new arrivals were relocated to Rwamwanja this week, bringing it to a total of 5,149 individuals relocated from Kisoro to the settlements since January this year.
- In Nakivale, a joint physical head count conducted by UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and American Refugee Committee (ARC) at Kabazana Reception Centre showed that there were 539 individuals residing there (296 Burundians, 239 Congolese and 7 Rwandans). This is lower than the 935 individuals reported in the last exercise and the 705 previously, but still higher than the centre's design capacity of 338 individuals. The last two weeks saw an increase in people residing at the RC because of additional new arrivals including individuals who were previously living within the community but not yet granted refugee status. These were readmitted at the RC because the relatives and friends could not accommodate them any more due to limited shelter space.

Protection

- At Nteko border a total of 1,459 new arrivals were transported by AIRD to Nyakabande TC compared to 392 reported in the previous weeks. The huge increase was as result of forceful eviction of populations living around Virunga National Park in Binza (Rutchuru territory) by DRC park authorities.
- In Kyaka II, quarterly joint prison monitoring visits were conducted by UNHCR, DRC and OPM in Kasese, Kibale, Mubende, Fort portal, and Mityana prisons. Six refugee inmates were found in Rwimi Prison in Kasese, five in Kyegegwa Prison and seven at Katojo Prison in Fort portal. The prisoners were supported with NFIs such as soap, sandals, tooth brush, tooth paste and Vaseline.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- In Kisoro a total of 121 PSNs were identified at Nyakabande TC. HIJRA opened individual files for all the PSNs, to be sent to the settlements for further follow up and assistance once they are relocated.

Child protection

- In Nakivale, ARC conducted six Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for five separated children and one male child at risk. The report will help to identify the needs of these children for appropriate interventions.
- In Nakivale, ARC identified an 11-year-old male child at risk living with HIV/AIDS in Base Camp II village. Both mother and child were supported with psychosocial counseling. The boy is currently receiving medical attention and nutrition services at Nakivale Health Centre IV with support from his mother. He was also referred to Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) for education support and has been enrolled at Nyarugugu Primary School. WTU will continue to monitor his progress to ensure that he attends school regularly.

- In Kisoro, HIJRA identified some 43 children at risk, among new arrivals. They included 25 separated children, 14 unaccompanied minors and four children at risk. BIA forms were filled for all the children to be shared with the receiving settlements during relocations. Uganda Red Cross (URC) was notified and initiated the family tracing process for both unaccompanied and separated children. This brings the total number of children at risks identified since January 2016 to 231 (104 separated children, 109 unaccompanied children and 18 other children at risks).

Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- In Kisoro, HIJRA and Medical Teams International (MTI) identified two GBV survivors and provided them with psychosocial support plus related health services. They were both rape cases which occurred in the country of origin. Individual interviews were carried out and the report will be shared with the settlements for further follow up. This brings it to a total of 45 SGBV survivors identified since the beginning of the year, majority of them (41 cases) being rape, that occurred in country of origin.
- In Oruchinga, HIJRA received a defilement case involving a 15-year-old Congolese girl, who lives in Rwembogo village. The survivor reported that she was attacked by a group of men who beat her and forced her into sex on the way back home from Kajaho village at around 9:00pm. The survivor was accompanied to the medical center for examination and treatment and to the police post to make a statement. Police carried out investigations and four suspects were arrested and the file was transferred to Isingiro Central Police Station for further investigations. HIJRA paid her a follow-up visit at home and provided her with psychosocial support. This brings it to a total of 14 cases this year, majority of which (13) revolve around emotional/psychological abuse and denial of resources.
- In Oruchinga, HIJRA organized a one-day meeting targeting men in Rurongo C village to discuss ‘intimate partner violence’ which is reportedly on the rise. A total of 25 men attended the meeting. They cited alcoholism as reasons for violence. They were encouraged to always report their grievances to the HIJRA office for assistance instead of resorting to violence.

Education

- In Nakivale, Windle Trust Uganda, in partnership with UNHCR, monitored childhood attendance at 10 Early Child Development centers in Kashojwa “C”, Misiera “A”, Misiera “B”, Ngarama “C”, Kabahinda “B”, Ruhoko “A”-under community setting and Nakivale, Kabazana, Kashojwa “A” and Nyarugugu-under primary school setting to assess the pupils’ regular attendance. The weekly total attendance recorded for Congolese children was 332 (out of 824) compared to 200 in the previous two weeks. The increase was as result of continued sensitization on benefits of early childhood education through local leaders in all the villages.
- In Nakivale, the primary school weekly attendance for Kabazana, Kashojwa, Nyarugugu and Nakivale primary schools was 1,584 pupils, majority of whom 1283 were Burundians with the remaining 301 being Congolese children. This figure shows an increment in school attendance from 1,192 in the previous weeks to 1,584. The increase was as result of continuous sensitization of parents through village meetings featured in the ‘Go Back To School’ campaigns and the just concluded distribution exercise of scholastic materials (writing books, pens and pencils) in all the school schools.
- In Nakivale Secondary School, the weekly attendance was at 200 students of which only eight (06 male and 02 female) were Congolese students, the rest being Burundians. Generally however, the low secondary school attendance, particularly for the Congolese students is attributed to the negative attitudes of the community towards education. It has been noted that majority of parents keep children at home to support with domestic chores. WTU education officers continue to conduct “Go Back To School” campaigns in a bid to improve enrollment rates.
- In Oruchinga, WTU in partnership with MTI carried out a routine pregnancy checkup at Kajaho Primary School among P.7 pupils. None of the pupils was found pregnant. The exercise was meant to find customized support for those found pregnant to continue with their education.
- In Nakivale, WTU has initiated school feeding in the three primary schools being managed by WTU/UNHCR in Kajaho, Kayenje and Rwamurunga. WTU supported the schools by procuring the cooking materials in each of the schools and parents contribute for the food. The school feeding programme is expected to increase the pupils’ school attendance.



