

# Burundian Refugee Situation in South Kivu Democratic Republic of the Congo

August 2017

## Highlights

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> August, there were 40,047 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who arrived since April 2015. Refugee status determination by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) resumed on August 17<sup>th</sup>, after having been suspended for almost two months. Since then, 335 refugees were registered, while 2,442 were still asylum seekers and waited for registration.
- In the new site of **Mulongwe** (near Baraka, Fizi territory), works were ongoing with two operational partners (MEDEOR and CARITAS) working with their own funds. However, works have slowed down due to the worsening security situation in Fizi territory, mainly caused by activities of *Mai-Mai* armed groups.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> August, the **Assistant High Commissioner in charge of Operations**, on mission in DRC, visited Lusenda camp to meet refugees and aid workers. He observed nevertheless the difficult situation of overcrowding and the persistent gaps namely in the education sector.
- Cholera epidemics was declared in the territories of Fizi and Uvira. No cases have been reported so far in refugees hosting structures. Preventive measures were put in place.

### KEY INDICATORS

**40,047**

Burundian refugees are **registered** in the DRC on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 (new caseload from April 2015).

**61.3%**

**Percent** of the refugees living in Lusenda camp are children under the age of 18 years old.

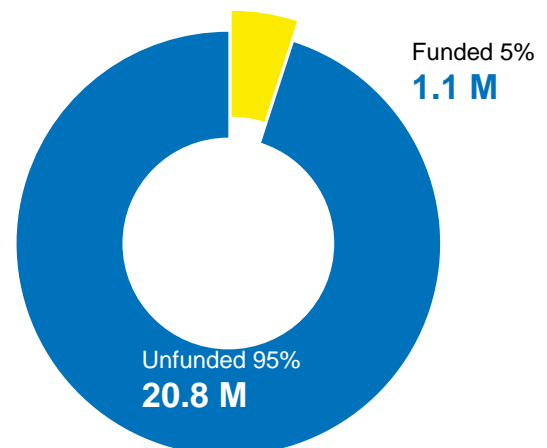
**29,936**

Refugees **live in Lusenda Refugee Camp**, as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

### FUNDING (AS OF 20 AUGUST 2017)

**USD 21.9 M**

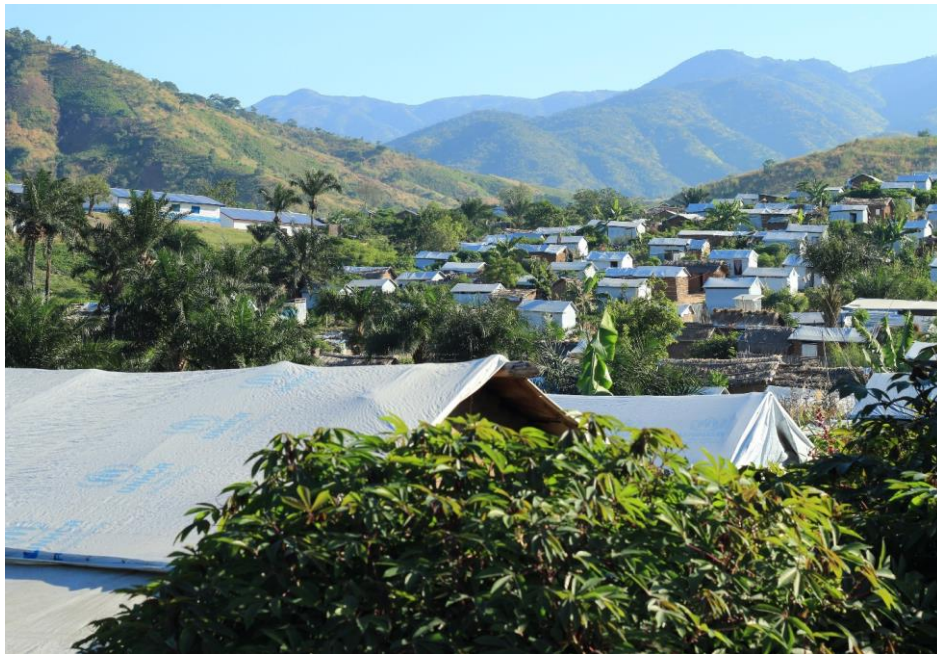
requested for the DRC - Burundi situation



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

- On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, opposition movements declared a town shutdown (“Ville Morte”) in Uvira. The UNHCR operations were paralysed for a day without any security incidents.
- The territory of Fizi has been affected by the confrontations between the FARDC and an armed group, the Mai-Mai Yakutumba. These confrontations provoked movement of population in Kikonde and Kasandjala areas (both internal displacement and movement to Burundi). As a result, the road between Baraka and Fizi is classified as “red” by the UN security department (UNDSS) and therefore affecting UNHCR activities, as a military escort is needed for any movement.



