

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ UNHCR acting within the National Emergencies Management Coordination Team has provided emergency relief in form of transport and non food items to 600 families affected by torrential rains and landslides in the villages of Rutunga and Nyaruhongoka, south of Bujumbura. Items included 400 plastic sheets, 2,000 plastic mats and 400 buckets two trucks for the transportation of relief items.
- ⇒ UNHCR participated with other UN agencies to finalise contingency plans related to the general elections in the country.
- ⇒ A three-day regional workshop was organized in Bujumbura for UNHCR Resettlement staff from Burundi, Rwanda and the Tanzania. It was aimed towards building the capacity of resettlement caseworkers to
- ⇒ conduct high-quality interviews.

Refugees by country of origin

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total</u>
DRC	53,814
Rwanda	297
Somalia	19
Other	05
Total	54,135

UNHCR Presence

Staff: 112 national staff, 14 international staff, 07 international consultants and 08 VNUs.

Offices: 01 country Office in Bujumbura; 01 Sub Office in Muyinga; 01 Field Office in Ruyigi.

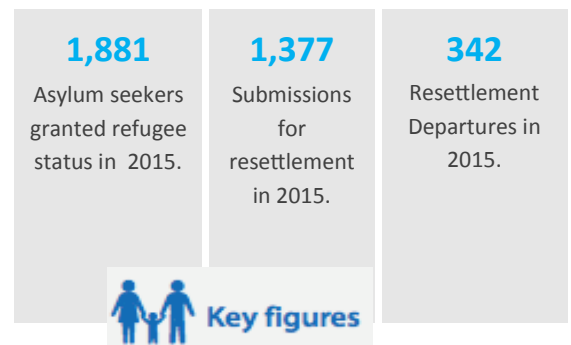


UNHCR staffs distribute relief assistance to the victims of landslide.



Burundian asylum seekers waiting for a ferry to take them across Lake Tanganyika into Tanzania.

KEY STATISTICS– 2015



Total population of concern

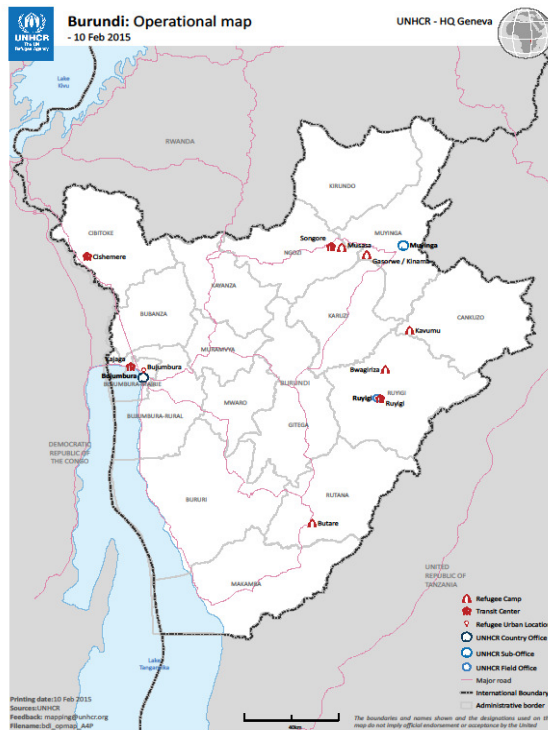
138,370 persons , including **54,135** refugees, **2,643** asylum seekers, **78,948** Internally Displaced Persons in protracted situation , **1,302** persons at risk of statelessness and to **1,342** returnees. More than 99% of refugees are from the DRC.

MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ⇒ Outgoing President Nkurunziza's decision to run for a controversial « third term » has provoked protests by civil society organizations and the opposition parties in Bujumbura and in some areas in the provinces. Reported insecurity caused by the ruling party's youth led to more than 50,000 people seeking asylum in neighbouring Rwanda, the DRC and Tanzania. Demonstrations by the opposition parties and civil society is on going mainly at Bujumbura.

