

**Burundi**

Nairobi, 5 February 2018

**SITUATION**

In the evening of Wednesday the 24 January 2018, refugees fleeing fighting in South Kivu started streaming in Makamba and Rumonge Provinces aboard boats. *Since August 2017, the security and humanitarian situation has significantly deteriorated in South Kivu, more specifically on the axis Sebele-Kikonde-Kazimia, the southern coast of Kazimia (Yungu, Talama) and the coastal communities of Ubwari in the Fizi area. On-going clashes between the army FARDC (Democratic Republic of Congo Armed Forces) and the Mai Mai Yakutumba rebel armed group -claiming itself from the National People's Coalition for the Sovereignty of Congo (CNSPC) - are behind this deterioration of the situation since January. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), is alarmed by a recent surge in violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is driving large numbers of Congolese to flee eastwards to neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda.*

Thousands of children, women and men have abandoned their homes, in the midst of intensified military operations against Mai Mai armed groups in South Kivu province. Since last week almost 7,000 people have crossed to neighbouring Burundi and an additional 1,200 to Tanzania. It is believed that many more are displaced inside South Kivu in difficult conditions without shelter or food.

Refugees we have spoken to say they fled forced recruitment, direct violence and other abuses by armed groups. Others say they fled in anticipation of military operations and out of fear. It is imperative that people fleeing the violence are allowed safe passage, and that humanitarian access to the internally displaced is facilitated.

Those refugees seeking to reach Burundi are mainly doing so by crossing Lake Tanganyika on small fishing boats. *At the date of the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, according to the Burundian authorities, 8,152 persons have crossed the Lake to the Burundian provinces of Rumonge and Makamba, including 6,934 Congolese and 1,218 returning Burundians. On the 29 January, 2018, 823 additional persons arrived on the coasts of Burundi. It is therefore estimated that a total of 9,078 people crossed to Burundi so far. The most probable scenario of the humanitarian community (confirmed by UNHCR) is a total number of 15,000 Congolese refugees and 2,000 Burundians fleeing DRC. The worst-case scenario might increase up to 50,000 to 60,000.*

**NEEDS**

Reception conditions at Nyanza Lac and Rumonge where they arrive are sparse, with extremely limited shelter, sanitary facilities, drinking water and food. Together with the authorities and other partners, UNHCR is transferring the refugees to transit centres and camps – already overcrowded – in Burundi's north and east. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first. The returning population and refugees will need the following assistance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>		
The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Government of Burundi security ministry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UNHCR,IOM, UNICEF and WFP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Handicap International
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith Community	National Council of Churches of Burundi and ACT Alliance Burundi forum members( Christian Aid and Norwegian Church Aid)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	National Council of Churches of Burundi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	Rumonge and Makamba provinces
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Rumonge and Makamba Provinces
<b>ACT Alliance</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance has been active in Burundi.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Protection, Basic Noon-food Items (NFI) and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide water facilities , shelter kit and Non-food items to ensure that the refugees and returnees basic needs are met with regards to ensure the new arrivals live dignified lives and within the humanitarian standards.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing inclusive WASH, Protection, shelter support, food and NFIs to 10,000 new Congolese refugee arrivals affected persons in the coming days.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict are amplified.	

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

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**Core Humanitarian STANDARD** The ACT Alliance Secretariat's continuous improvement in the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard is independently verified by HQAI