INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE ON THE BURUNDIAN REFUGEE OPERATION

BI-WEEKLY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Reporting Period: 09–22 JUNE 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

World Refugee Day: World Refugee Day (WRD) was commemorated on 20 June 2017 across all the three refugee camps namely, Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli. Among other activities, refugees participated in a procession and showcased livelihood products.

KEY FIGURES

276,583
Total Burundian population of concern

68,674
Total Burundian population in Nyarugusu Camp (Pre-Influx + influx)

126,126
Total population in Nduta Camp

49,839
Total population in Mtendeli Camp

FUNDING

217,250,427 USD
Required Funding for Tanzania as part of Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan

PRIORITIES

- Keep pace with the construction of transitional shelters and school classrooms construction activities across all camps.
- Collaborate with the Government of Tanzania on the setting up of refugee status determination procedures.
- Continuation of advocacy with the Government of Tanzania on land allocation.

Burundian refugees’ traditional dance group performing during the World Refugee Day in Nyarugusu refugee Camp. @UNHCR/Maimuna Mtengela
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

The hyperlinks below provide detailed information on the Burundian Refugee Operation in Tanzania from previous updates:

**Edition 43:** This reporting period covers 26 May – 08 June 2017

**Edition 42:** This reporting period covers 12-25 May 2017

Operational Context

- The screening of asylum-seekers from the Republic of Burundi by immigration officers at the borders has led to reduced number of asylum seekers accessing Tanzania territory in the Kigoma region to an average of 10 individuals per day. In Kagera region however, the number of Burundian and Congolese asylum-seekers is on the increase. A total of 86 individuals were received during the week of 9-16 June as compared to 48 individuals the previous week with women and children constituting 80% of the new arrivals. The Congolese asylum-seekers are mostly from North and South Kivu access Tanzania without much difficulty despite immigration scrutiny.

- The Department of Refugee Services of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) began the initial interview and assessment of asylum-seekers from Burundi pending review of their claims by an ad hoc committee scheduled to sit in Nduta Refugee Camp soon thereafter. UNHCR’s support with logistics including fuel and transportation as well as stationaries, supplies, etc. was appreciated by the MHA Refugee Status Determination (RSD) team. However of the 17 simultaneous interviews undertaken, UNHCR’s observation was limited to 3 observers daily despite having capacity to sit in in all 17 interviews. UNHCR registered a number of concerns about the quality of some of the interviews/assessments and transparency of the process with MHA on the ground and shared with Representation office in Dar es Salaam.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

**Refugee Status Determination (RSD)**

- A total of 486 households/cases were attended to with 419 interview/assessments completed equal 1,505 individuals.

**Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**

- IRC conducted a training for 38 youths (19 females; 19 males) at Mtendeli refugee camp. The training provided an overview of SGBV, reporting channels/referral pathway, prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse, legal implication of SGBV and human rights, and guiding principles in dealing with SGBV survivors.
Community Based Protection and Child Protection

- At Mtendeli camp, HelpAge facilitated 1,885 households of persons with specific needs (PSN) in receiving food through group distribution on priority basis. The food items covered the period of 28 days instead of the usual 14 day period.
- HelpAge conducted awareness raising to the refugee community on the “Day of Awareness on Abuse against Elderly people” on 13 June 2017 and organized commemoration of International Day on awareness raising for People with Albinism on 15 June 2017. PSN traditional dance groups and committees participated in the commemorations. Key messages on abuse against elderly people were disseminated to refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Restriction on UNHCR’s observer role during interviews and assessment of the RSD interviews/assessments.
- Limited border monitoring in Kigoma region due to restrictions.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- The results of the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) for the 1,323 (459 Girls) Burundi refugee candidates were released. Of the total number of candidates who sat for the examination 59.2% (774) passed. Notably, boys registered better results than girls with a pass rate of 68% (583) compared to 42% (191 Girls). NECTA shall deliver certificates for the successful candidates in the month of July 2017.
- Save the Children has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Libraries without Borders (LWB) to set up two ideas boxes to support children’s education activities in Nduta and Nyarugusu Camps. This is a unique opportunity for Burundi children. Innovative technology based libraries will support both education and child protection activities focusing on benefits to both children and teachers as a resource room and thus addressing the gaps in terms of access to curriculum and teaching and learning materials.
- A total of 30 teachers from all three camps are taking a five day Teachers in Crisis Context, Training of Trainers (TiCC, ToT) training in Kibondo. The training hosted by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will train master trainers on four modules including teacher’s role and well-being, pedagogy, Child protection, wellbeing and inclusion and curriculum and planning. A subsequent training will be rolled out by the 30 ToT in all three camps during the upcoming July-August school holidays. This process is a joint coordinated collaboration with all education partners chaired by Save the Children at the teacher training sub working group.
- Upon completion of Rapid Education Needs Assessment (RENA), and as was agreed by the Education Working Group, Save the Children took the lead in the expansion of education services to all children in Nduta extended areas especially addressing the issue of sprouting community Schools. So far the two schools have since merged into one in Zone 15 and 16. Fixing of 89 temporary benches, 16 blackboards and the construction of 12 WASH facilities have been completed. Registration of learners is on-going concurrently with teaching and learning activities. It is anticipated that about 1,600 children (grade 1-6) will be reached in zone 16.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is insufficient number of classrooms and teachers leading to some classes enduring pupil to teacher ratios of more than 200:1, while some are taught in classes conducted underneath the shade of trees. With the current double shift strategy, a minimum of 625 additional classrooms needs to be constructed across the three camps.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Crude Mortality Rate and Under 5 year Mortality Rate were 0.2/1000/month and 0.7/1000/month respectively as of second week of June 2017. The mortality rates remained significantly stable and better than the SPHERE minimal standards i.e. less than 1%.
A total of 44,572 refugee patients were treated at camp health facilities during the first two weeks of June. Average consultations per clinician per day was increased from 51/patients/clinician/day during the last reporting periods to 56/patients/clinician/day during the current reporting period.

