CONGOLESE SITUATION
RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DISPLACED CONGOLESE AND REFUGEES

ANNEX - BURUNDI

Supplementary Appeal
January - December 2018
Burundi

Map of the area covered by this appeal
Overview

807,000
Congolese refugees expected to be hosted in the region by end 2018

81,000
Congolese refugees expected to be hosted in Burundi by end 2018

79%
Of Congolese refugees are women and children

126 national and international staff

4 offices in the country

The Burundi country annex is part of the supplementary appeal for Congolese situation, which outlines UNHCR’s protection interventions planned in 2018 and its response to the additional and most urgent needs of people of concern fleeing from the Democratic republic of the Congo (DRC).

Burundi hosts 66,000 refugees and asylum-seekers originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) fleeing violence and armed conflict in South Kivu.

Approximately 41 per cent are urban refugees, while the remaining 59 per cent are living in four refugee camps, namely Kavumu, Bwagiriza, Kinama and Musasa. Approximately 51 per cent are women and girls and 56 are children. In 2017, Burundi has been receiving on average more than 430 Congolese asylum seekers per month, with more than 6,300 new arrivals transferred to Kavumu camp.

Burundi acceded the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, and created a solid asylum system through the 2008 Law on Asylum and Refugee Protection and relevant implementing tools, establishing under the Ministry of Interior a national office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons (ONPRA) and regulating the asylum procedure. The refugee status determination for the asylum seekers coming from North and South Kivu is an accelerated process, based on the 1969 OUA Convention.

The situation remains volatile in the North and South Kivus Provinces of the DRC, and UNHCR is expected refugee flows will continue in 2018 with 15,000 new Congolese refugees in 2018 in Burundi, bringing the overall Congolese refugee population to 81,000 by the end of December.

UNHCR’s strategy response will focus on ensuring access to territory and providing protection and multi-sectoral assistance to refugees.
Needs and response

Identified needs

Since 2015, Burundi is experiencing a multidimensional socio-political and macroeconomic crisis impacting different sectors and aspects of protection and livelihoods, which has led to displacement and food insecurity.

The Congolese situation has created enormous humanitarian needs:

- The general protection environment in the country presents challenges also for the Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly in terms of security, freedom of movement, and access to basic social services such as education and health, and local integration including self-reliance and naturalization prospects.
- In case of an emergency influx, the reception capacity of transit centres and camps will have to be increased, and the resources allocated to the implementation of the asylum procedure and the general protection and durable solutions strategy also be incremented.
- Lack of funding is hindering the quantity and quality of multisectoral assistance provided to refugees—education, health care, WASH, shelter, core relief items, cooking energy and income-generating activities.

Response

Throughout 2018, UNHCR interventions will be guided by the following strategic priorities to response to protection and immediate needs of Congolese refugees:

Access to territory and legal assistance—UNHCR will strengthen the capacity of ONPRA and the immigration and border police, who are primarily responsible for the asylum procedure in order to ensure asylum-seekers access to territory, asylum procedures and refugee status determination and prevent any refoulement risk. In addition, the Office will also conduct individual and biometric registration and documentation and support the local authorities for the issuance of civil documentation.

Protection and multisectoral assistance—UNHCR will ensure timely identification and assistance of vulnerable cases, including children at risk and SGBV survivors. In 2017, the Office has run a project to carry out the assessment of the best interests of 300 unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk in the northern camps. This pilot exercise will be extended to the camps in the East and for urban refugees. Community-based protection structures and local welfare institutions will be supported, particularly for child protection and SGBV prevention and response as well as for general referrals to basic social services.

Promoting inclusion of refugees in national programmes—UNHCR will advocate with the Government for access to and inclusion of refugees in national service delivery systems. UNHCR will continue to support national health structures and the establishment of a mutual health system for urban refugees, ensuring refugee access to health care including medicine and promoting in particular urban refugees’ inclusion into national structures health.