HIGHLIGHTS continued from P.1

- ⇒ The US Ambassador visited the Musasa refugee camp to witness assistance and support provided to refugees. She visited the food fare and saw the application of biometric registration used for cash vouchers. She donated books to the camp refugee library.
- ⇒ The new PRM refugee coordinator based in Kampala Uganda , Mr Joshua Fischel visited refugee camps from 9 to 12 March 2015. He appreciated the level of protection and assistance offered to refugees and encouraged UNHCR to look for opportunities for increased social and economic integration, and to build the self-sufficiency of the refugee population through increased livelihoods programs as it is likely that resources for humanitarian assistance in Burundi will decrease in the coming years.
- ⇒ 131 refugees living in the camps of Bwagiriza, Kavumu, Musasa and Kinama have left camps for fear of violence linked to the pre-electoral period as regularly reported by the Medias.
- ⇒ 200 urban refugees from bujumbura have requested to be transferred to refugee camps for security reasons.



US Ambassador in Bujumbura visits Musasa refugee camp.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Governmental structure : Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender: PARESI -Projet d'Appui à la Réinsertion des Sinistrés; Ministry of Home Affairs : CNI [National identity cards] and ONPRA [National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons].

Implementing partners : IRC ; AHA ; CARITAS BURUNDI ; RET ; COPED ; Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) ; Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) and the Burundi Red Cross(CRB).

Operational partners: PAM; UNICEF; FAO; UNDP; OMS; OIM; UNAIDS; CIRGL; OHCHR.

MAIN ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS



Protection

Resettlement

- ⇒ The target for 2015 is to submit 3,500 individuals for resettlement countries. As of 30 April, 1,377 individuals were referred to the HUB. 688 refugees were submitted to resettlement countries, including 648 to the USA, 30 to the UK and 10 to Belgium. 342 persons have departed for resettlement countries, including 141 to the USA, 127 to the UK, 72 to the Netherlands and 02 to Canada
- ⇒ A workshop on Interviewing and Credibility took place in Bujumbura, Burundi from 17th to 19th March 2015. It was attended by UNHCR staff from three different operations, including the Burundi operation (19 staffs), the Rwanda operation (4 staffs) and the Tanzania operation (2 staffs). It was aimed towards building the capacity of resettlement caseworkers to conduct high-quality interviews. The workshop was designed to enhance the skills of UNHCR staff in interviewing techniques and credibility assessments. The three-day workshop provided the UNHCR staff with an interviewing model (PEACE) and participants had the opportunity to develop their capacities via this model, which can serve as a useful tool for conducting interviews with refugees, and in particular with refugee survivors of violence. In his opening remarks, the UNHCR Burundi Representative Mr. Abel Jeru Mbilinyi, asked participants to take advantage of the opportunity of the workshop in order to learn how to improve their way of conducting and managing interviews. In 2014 the Burundi operation was able to submit 3,607 individuals for resettlement to 9 different resettlement countries (which represents 134% of the submission target in 2014).
- ⇒ On 24 March 2015, the Resettlement Unit has briefed UNHCR partners for the Resettlement programme which is being implemented in Burundi. Participants were briefed on the context of the resettlement operation, eligibility criteria, achievements in 2014, the planning for 2015, different strategies in place to achieve the operation, including the communication and the prioritization strategies, prevention and fight against resettlement fraud.
- ⇒ In 2014, Burundi has submitted 3,607 persons in 9 countries of resettlement (either 134% of the objective of submission for 2014, which was of 2,700 persons); 549 persons are parties in resettlement and 11 country missions of RST have been welcomed in Burundi.

