

Alert

Tanzania

Scale Up Emergency Response to Burundian refugee crisis in Tanzania.

Geneva, 5 July 2016

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Now more than a year since Burundi's current crisis began, more than 140,000 women, children and men remain in refugee camps in Tanzania and are unable to return home. The situation inside Burundi continues to worsen. A low intensity urban conflict is spreading progressively from Bujumbura to other provinces, resulting in targeted assassinations, torture, harassments and abuses.¹ Coupled with an economic collapse brought on by the conflict, this makes it virtually impossible for displaced Burundians to return home safely.

On average 100 refugees from Burundi are still entering in Tanzania every day while 140,448 Burundian refugees are currently living in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps in Kigoma region. As many informants from UNHCR, INGOs and refugee leaders suggest, a quick solution to the current political crisis in Burundi and the short-term repatriation of refugees are unlikely. The current refugee situation is developing into a protracted crisis that will plausibly last for several years.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

The current response to the Burundian refugee crisis is severely underfunded. More than 60% of resources needed have not yet been met, which is consequently forcing the UNHCR and its implementing partners to limit the scope and the extension of humanitarian interventions, regardless of the fact that the needs of refugee women, children and men continue to increase.

Since the inception of the emergency, ACT Alliance members have responded to the pressing needs of the Burundian refugees by implementing water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities, distributing non-food items (NFI) and providing community based psychosocial support (CBPS) to the beneficiaries, with funding support from twelve ACT members. Furthermore, ACT Alliance members are supporting peaceful coexistence, youth reconciliation, and peace-building and social cohesion activities taking place in Nduta and Mtendeli camps.

3. National and international response

Under the leadership of UNCHR and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Tanzania, several national and international NGOs are responding to the refugee influx. Health, nutrition and protection activities are carried out by international agencies including the ICRC and MSF. WASH, Community based psychosocial

¹ [http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/africa/central-africa/burundi/235-burundi-a-dangerous-third-term-english](http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/africa/central-africa/burundi/235-burundi-a-dangerous-third-term-english)

Support, Livelihood and Primary education sectors are still severely underfunded. Limited resources have been mobilized and the overall response has yet to reach the required standard.

4. ACT Alliance response

The ACT Tanzania forum was mobilized in May 2015 and resulted in issuing the appeal TZA151; over 70,000 beneficiaries have been reached by the activities so far implemented.

- ACT alliance member TCRS is currently leading the WASH sector in Mtendeli refugee camp. Since June 2015, TCRS implemented emergency NFI, WASH and CBPS activities in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps.
- CWS is providing technical support for the emergency response, monitoring the program implementation, promoting strategic interventions and ensuring timely delivery and efficiency in the assistance provided to the beneficiaries.
- Church of Sweden deployed two consultants to provide training and guidance in the Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS) sector
- NCA is supporting the WASH sector with the secondment of a sanitation officer to TCRS
- ACT Member IOCC has recently provided funding to scale up the water provision in Mtendeli camp.

5. Planned activities

Based on recent needs assessments carried out by TCRS, CWS and NCA the following sectors and a target population of over 60,000 refugees were identified as priority needs for the Burundian refugees living in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps:

- Water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH)
- Non-food items (NFI)
- Community based psychosocial support (CBPS)
- Livelihoods and self-reliance
- Primary education

6. Constraints

The increasing ever number of refugees against limited funding and other resources is the main challenge. In addition there has been limited media attention to Burundian refugee crisis in Tanzania.

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