

BURUNDI SITUATION

July 2017

In July, close to **2,000 newly arrived Burundian refugees and asylum seekers** were recorded in the region. The largest number was recorded in Rwanda with 600 newly arrived Burundian refugees. The average monthly number of arrivals across the major hosting countries stood at approximately 500.

In Tanzania, a **High-Level Dialogue** was organized between UNHCR and Government of Tanzania on 9 August 2017 setting out steps to strengthen the country's refugee protection and assistance, with a focus on Burundian refugee caseload of more than 243,000.

Food cuts for general food distributions are already affecting Burundian refugees in Tanzania where the general food distribution contains 63 per cent of the food ration. In Rwanda, significant food cuts are foreseen as of September 2017 if no further funding is received.

KEY INDICATORS

419,967

Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who fled since 1 April 2015

534,000

Projection of Burundian refugees by the of end 2017, while the total returns figure is expected to rise to 50,000 (RRP Planning Figures)

209,202

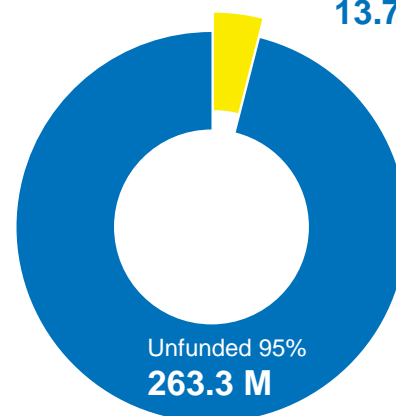
IDPs according to IOM including 69,734 individuals linked to the current crisis, as of May 2017

FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 2017)

USD 250 M

requested for the Burundi situation

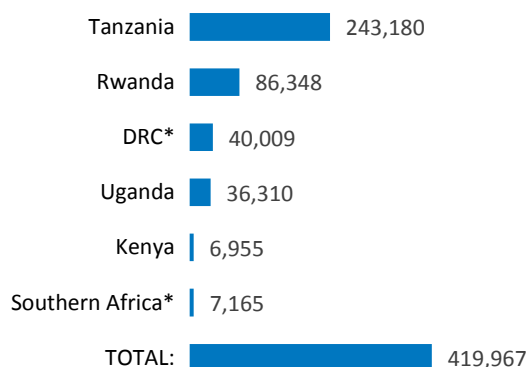
Funded 5%
13.7 M



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries

Note: Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum seekers since 1 April 2015



*No complete statistics available in July 2017 in DRC and Southern Africa region.

New Arrivals

in the major hosting countries of Burundian refugees and asylum seekers (note: these do not account for returns)

	12 months from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016	5 months from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017
TANZANIA	84,319	37,204
RWANDA	12,468	4,400
DRC	11,665	7,380*
UGANDA	14,245	3,599
TOTAL	122,697	52,583

*DRC: No statistic available for July 2017

Operational Context

Latest developments

- **A High-Level Dialogue** between UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania was held in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, on 9 August 2017. At the meeting, UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania set out steps to strengthen the country's refugee policy and identified areas to support refugees and host communities, particularly through enhancing the implementation of the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)**. [A joint statement was released following the meeting.](#)
- **Voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees:** As some Burundian refugees in Tanzania have expressed the wish to return to Burundi, a Tripartite meeting on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania is due to be held in Dar es Salam on 31 August 2017. The meeting aims to establish modalities for voluntary repatriation in line with international protection principles i.e. return based on a free and informed choice, taken place in safety and in dignity.
- **Revision of the Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2017** which articulates the regional protection and humanitarian needs and inter-agency response for an anticipated 534,000 Burundian refugees is currently undergoing revision to reflect shifts in the operational context in countries of asylum, as well as consequent changes in the financial requirements of organizations. The revised version will be released in September 2017.

Funding

- The Burundian Refugee Situation continues to be severely under-funded at **5 percent out of the total requirement of USD 250 million**, making it one of the most underfunded refugee emergencies worldwide. Funding constraints continue to pose challenges for the provision of basic humanitarian services across the region.