Child protection

- ⇒ UNHCR child protection teams in Bujumbura, Muyinga and Ruyigi continued to organize child Best Interest Determination panels. Case management meetings were also organized in order to ensure the follow up of referrals and discuss complicated child protection cases demanding interventions from different partners. Tracing were also done in partnership with ICRC. In March, the ICRC shared with the Child protection Section in Ruyigi the results for 32 cases of tracing previously analyzed. 10 Of them relate to the contacts established with the parents. Three (03) tracing requests have been transferred to the UNHCR Uvira. 11 tracing requests were also made to ICRC in March and April . Child protection (CP) staff in Ruyigi welcomed a convoy from Cishemere transit center and ensured the follow up of UASC and other children at risk identified.
- ⇒ A workshop was held with partners including UNICEF and the Ministry of National Solidarity , Gender and Human Rights for the roll-out of the child protection framework in Burundi . A child protection strategy 2015-16 has been subsequently drafted.

Community Services

Sexual and gender-based violence

- ⇒ 32 New cases of SGBV have been identified, documented and assisted in March 2015, including 13 in Kinama, six to Musasa, 5 to Kavumu, five to Bwagiriza and 3 in Bujumbura. In April, additional 12 cases were identified in Bujumbura and Gatumba (urban communities). They were as well, psychologically assisted.
- ⇒ Two sensitization sessions on judiciary support of SGBV victims were organized in Bujumbura for 107 students, 84 parents and 191 other participants in April 2014.
- ⇒ 83 cases not relating to the GBV were heard in Hope centers in refugee camps and at the Centre Urbain de Conseil et orientation des réfugiés (CUCOR) in Bujumbura by psychosocial services. They were 26 in Kinama camp, 19 to Musasa camp, 23 in Bwagiriza camp, 08 in Kavumu camp and 07 in Bujumbura.
- ⇒ Awareness sessions on gender based violence (GBV) were organized for 2,118 refugees in refugee camps. Types of GBV were discussed including early marriages and school dropouts, sexual violence, the management of household assets and the importance of discussion/negotiation in couples. Additional two training sessions were organized for the police guarding Kinama and Musasa refugee camps on various themes, including protection of refugees.
- ⇒ On 19 and 20 March, in the context of the National Election Contingency Plan, UNFPA and UNHCR in collaboration with UNICEF have organized a training on gender based violence in humanitarian situation.
- ⇒ 12 cases of GBV were identified (in Kinama and Musasa), one male and 11 female. 10 cases are cases of rape, one case of physical violence and one case of sexual aggression.

Persons with specific needs

- ⇒ The statistics of the persons with specific needs (PSN) are being updated after a census was conducted in urban settings in April 2014. The results will also help analyze needs of potential beneficiaries of the mutual me-

Self-reliance

- ⇒ UNHCR has visited a few Micro-finance institutions to explore and analyse areas of collaboration with regards to refugee self-reliance activities of urban refugees. In refugee camps, follow up was done with existing village servicing and loan associations (VSLAs).

Education/Vocational training

- ⇒ A draft of the refugee education strategy was prepared by UNHCR Burundi community services staff in January 2015. This draft will be discussed broadly by all the partners involved in the refugee education in Burundi.
- ⇒ During the month of March, a reserve pool of primary and secondary teachers was put in place with new recruitments. Additionally, an assessment of the teaching quality in Kavumu and Bwagiriza refugee camps and the feasibility evaluation of extra-curricular activities were conducted.
- ⇒ As for vocational trainings, 122 refugees, including 57 women are following a training in dressmaking, hairdressing, baking, carpentry and masonry. Activities related to adult literacy will begin in April in Kavumu and Bwagiriza refugee camps. Two teachers were recruited in this respect.
- ⇒ An adult literacy program for 88 refugees has started on 1 April 2015 in refugee camps in Ruyigi.
- ⇒ Congolese students living in refugee camps seated for the RD final national examination in Musasa refugee camp on 2 May 2015.



Health

- ⇒ A pilot project on the use of a medical insurance for urban refugees is in progress. Urban refugees are being sensitized about the new refugee health policy in urban settings
- ⇒ Routinely health activities were organized including medical screening of under-five and adult new arrivals in transit centers, consultative and curative health cares in refugee camps, as well as promotional activities such as sensitization campaigns for physical, mental and reproductive health. Preventive health care such as vaccinations and antenatal consultations were provided to refugees. The reference system was also functional.