A total of 2,168 patients were admitted and treated in camp health centers during the reporting period across all camps.

A total of 630 refugee babies were born in camp health facilities during the reporting period with 96% institutional delivery rate and there were no maternal deaths.

Construction of a new health post in zone A as well as the upgrading of the maternity unit of the main hospital of Mtendeli refugee camp is ongoing, which will improve the access to health care in Mtendeli refugee camp significantly.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- There is a critical need of increasing the access to health and nutrition services in Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps through establishing additional health posts as well as expanding and renovating the existing health and nutrition facilities.

**Food Security and Nutrition**

**Achievements and Impact**

- The World Food Programmed (WFP) completed the General Food Distribution (GFD) in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli Camps for the month of June 2017. The distribution in Nduta and Mtendeli camps shifted from 14 days cycle to a 28 days cycle.

- Empty gallons meant for assisting beneficiaries to carry vegetable oil from Food Distribution Points were distributed to refugees in Mtendeli camp. The exercise will start in Nduta after completion of Refugees Status Determination exercise by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Gallons distribution is a follow-up to the distribution of empty sacks that took place in May to complete the package.

- WFP has completed registration of new 20,000 beneficiaries (10,000 Burundians and 10,000 Congolese) of Cash Based Transfer (CBT). This is the first group of the planned expansion of CBT programme. This group will be combined with the pilot phase group of 10,000 individuals and thus making a cumulative total of 30,000 beneficiaries for the expansion phase. First distribution to mark the expansion phase is expected to commence on 10 July, 2017.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- General Food Distribution continues to contain a reduced maize meal ration, currently at 80%. Efforts continue to restore the ration to 100%.

**Water and Sanitation**

**Achievements and Impact**

- Exploration of new water sources is still underway and the Hydrogeological survey started from 12- 22 June, 2017. Several potential areas for drilling have been visited and two out of eight Vertical Electrical Soundings have been conducted. Drilling will commence depending on the potential Vertical Electrical Soundings results.

- Four water storage tanks with 95,000 liters capacity have been received in Nduta camp and will be installed to supply more water to the new zones.

- Norwegian Refugee Council has completed construction of 101 latrines and 41 bathing shelters for relocation of refugees from the reception center and zone 11 in Nyarugusu refugee camp.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Inadequate quantity of water supply at Mtendeli refugee camp where refugees receive an average of 13.6 liters per person per day due to erratic water supply from the six boreholes.
Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Some 16,436 transitional shelters have been completed so far across all camps out of the planned 18,437 transitional shelters, representing about 89 percent of the total planned. A total of 18,437 refugee households will be covered within the 2016-2017 Transitional Shelter Project, representing about 38 percent of the current number of refugee households. The current transitional shelter coverage is 34% of the refugee population.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for additional funding for Transitional Shelters as 67% of the refugee population still live in emergency shelters. The current funding level accounts for only 38% of the population.
Working in partnership

[Logos of various organizations related to refugee assistance]
Working in partnership

- UNHCR works closely with other UN agencies through the UN Reform, Delivering as One initiative and participates in the UN Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II) 2016-2021, under the Resilience Thematic Results Group. Within this group, UNHCR undertakes action to ensure that a joint vision of protection-sensitive and solutions-oriented assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers is delivered in line with international norms and standards. UNHCR also works with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), its direct Government counterpart in Tanzania, while maintaining excellent and productive relations with other Government entities as well as NGO partners.

- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR leads and coordinates the response to the Burundi refugee emergency in Tanzania. The RCM is intended to provide an inclusive platform for planning and coordinating refugee response in order to ensure that refugees and other persons of concern receive the protection and assistance they require through the collective efforts and capacities of all partners involved. The 2017 Burundian Regional Refugee Response Plan has been finalized in consultation with the key Government actors and humanitarian partners. This document was circulated in the beginning of 2017 to all relevant humanitarian actors.

- UNHCR also works with a number of other partners to support its operation in the country. These partners include: Refugee Services Department (RSD), Ministry of Health (MOH), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Baba Watoto, CARITAS, Community Environmental Management and Development Organization (CEMDO), Centre for the Study of Forced Migration (CSF), Church World Service (CWS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Good Neighbors International (GNI), Help Age International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF Belgium, Switzerland), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB), Plan International, Relief to Development Society (REDESO), Save the Children, Tanzanian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (TRCS), Tanganyika Christian Refugee Services (TCRS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Water Missions, the World Health Organization (WHO), Women’s Legal Aid Centre (WLAC), the World Food Programme (WFP) and World Vision.

UNHCR, sister UN agencies and partners are grateful to the Government and people of Tanzania for their generosity and long standing commitment to hosting refugees.

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Links:
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