*Shelters at Lusenda Refugee Camp - May 2017 © UNHCR 2017 / C. Veale*

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- On 14<sup>th</sup> August, 70 Burundian refugees (24 households) from Lusenda camp were assisted by UNHCR to return to Burundi through Kavimvira border point. This was the first convoy of this type and there are no other convoys scheduled. UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return at this stage, but helped both DRC and Burundi governments in the delivery of necessary documentation and provided material assistance to returnees. Return intentions' survey indicated that the majority of refugees do not wish to return and still fear for their lives in Burundi.
- UNHCR, with partners Save the Children and ADES, organised a 2-day training to build the capacities of 40 refugees, members of the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) sub-committee of Lusenda camp to improve sensitization campaigns against sexual violence in the community and improve the system of identification, support and treatment for SGBV survivors.
- UNHCR partners worked together to update unaccompanied children files. This exercise will facilitate and accelerate procedures of family tracing done in collaboration with UNHCR Burundi and ICRC.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> August, a Best Interest Determination (BID) panel met in Mboko and allowed the reunification of two siblings with their mother. The children were in a foster family since July 2016, while the mother arrived in Lusenda camp in May 2017.
- UNHCR partners working in child protection undertook a revision of the community network for child protection (RECOPE). The need of reinforced coordination and communication between the members and the aid workers, and the need for the members to be well known by refugees, village chiefs and security forces were highlighted.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to lack of funds, UNHCR is not able to provide Burundian refugees with ID cards.
- There were 40 refugee detained in Uvira and Fizi prisons. Among them, 10 cases were awaiting trial and 13 cases were not addressed in any way and no trial was planned.



### EDUCATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- 16 preschool teachers from Lusenda camp took part in a training organized by UNHCR partner Save the Children in order to better prepare them to align preschool teaching in the camp to national standards.

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, enrolment of children in primary and secondary schools started in Lusenda camp. Enrolment will take place first at the camp, and then students will go register in the schools which are in the host communities.
- NGO Pax Christi organized a football tournament for girl students of six primary schools of Lusenda area. 90 refugee and local girls participated.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Newly arrived children who are waiting for registration outside transit centers could not be assisted to go to school yet.



#### HEALTH

##### Achievements and Impact

- Cholera epidemics was declared in the territories of Fizi and Uvira. No cases have been reported so far in refugees hosting structures. Preventive measures were put in place. Concerning measles epidemics declared since last June, improvements have been observed thanks to massive vaccination campaign.
- 1,658 medical consultations (for 626 men and 1,032 women) were carried out by medical partner ADES at Lusenda Health Post during the month of July. The most frequent diseases were malaria (38%), respiratory infections (31%) and intestinal parasites (15%). 1,292 medical consultations were carried out in Kavimvira TC, the gathering point of Sange and Mongemonge TC.



#### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

##### Achievements and Impact

- During August food fair (17 to 29 August), the performance of the system of electronic vouchers - SCOPE - improved compared to July food fair, as contentious cases were reduced from 355 of July to 55 of August. Out of these 55, 30 concerned refugees who refused to enrol in the WFP SCOPE system and other 17 were detected as fraud cases.



#### WATER AND SANITATION

##### Achievements and Impact

- The water consumption at Lusenda camp increased from to 14 litres/person/day in July to 17 l/p/d in August thanks to the rehabilitation of two 70m<sup>3</sup> water tanks.
- A new water tank of 50m<sup>3</sup> was being installed in Lusenda camp by partner ADES.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In order to complete rehabilitation of 218 shelters in Lusenda camp to host new arrivals, 37 latrines and showers are needed.
- Sensitization material is needed to carry out hygiene awareness campaigns among the refugees.



### SHELTER AND NFIS

#### Achievements and Impact

- Two communal hangars in the PR Sange and in the TC Kavimvira have been rehabilitated with the support of UNHCR partner AIRD.
- In the new site of Mulongwe, 30 hectares have been cleared, and two blocs (of 13 planned blocs) of 16 villages were demarcated. NGO CARITAS completed the construction of 5 communal shelters and a hangar. Local workforce is employed for the construction through cash-based interventions.
- Relief items were distributed to 64 unaccompanied children and to 55 foster families. Each unaccompanied child received a school bag, a pair of shoes, toothpaste, a towel, 2 pieces of washing-up soap, 4 bars of body soap, 1 mat and clothes. Each foster family received 2 pots, 2 pieces of washing-up soap, 1 piece of *pagne* (traditional cloth), 1 mat, 2 cups and 1 blanket.



### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

#### Achievements and Impact

- Community guards in Lusenda camp were still waiting for payment from CNR, which is causing tensions and even clashes with the national police. The issue is being followed by Kinshasa.
- UNHCR signed two Memoranda of Understanding with NGOs War Child Holland and CARITAS. The former is supporting the sector of child protection and education and the latter will support the development of Mulongwe site with shelters and WASH.
- Guidelines and a code of conduct were elaborated in order to support village chiefs of Lusenda camp. Moreover, a meeting between them and aid workers will be regularly organised twice per month, in order to create a space for dialogue and facilitate communication.

**ACCESS TO ENERGY****Achievements and Impact**

- The use and production of biomass briquettes was increasing in Lusenda camp and transit centers. Two new associations of refugees and locals were provided with material to start the production. In Transit Center Kavimvira, 350 kg of briquettes were used in the common kitchens. In Gathering Point of Sange, improved stoves adapted to be used with the briquettes were realized.

**Working in partnership**

- For this operation, partners financed by the UNHCR are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, INTERSOS and SAVE THE CHILDREN. Other partners working with their own funds include ADED, AFPDE, BVES, EBEN EZER, GEADES, FAO, ICRC, OCHA, PAX CHRISTI, RHA, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, WAR CHILD HOLLAND, WFP, WHO, SCI, SVH and WORLD VISION.

## External / Donors Relations

### Donors for the Burundian refugee response in DRC in 2017

Belgium (1.1 M)

### Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (28.4 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 M) | France (0.5 M) | Belgium (0.3 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (0.2 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.05 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

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### LINKS

[Regional portal for BDI situation - DRC page for Burundi situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#) - Story : [diner gives Burundian refugee taste of self-reliance](#)