

## General update

Following a pause over the weekend, protests resumed today in some areas (Nyakabiga, Musaga, Ngagara, Mutakura, Cibitoke) of the Burundian capital, Bujumbura, despite a communiqué from Burundi's foreign ministry warning that "protestors will be treated as accomplices" of those who staged last week's attempted coup d'état. The communiqué also warned that the ban on protests would be valid through the electoral period (currently foreseen to continue through August), and noted that the Government would consider calls to slightly postpone communal and legislative elections planned for 26 May, while making no mention of the presidential election planned for 26 June.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, on Friday [said](#) there was a real risk of Burundi descending into further chaos, and called upon authorities to ensure that the instigators of the failed coup were not harmed and that there were no reprisals against their perceived supporters, journalists, human rights defenders and the many ordinary civilians who have been protesting against a third-term bid for President Nkurunziza. He also called for a re-opening of all media outlets, the respect for the independence of journalists, and the urgent need to ensure the safety of human rights defenders, some of whom had gone into hiding, fearing for their lives. "Those who incite or engage in acts of mass violence should be aware that they are liable to be prosecuted by competent judicial bodies, as reflected in the recent statement by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court," the High Commissioner warned. Zeid also voiced concerns that the intimidation of civilians, including by the armed militia ("Imbonerakure") attached to the youth movement, could result in an even greater humanitarian crisis.

Lockdown measures for UN personnel were lifted on Saturday with recommendations to staff to exercise caution. As a precautionary measure, non-program-critical UN staff and dependents were evacuated this weekend.

## Humanitarian developments: cholera outbreak in Burundi, possibly in Tanzania

In a significant humanitarian development inside Burundi, the national health ministry confirmed 11 cases of cholera under treatment (with support from UNICEF) in the Nyanza Lac health center (Makamba Province, southern Burundi, bordering Tanzania).

In light of the rapidly evolving and uncertain situation, the Humanitarian Country Team has activated the [Interagency Contingency Plan](#).

The latest official casualty figures available to date remained unchanged, with at least 20 deaths and 200 injured during protests in Bujumbura.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) [reported](#) on Sunday that it was taking urgent measures, in collaboration with authorities in Tanzania, to contain the spread of a severe watery diarrhoea outbreak among newly-arrived Burundian refugees in Tanzania, as seven people had been reported dead since Wednesday. Two specimens had preliminarily been diagnosed as cholera, but UNHCR was awaiting official confirmation from a reference laboratory. Another 77 Burundians in Nyarugusu (in the western province of Kigoma) were being treated for severe watery diarrhoea. Some 300 people were being treated for watery diarrhoea at Kagunga (near the Tanzanian border) and at the Stadium in Kigoma. UNHCR was taking urgent preventative measures to improve sanitation, hygiene and early detection, as well as conducting a hygiene promotion information campaign. The agency has also stepped up efforts to move refugees out of Kagunga by hiring a second boat and collaborating with regional authorities and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support

the clearing of a path and the setting up of a way station along a mountain track that would allow refugees to leave Kagunga on foot.

In Tanzania, the number of refugees arriving in Kagunga had risen sharply in recent days and living conditions had become “extremely dire”, according to UNHCR. Local immigration authorities reported that over 50,000 Burundians were living rough in Kagunga on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. UNHCR has removed several thousand by boat already. In total, more than 70,000 Burundian refugees have arrived in Tanzania since unrest started in Burundi in early April.

UNICEF [warned](#) that tens of thousands of children were among those fleeing violence in Burundi, and that many of these children arriving at borders were in poor health, unaccompanied or had been separated from their families, reporting that they were in urgent need of basic shelter, food, health and protection services.

**More than Burundian 105,000 Refugees  
in Neighboring Countries Since Early-April (Source: [UNHCR 15 May](#))**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Refugees</u>
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)</b>	9,183
<b>Rwanda</b>	26,300
<b>Tanzania</b>	70,187

Meanwhile, the UN Country Team in Tanzania today submitted a proposal to the Central Emergency Response Fund ([CERF](#)) for rapid response and emergency assistance to the Burundian influx to Tanzania. It focuses for a three-month period on five prioritized sectors identified by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the One UN Programme Working Group on Refugees, chaired by UNHCR, with extensive participation of humanitarian partners. The areas are: 1) Protection; 2) Food Security; 3) Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFIs); 4) Health; and 5) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Activities will be implemented by UNHCR, IOM, WFP, WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF directly and/or through implementing partners (Government, Tanzanian Red Cross Society and NGOs). The CERF funding will be for urgent key life-saving interventions. The Government and donors are expected to provide additional in-kind support and funds required for humanitarian partners through a [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), which is being developed and will be ready by end-May.

For its part, the UN Country Team in Rwanda was in discussion with the CERF Secretariat to provide emergency rapid response in the domains of Shelter; WASH; Food and Nutrition; Child Protection; and Health services for a four-month period to an initial 30,000 refugees from Burundi.

**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 (including the UN) 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](mailto:conwaym@un.org). To receive this and other OCHA Eastern Africa reports, please subscribe at <http://bit.ly/1unDLk>*