Food Security and Nutrition

- ⇒ Nutritive supplementation was organized for chronically ill refugees, those living with HIV, Persons with Specific Needs, pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as for under five children.
- ⇒ The UNHCR health coordinator followed up with health activities and with the nutrition indicators in refugee camps
- ⇒ Food fair were organized in all four refugee camps. Cash vouchers were used and refugees were provided with cash to buy fresh food products such as meat, cabbage, fish, etc). Food was as well distributed in all four camps. New arrivals in Kavumu refugee camps were assisted with food items.



Water and Sanitation

- ⇒ The water network in refugee camps and transit centers was maintained. Defective parts were replaced and water tanks cleaned. The chlorination of water was done on regular basis, 2 or 3 times a day in refugee camps.
- ⇒ Disinfection and spraying were organized in refugee camps. Houses, health centers and shelters and insects hideouts were disinfected.
- ⇒ Destroyed latrines and showers were repaired and further latrines to be rehabilitated were monitored in refugee camps.
- ⇒ Refugees in the four camps were sensitized to hygiene and to the use of gaps for garbage.
- ⇒ Refugees are now sensitized to contribute financially to the maintenance of the water infrastructure and to participate in the community works in order to keep a good level of hygiene and sanitation in the camps.

Shelter and NFI

- ⇒ **In Musasa refugee camp**, the hangar used for distributions was rehabilitated and the final works on the university premises were done.
- ⇒ **In Bwagiriza refugee camp**, 18 latrine blocks in unoccupied quarters were destroyed and materials collected for future use. A desk that will be used for payment of fresh food cash was constructed and a bridge between Bwagiriza I and Bwagiriza II was rehabilitated.
- ⇒ **In Kinama refugee camp**, a hangar used for distribution of relief assistance/food fair and the roof of the camp health facility were rehabilitated.
- ⇒ **In Kavumu refugee camp**, a desk for payment of fresh food cash was constructed and 48 latrine blocks, as well as 24 shower blocks were constructed. UNHCR offered its support in the building of 71 individual houses.
- ⇒ **In Cishemere transit center**, two hangars for accommodation, 4 blocks of latrines, 4 blocks of showers and an office were constructed. The fence of the transit center was strengthened with metallic bars.

NFIs

- ⇒ NFI items were distributed to 103 households of 348 persons who arrived in Kavumu in March and in April, including 56 urban refugees who requested transfer to a refugee camp. They were provided with blankets, mats, kitchen sets, jerry cans, buckets, soap bars and hygiene kits.



Access to Energy and protection of the environment

- ⇒ Biomass briquettes were distributed to refugees in the four refugee camps.
- ⇒ Refugees were sensitized to their use and how to keep them in a good and safe place.

Durable Solutions

IDPs

- ⇒ 171 Households were able to return to their respective villages.
- ⇒ 42 households who were supposed to move to their rehabilitated houses did not go.
- ⇒ 47 houses are under rehabilitation.

Family reunification

- ⇒ UNHCR Burundi facilitated the contact and the interviews of four refugee families living in Burundi and their respective families in Australia in the context of family reunification.
-

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2015 Financial situation: USD 975,081

2015 comprehensive needs: USD 19,301,561

Contributions and pledges received thus far for 2015: USD 975,081

Important funding update

Due to currency fluctuations which have had a significant impact on UNHCR's global resources the High Commissioner announced that operations will have to make a 7% reduction in their Operating Level budget and a 5% reduction in staffing for 2015. This has significant consequences for UNHCR Burundi which is being compelled to scale back its operation in providing protection and key services to refugees and others of concern to UNHCR.

UNHCR is grateful for all the generous contributions of donors who have continued to give contributions to UNHCR operations in Burundi. Specifically UNHCR would like to acknowledge the contribution of the countries mentioned hereunder:

JAPAN | EUROPEAN UNION | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | CERF | DENMARK

Contacts:

Bernard Ntwari, Assistant Public Information and Communications Officer, ntwarib@unhcr.org, Office: +257 22 22 3245, Cell + 257 79 918 902