Burundian refugee women in Lusenda Camp carry firewood back to their homes © UNHCR 2017 / C.Veale

Achievements during Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 243,180 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in Tanzania. The number of asylum-seekers from Burundi who entered Tanzania in July 2017 stands at 525 individuals**, which equated to an average daily admission of 17 individuals. Women and children made up 84 per cent of arrivals from Burundi. This is an increase from June 2017, where 377 individuals arrived in the country with an average daily arrival rate of 12 individuals. Numbers have been continuously decreasing since January 2017 and are now at a significantly reduced level compared to the number of average monthly arrivals in 2016 of approximately 5,000 refugees.

Achievements and challenges

- **General food distribution contains a reduced food ration, currently at 63 per cent. Fund raising efforts continue to restore the ration to 100 per cent.** General food distribution for the month of July was undertaken in all three refugee camps of Nyagurusu, Nduta and Mtendeli.

- **All three refugee camps (Nyarugusu, Mtendeli and Nduta) which host Burundian refugees continue to face severe pressure.** Nduta, the only camp currently receiving Burundian arrivals, is about to reach the revised capacity of 127,000 individuals. With the current daily arrival rate of 17 Burundian asylum-seekers the remaining space will shortly be filled.
- **More than 60 per cent of refugee and asylum-seekers populations continue to reside in emergency shelters and tents in poor condition.** There is a critical need for additional funding for transitional shelters. With current funding levels, 938 Transitional Shelters and 41 classrooms were completed across all three refugee camps (Nyarugusu, Mtendeli and Nduta). UNHCR has so far completed 1,713 Transitional Shelters.
- **Partners have distributed core relief items to 414 households** (new arrivals and individual/protection cases) and 63,580 pieces of soap were distributed to the Burundian refugees.
- **Responses to SGBV continued to be strengthened.** “SASA!” training¹ was conducted by International Rescue Committee on SGBV prevention and community mobilization across all camps. In addition, newly appointed women's committee members were trained in Nduta Refugee Camp on SGBV.
- **Child protection was reinforced across the three camps** by Save and Children and Plan International at the regular and mobile Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) which reached 17,446 children. In Nduta Refugee Camp, Save the Children and Plan International trained 34 Child Protection Committee (CPC) members to increase understanding and skills on child protection issues.
- **There is an insufficient number of classrooms and teachers** leading to some classes containing pupil to teacher ratios of more than 200:1, while some classes are taught outdoors due to lack of infrastructure. With the current double shift strategy, a minimum of 625 additional classrooms needs to be constructed across the three camps.
- **A new health post was constructed in Mtedenli Camp, bringing the total to two health facilities.** There remains a critical need to increase the access to health and nutrition services in Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu camps through establishing additional health posts as well as through expanding and renovating the existing health and nutrition facilities.

¹ These methodologies were originally developed in Uganda and have been evaluated as the most effective in fostering an attitude change, leading to a sustained reduction in SGBV.

- **Crude Mortality Rate and Under 5 years Mortality Rate remained stable and above SPHERE minimum standards** (Crude Mortality Rate of 0.2/1000/month and Under 5 Years Mortality Rate at 0.5/1000/month) across all camps. A total of 55,471 consultations were conducted across the three camps with the Health Facility Utilization Rate of 2.2 while 2,319 patients were admitted and treated at the in-patient department across all camps.

RWANDA

Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 86,359 registered Burundian refugees in Rwanda, hosted in Mahama camp, in reception centres and in urban areas. In July, 607 new arrivals were recorded**, which is an increase from June (528). The average number of new arrivals in July was 20 individuals per day, which is stable vis-à-vis the average daily arrival rate over the past six months of 2017 of 21 individuals a day.
- At the end of July 2017, there was a total number of 1,268 Burundian unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) registered as refugees in Mahama camp, including 565 unaccompanied children (UAC) and 703 separated children (SC).

