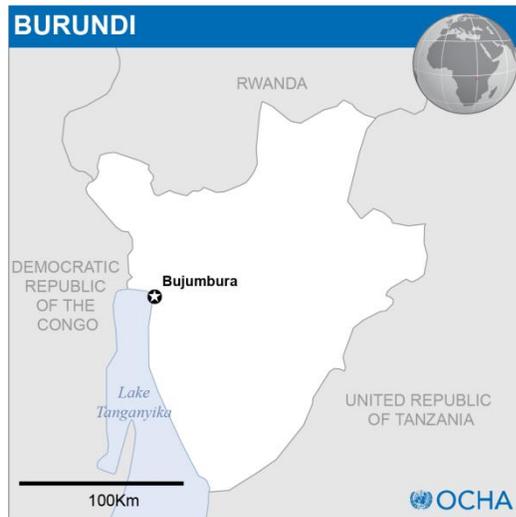


General developments



Map Source(s): OCHA
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 09 Jun 2015.

Following the announcements of the presidential elections on 24 July, there has been a general atmosphere of uncertainty and fear in Bujumbura and around the country. Sporadic gunshots were reported in Bujumbura during the reporting period and subsequent police operations in some sections of the town sometimes resulted in blockade of traffic, disrupting normal operations. In the southern Province of Makamba, heavy fighting was reported by media on 25 July between the Burundian army and unidentified armed group. The Burundi Red Cross Society (BRCS) confirmed there was no humanitarian impact, but unverified numbers of people displaced returned to their homes following calm in the area.

The United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) issued a preliminary [statement](#) on 27 July, concluding that while the Election Day was relatively peaceful and conducted adequately, the overall environment

was not conducive for free and credible elections. MENUB also reiterated the UN Secretary-General's call for the cessation of all forms of violence, respect of basic human rights and the resumption of dialogue. The President of the United States of America, Barack Obama added his voice in condemning African leaders who refuse to give up power as he made the first address to the African Union in Addis Ababa on 28 July. Obama singled out Burundi's President Nkurunziza whose re-election to a third term provoked weeks of unrest. Meanwhile, despite having withdrawn from the elections, the main opposition leader Agathon Rwasa was elected first vice president of the national assembly on 30 July while the ruling party CNDD-FDD was confirmed president of the assembly. Mr. Rwasa earlier won a seat in parliament during the legislative elections on 29 June. Rwasa was quoted saying he would take part in the new government as a legislator to try and force change from within the system.

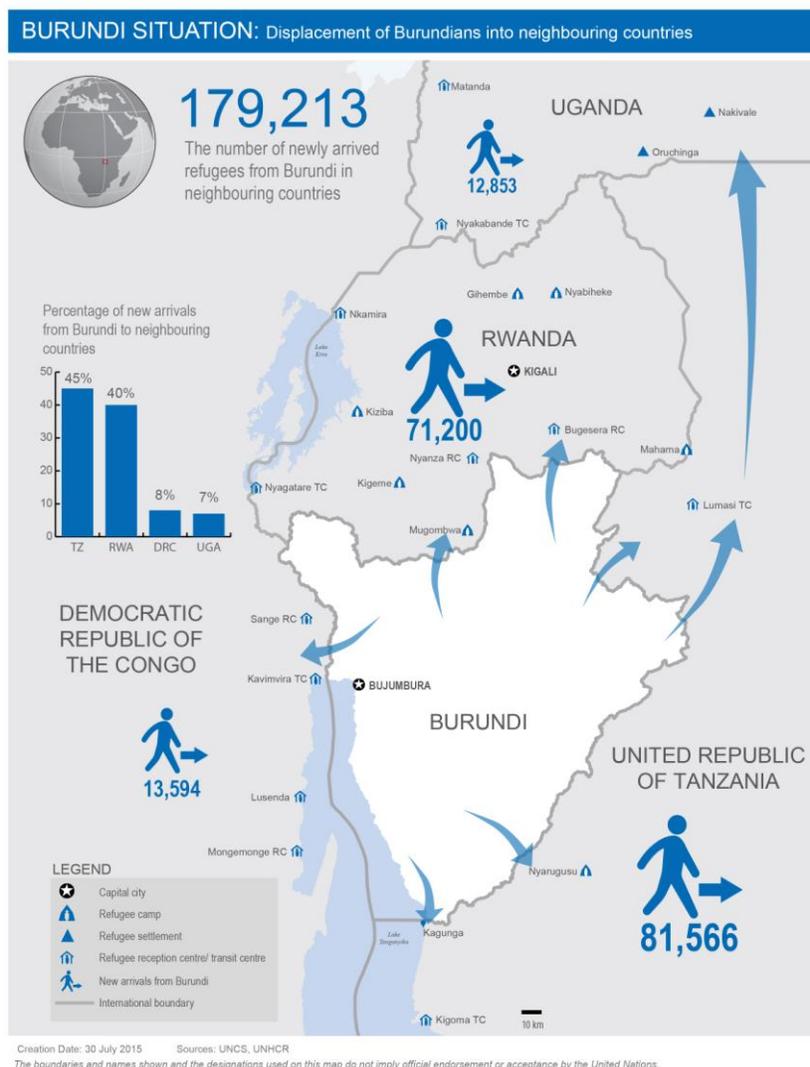
A parliamentary session held on 28 July adopted the suppression of point 2 of article 19 of the constitution which stipulates for ethnic and gender balance. This violates parts of the Arusha Agreement. The adoption by the House of Parliament means that there would be no need to alternate leadership between ethnic groups which could have serious implications moving forward. There have been tensions primarily between the two main tribes, Hutu and Tutsi.