Self-reliance and livelihoods improved—Refugee resilience and self-reliance capacity will be boosted through skills-building initiatives, sustainable rural livelihood strategies and environmental protection at community level.
Key intervention areas

Protection
UNHCR’s strategy will focus on registration, enhanced access to protection services, prevention and respond to SGBV and child protection. UNHCR will:

- Ensure refugees and asylum-seekers’ access to territory and asylum procedures, civil registration and documentation, and support the Government through ONPRA to maintain an effective registration and efficient refugee status determination system through which all new arrivals and their family members are registered and their vulnerabilities captured for better assistance.
- Build the capacity of the Government to manage and respond to refugee matters at large and protection in particular including through training, provision of relevant technical and material support and advisory and functional support towards policy and law development.
- Strengthen child protection response—including through the establishment of child friendly and safe spaces, identifying and providing support to unaccompanied and separated children, building the capacity of community protection structures to prevent and respond to child’s exploitation, violence, abuse and neglect, (promoting active participation of children in their own protection through the establishment and strengthening of children’s clubs.
- Ensure prevention of and response to SGBV, including specialized services and support for survivors.

Education
UNHCR and its partners will ensure access of aged of school refugee children to education. UNHCR will:

- Support refugee school age children access to the public education system, including access to education services for children with special needs.

Shelter and core relief items
Bearing in mind the parameters set by the Government of Burundi, UNHCR will:

- Provide shelter to the most vulnerable household and support people of concern with the rehabilitation of essential infrastructures and by prioritizing the construction in the camps and transit centres of public/community WASH facilities.
- Support all new arrivals with kits to construct their own shelters and latrines.
- Establishment of a new camp(s) to provide accommodation and assistance the new refugees.

Health
UNHCR will strengthen, expand and support the health services so as to meet the health needs. Through its UNHCR will:

- Promote health assistance for refugees, including vaccinations, screening for acute malnutrition of children, identification and referral of cases of acute and chronic illness and pregnant women.
- Support partners to deliver in camps and transit centre access primary health care and nutrition services, including infant and young children feeding.
- Promote preventive health measures through awareness raising of refugees and host communities.
- Advocate for the inclusion of refugees in the national health system.
Community empowerment and self-reliance
UNHCR will strengthen the local capacity to host refugees and promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and with host communities. UNHCR will:

- Enhance the resilience, self-reliance and livelihood activities of refugees in Burundi through skills-building initiatives, sustainable rural livelihood strategies and protection of shared environment.
- Carry out a market analysis to identify which sectors have potential to provide real economic and self-reliance opportunities for people of concern.
- Link refugees who are more suited for employment to jobs or apprenticeships in partnership with the National Agency of Youth Employment. A tailored programme for employment will target skilled refugees.
- Refugees and host communities will acquire greater knowledge and improved skills on organic agriculture, non-farm livelihoods (recycling and petty-trade) from technical training, skills training, and language courses for livelihood purposes.
- Facilitate small animal raising projects, agricultural and fisheries production by providing kits and inputs in collaboration with national authorities and FAO.
- Foster peaceful co-existence among the refugees themselves and with the host communities.

Logistics and operations support
UNHCR will ensure timely provision of immediate life-saving needs and support effective sourcing, transportation, delivery, storage, distribution and accounting for assistance.

- Maintain order of core relief items to pre-position them for a possible influx estimated at 20,000 people.
- Conduct a good market study to make the most of the local market, as there are a few items that can be purchased locally.
- Establish frame agreement contract for these different types of goods identified during this market study.
- Enhance the storage capacity for non-food items and increase space in the existing 3 concrete warehouses and install 4 new rub hall.
- Increase transport capacity of concern people and their goods.
Coordination and working in partnership

UNHCR’s main government counterpart in Burundi is the Ministry of Interior and Patriotic Education through the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (ONPRA-Office national de protection des réfugiés et apatrides). UNHCR will continue to coordinate and work closely with the Government of Burundi and all partners to realize the most effective services delivery and outcomes for refugees, and avoid overlaps and gaps.

UNHCR will continue to strengthen its partnership with local NGOs/INGOs and community-based organizations in order to support refugee with an integration potential. UNHCR’s main partners are: ONPRA, as the main governmental counterpart;

- International Rescue Committee – SGBV, child protection and logistics;
- Jesuit Refugee Service – Education;
- Caritas – Food and CRIs;
- Gruppo di Volontariato Civile – Health.

UNHCR will continue working closely with the Resident Coordinator in Burundi, the Humanitarian Country Team and the UNCT. UNHCR cooperates with governmental partners, NGOs and UN sister agencies, including WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDs and regional organizations such as the ICGLR. UNHCR will also expand its network of development actors in line with the New York Declaration, such as the World Bank.
Financial requirements

UNHCR’s ExCom budget for Burundi to respond to the Congolese situation amounts $22,680,913, presented below. No additional requirements are requested in this appeal.

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<th>Category</th>
<th>ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Congolese situation</th>
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