Achievements and Challenges

- **The transition from emergency shelters to semi-permanent structures in Mahama Camp is ongoing.** To date, a total of 5,451 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama Camp, housing a total of 39,176 refugees or approximately 72 percent of the total camp population. However, the remaining 28 per cent of refugees (15,476 people) in the camp are living in 77 communal plastic shelters. Despite continued advocacy, 30 hectares of land has still not been provided to enable the construction of the required number of semi-permanent shelters to adequately house the entire camp population.
- **Significant food cuts are foreseen as of September 2017.** Although WFP has been able to provide full food assistance for the month of July, if no further contributions are received from donors, it is expected that rations will be reduced by 25 percent as of September. Partners are working on a contingency plan.
- **A cooperative of 50 refugee artisan women in Mahama camp** have created a crowdfunding campaign to help themselves become more self-reliant by extending their business opportunities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 40,009 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who arrived since April 2015.** Registration activities carried by National Commission for Refugees (CNR) together with other state services have been temporarily suspended due to non-payment of registration agents. UNHCR continues to advocate to resolve the situation and activities are expected to resume in the coming weeks
- UNHCR activities continue to be negatively affected by the security situation in Fizi and Uvira due to confrontations between FARDC and various armed groups. The situation in Fizi as of the end of reporting period is calm but remains unpredictable.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Development of the new site of Mulongwe (Fizi Territory, South Kivu) continues.** The demarcation of one bloc of eight villages was completed and the clearing of the land started on 18 of July with nine hectares cleared to date. Lusenda camp which is the main camp hosting Burundian refugees hosts over 30,000 refugees which significantly exceeds its maximum capacity of 18,000 people.
- **A new system of “e-vouchers” (SCOPE cards) was initiated by WFP in Lusenda camp.** This system gives each family in Lusenda an electronic card with the amount allocated for each individual in the family. This card allows refugees to pay for supplies in the shops, which are all equipped with electronic machines for payments. So far, WFP has distributed SCOPE cards for 7,723 families out of a planned total of 8,067 families which enabled refugee families to procure food supplies in shops installed in Lusenda camp.
- **Vaccination response was stepped up to counter measles outbreak in Lusenda camp.** 218 measles cases have been recorded in Lusenda camp as of 31 July. In response, two rounds of vaccinations reached a total of 17,795 children from Lusenda camp as well as outside of the camp, aged between 6 months and 15 years.
- **UNHCR’s medical partner ADES carried out a total of 4,117 medical consultations** (for 1,848 men and 2,277 women) at Lusenda Health Post and **2,526 medical consultations** at Kamivira TC, Sange gathering point and Monge Monge transit centre. The most frequent diseases were malaria, respiratory infections, and intestinal parasites.

- **Significant progress was made in the area of WASH.** In Lusenda camp, the rehabilitation of a 70m³ water tank increased water consumption to 14 litres/person/day (UNHCR standard: 20l) and works have started on the setup of a further four tanks. At the new site of Mulongwe, the rehabilitation of the pumping station built by Tearfund for the local community has been finalised. This system will be the main supply of water to refugees in Mulongwe during the initial stages of the set-up of the site.
- **The promotion of biomass briquettes is ongoing in Lusenda camp.** Five groups of some 300 refugees have been trained on the production of briquettes by AIRD (African Initiatives for Relief and Development) and received tools to increase production capacity. This technique could be a cheaper and less environmentally destructive solution to the high energy demands of the camp.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 36,310 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived since April 2015. In July, 398 Burundian asylum seekers entered Uganda at an average daily arrival rate of 13 individuals,** which represents a significant increase from 64 new arrivals last month. The major entry points for new arrivals were Mutukula border point, Mirama Hills, Katuna and Bunagana. Refugees are mainly settled in Nakivale settlement, with smaller numbers in urban areas.

Achievements and Challenges

- **In an effort to support separated and unaccompanied children** as well as other children at risk, 135 refugee children at risk were identified, assessed for further assistance.
- **Efforts to reduce obstacles to access education for Burundian refugee children continue.** With the introduction of feeding programmes at four primary schools in Nakivale, pupils' attendance, retention and performance has improved. For refugee children residing in the villages of Kabahinda and Misiera, primary schools were constructed as children had to walk over 10 kilometers to the nearest schools.
- **Skills training for SGBV survivors was implemented.** Three groups of sixteen survivors were formed where the women and girls were enrolled in skills training to learn bakery, tailoring and retail business from artisans. At the end of their training, they will be supported with funds to start income generating activities.