In other developments, [Reporters Without Borders](#) called for the rapid and unconditional reopening of the media in Burundi and guarantees for the safe return of all journalists who fled abroad. The organization, which advocates for freedom of information, pointed out that Burundi's five privately owned radio stations are still silent, since destruction in May during the attempted coup.

Regional humanitarian impact

The European Commission is releasing additional funding of €4.5 million in humanitarian assistance to help the increasing number of refugees from Burundi into neighboring countries. In a [statement](#) issued on 30 July, the European Union said the funding will help countries hosting Burundi refugees accommodate them and

meet their most urgent needs. The aid released mainly for Burundi refugees amounts to €9 million since the end of April, when numbers started growing. As of 30 July, 179,213 people had fled Burundi since April 2015.



Humanitarian

While there is lack of information on concrete humanitarian needs in Burundi, humanitarian partners are concerned about the larger social-economic impact of the political crisis as foreign aid has significantly decreased since the onset of the crisis and tax revenue has also declined sharply. In-country, there continues to be a resistance amongst people living with host families to register as internally displaced persons (IDPs) for fear they may be linked to some political agenda. The sectoral working groups continue to closely monitor the situation.

The [cholera outbreak](#) in Nyanza Lac Commune, Makamba Province is now under control with only one case reported in the treatment centers in the last two weeks. Since the outbreak on 14 May, a total of 181 cholera cases have been reported.

Following fighting in Kayanza province on 10 July, the Burundian army arrested at least [58 children](#) aged 14 to 17, who are detained at the Cibitoke high school which served as provisory detention center with little access to food and water. Seven of these children have thus far been released, and 14 children have been

sentenced to two years imprisonment. A further 37 children are awaiting trial. UNICEF is working with its partners to ensure that these children receive a fair trial and are supported by a lawyer in the legislative process. On 17 July, 51 children were transferred to the Rumonge prison. UNICEF and its partners are advocating for their prompt transfer to the re-education center in Rumonge, a center specially designed for children in conflict with the law. In this center, the affected children will be separated from adults and have access to all basic services.

The twelve students expelled from their school in Muyinga Commune, Muyinga Province, on grounds of political affiliation have been allowed back to school following a mission by a commission led by the Ombudsman.

Background

Civil unrest erupted on 26 April in Bujumbura after the ruling CNDD-FDD party elected President Pierre Nkurunziza on 25 April as its candidate for the 26 June presidential election. Nkurunziza has been in office for two terms since 2005, and a broad array of actors warned that an attempt to seek a third term was unconstitutional and contrary to the spirit of the 2000 [Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi](#) that ended a decade of civil war in the country. Despite an appeal by the Senate, Burundi's Constitutional Court determined that President Nkurunziza was eligible for re-election – although the Court's deputy president fled to Rwanda prior to this decision. A coup d'état was subsequently launched on 13 May in Bujumbura while President Nkurunziza was at an East African Community Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, intended to try to resolve the current crisis in Burundi. The coup was rapidly thwarted, and President Nkurunziza returned to the country.

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The next Flash Update will be issued according to developments in the situation. In the meantime, for further information, contact Matthew Conway, Public Information Officer, OCHA Eastern Africa, at conwaym@un.org. To receive this and other OCHA Eastern Africa reports, please subscribe at <http://bit.ly/1lunDLk>