Health

- In Kisoro, MTI vaccinated a total of 773 children at the transit centre against measles, polio, tetanus, pneumonia and also dewormed them. This brings the total number of children immunized at Nyakabande TC to 2,343 since January 2016. MTI also immunized another 51 Congolese children at the OPM screening point, Kabazana RC, Ruhoko and Misiera mobile clinics in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.
- In Nakivale, MTI conducted 190 consultations for Congolese new arrivals. However, contrary to what has been previously reported, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections overtook malaria-which is always the source of illness in the communities. At 34 %, URTIs accounted for the highest morbidity in the reporting period compared to malaria (11%). The reduction in malaria was as result of a dry spell witnessed in the reporting period which has resulted into drying of the areas where there was stagnant water creating breeding places for mosquitoes. Other illnesses were eye infections (2.9%), chronic diseases (14.7%), worm infestations (4.5%), injuries (2.1%), Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (15.7%), watery diarrhea (10.1%) and skin infections (6.4%).
- Similarly, In Kisoro, Respiratory Tract Infections accounted for the highest morbidity cases at Nyakabande TC; with 281 cases followed by malaria (199 cases) and malnutrition with 112 cases. However, malaria in Kisoro is mainly as result of new arrivals sleeping in the bush for some time in the country of origin before they seek asylum in Uganda. While the high cases of malnutrition have been attributed to poor feeding in the country of origin due to insecurity which could not allow people to produce enough food.
- In Kisoro, 33 pregnant women received antenatal care services at the emergency clinic at the TC. This brings the total number of women who have attended ANC this year to 178. A total of 19 HIV tests were carried out and only two were positive. All the positive cases were linked to treatment and care.
- In Nakivale, MTI conducted nutrition screening for some 101 Congolese children up to five years at Kabazana RC. No child was found malnourished.
- While in Kisoro, MTI found 112 children malnourished out of the 733 screened. Forty nine and 33 of these children were severely and moderately malnourished, respectively. This brings the total number of children screened for malnutrition since January 2016 to 2,343 with 303 cases of malnutrition.



Food Security and Nutrition

- In Nakivale, Nsamizi Training Institute conducted crop and vegetable seeds distribution to Congolese households in the villages of Nyakagando, Ngarama “C”, Misiera “A” and Ruhoko. The purpose of the intervention was to ensure that the Congolese beneficiaries access planting materials to prepare for timely planting as a food security measure. A total of 189 individuals were supported with 396kgs of maize and 585kgs of beans seeds for crop production. Some 47 acres of land were cumulatively planted and yields are expected in the next two months. This activity was closely monitored by UNHCR whereas OPM supported with provision of lists of households with land for crop production.
- In Oruchinga, HIJRA distributed 16 sacks of cassava cuttings to 13 agricultural groups comprised of 171 members (125 females and 46 males) alongside technical support from agricultural extension workers, to promote cassava growing as a plant which has been found to be resistant to the long dry spells usually experienced in Isingiro district. In total, 90 sacks have so far been distributed as part of a revolving arrangement, whereby the beneficiaries are expected to pay back (return) the cassava cuttings upon harvest. HIJRA has also identified two gardens in Kazinga and Rurongo zones, where 10 sacks of cassava cuttings will be planted as demonstration gardens for community members to learn from.



Water and Sanitation

- In Nakiavle, the WASH sector supplied water to the nineteen villages where Congolese new arrivals have been settled to a tune of 1,384,285 litres which was an increase compared to 1,298,285 litres in the previous reporting period. The average liter of water per person per day was 19.72 liters compared to 19.3 liters in the previous week. The increase in the amount of water per person per day was as result of the increase in the amount of water supplied to the villages

after the repair of the generator at Base Camp and Misiera village. The UNHCR emergency water standard is 20 liters per person per day.