- **Child vaccination and response to malnutrition continued during the reporting period.** 1,820 children under the age of five were vaccinated against Polio and DPT; 524 children were vaccinated against measles; 600 children were vaccinated for BCG; 1,458 vaccinated against TT; 1,035 children were treated with deworming tablets and 473 children received Vitamin A supplements. For malnutrition, 11,396 children were screened where 80 (0.7%) were found to be severely malnourished and 210 (1.8%) moderately malnourished. 3,954 pregnant and lactating women were also screened, of which four were malnourished and were enrolled in the supplementary feeding programme
- **11,740 Burundian refugees benefitted from the Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) program,** of which 7,057 were children aged between 6 and 59 months, and 4,683 were pregnant and lactating women.
- **Water coverage increased** for the Burundian villages in Nakivale settlement from 21 litres/per person/ per day to 22.2 liters (UNHCR standard: 20l) through supplementary water trucking as they continue to lack basic infrastructure such as hand pumps.
- **Health facilities in Nakivale settlement are strained** as the Out Patient Department of the health centre currently has capacity to receive some 100 patients while the average number of consultations per day is 500 patients.
- **Latrine coverage currently stands at 78.6 per cent in Nakivale settlement.** Further funding is required to enable construction of latrines to meet required hygiene standards.

KENYA

- **In 2017, 3,154 newly arrived Burundian refugees and asylum seekers were recorded in the Kenya operation with 373 being registered during the month of July.**
- A slight decrease in number was noted from the previous month. The daily average rate during the reporting month was 22 individuals per day.

Financial Information

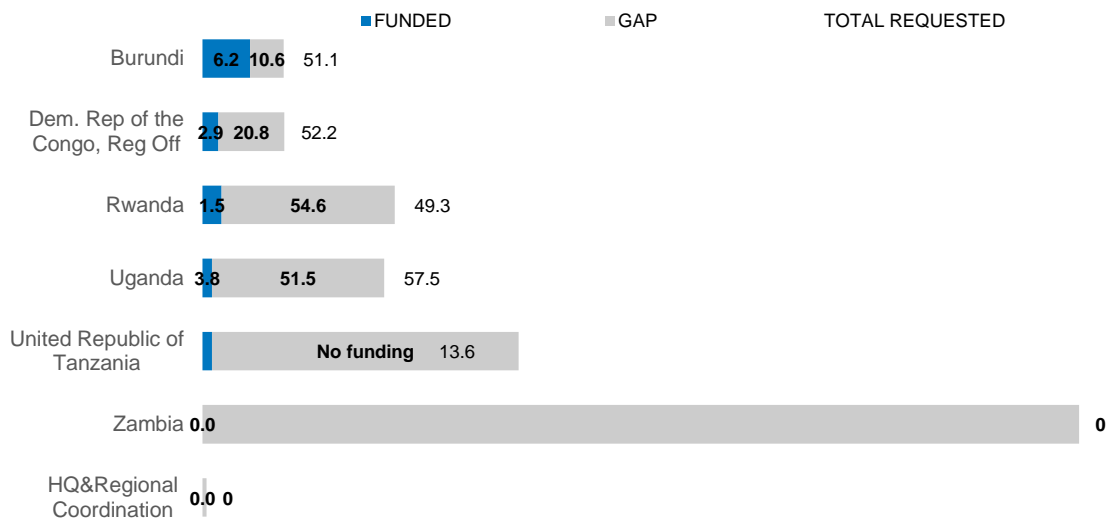
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the Burundi Situation:

- African Union
- Denmark
- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Private Donors USA
- Sweden
- The Global Fund

Funding (in million USD)

A total of US\$ **13.7 million** out of the US\$250 needed has been funded (5%)



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M)
| Priv Donors Spain (24 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) |
Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea
(12 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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LINKS

<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

<http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>