- In Kisoro, the average amount of water per person per day was 16.5 liters compared to 26 liters reported two weeks ago. The decrease in the amount of water person per day was as result of sharp increase in the number of new arrivals compounded with low water pressure experienced during the period which supplied little water at the transit centre.
- In Oruchinga, as part of the activities to commemorate the World Water Day, preventive maintenance was carried out on a total of 10 boreholes by HIJRA and 35 hoes were given to some community members as motivational incentives for their participation in the maintenance activities. The repair of the 10 boreholes will improve the average amount of water per person per day in Oruchinga to at least 19.6 litres per person per day from the current 18.6 liters per person per day.

Sanitation and Hygiene

- In Kisoro, there were 37 stances of pit latrines which can adequately serve a population of 1,850 according to the sphere standards compared to the total population at the transit centre which was at 2,146 as of 4 April 2016. There were 21 bathing shelters which is adequate for only population of 1,050 according to the sphere standard. Plans are under way to reduce the number of the new arrivals at the transit centre through relocation to the settlement. However, in case the relocation delays, more pit latrines and bathing shelters will be constructed.

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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[Twitter](#) - [Fighting in eastern DRC forces thousands to flee](#)

Uganda - DR Congo Refugee Situation as of (29 March 2016)

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Info-graphic and statistics

Total

Pre 01 January 2015



Post 01 January 2015



Grand Total



* The grand total as it is reported by the Office of the Prime Minister, Refugee Department on 28 February 2016.

Key Statistics for (Post 01 January 2015)



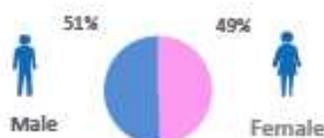
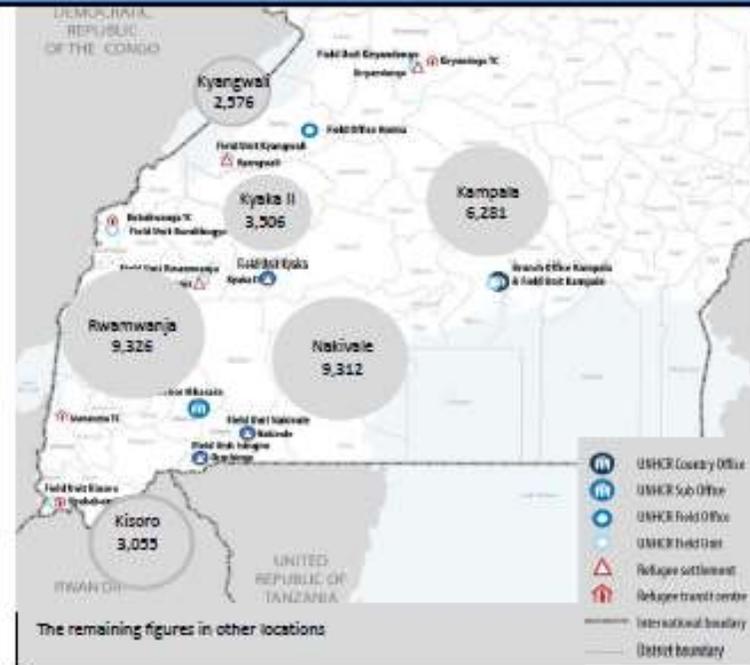
58 %
of the population are
Children <18
20,048 individuals



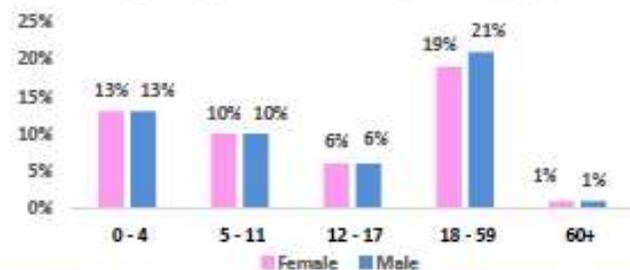
78 %
of the population are
Women and Children
27,093 individuals



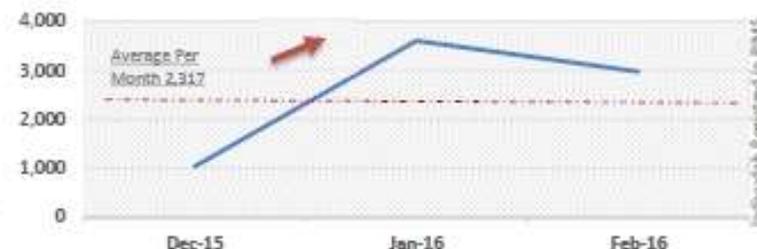
2 %
of the population are
Elderly
692 individuals



Age and gender break down percentage (%)



New arrivals trend since December 2015



Registered : person of concern who went through level 1/ level 2 registration with government , Unregistered : new arrivals pending registration
 Source : Government , Office of the Prime Minister, Refugee Department, Refugee information Management System (RIMS)
 Contact : UNHCR, Abdelrahman JABER, Associate Information Management officer, jaber@unhcr.org, Tel: +256(0)772 707057 | Web-portal : <http://data.unhcr.org/>
 : UNHCR, Charlie Yaxley, Associate External Relations Officer, yaxley@unhcr.org, Tel: +256 (0) 776 720 045