



Burundi regional crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Over 390 000 Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries since April 2015, including:

- 232 138 in **Tanzania**
 - 84 574 in **Rwanda**
 - 33 793 in **Uganda**
 - 33 690 in **DRC**
- (source: UNHCR, March 2017)

141 000 internally displaced people in Burundi (source: IOM, Dec.2016)

3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, incl. 900 000 in severe food insecurity

56 000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (source: UN)

Child mortality: 104/1000 or 12th highest in the world (source: UNICEF)

Burundi ranks **184th out of 187** in the **UN's Human Development Index**

EU humanitarian funding for the **Burundi refugee crisis: €36.2 million since April 2015** (incl. €22.2 in 2016)

EU development assistance to Burundi under the **11th European Development Fund (EDF, 2014-2020): 432€ million**



Refugee children at a child-friendly space in Nduta camp, Tanzania. ©EU/ECHO/Anouk Delafortrie

Key messages

- Burundi is experiencing a multidimensional socio-economic crisis impacting different sectors and aspect of livelihoods, which has led to displacement and food insecurity. The violence that ensued after president Nkurunziza's bid for a third term in office in 2015 triggered an exodus. More than 390 000 Burundians have fled the country and another 146 000 are reportedly internally displaced.
- There are currently signs of a deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, the extent of which is unclear as administrative restrictions prevent aid agencies from conducting independent needs assessments. Low rainfall has led to failed harvests and a 37% increase in food prices.
- 900 000 people are expected to experience severe food shortages in the coming months while 56 000 severely malnourished children will require life-saving treatment. 8 million malaria cases have been reported in 2016, a sharp increase which continues in 2017.
- An average of 700 people continues to arrive daily in Tanzania, which hosts the majority of Burundian refugees. The refugee camps are full to capacity and are lacking enough shelter and clean water.
- Citing the deteriorating economic situation as the main driver for refugees to leave Burundi, the Tanzanian authorities have said they will stop systematically granting prima facie refugee status to new arrivals. Burundi has embarked on a regional campaign to encourage refugees to return home and is pressing its case with its neighbours.

The European Commission has released €45.5 million in humanitarian aid since the start of the crisis in April 2015. Funds are used to meet the basic needs of refugees in the host countries and improve living conditions in the camps through the construction of new shelters, classrooms, water and sanitation infrastructure. There has also been a focus on providing health care services, protection and cash transfers.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Burundi's recent history has been plagued by ethnic tensions and violence. In 1993, the assassination of Burundi's president sparked the exodus of half a million people. It ignited a civil war that claimed 300 000 lives and lasted 12 years. The internationally brokered Arusha peace accords put an end to the conflict and heralded a period of relative stability.

President Nkurunziza's controversial reelection in 2015 plunged the country again into crisis, with violence, extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses prompting a new mass exodus. The climate remains tense and new refugees continue to arrive in neighbouring countries every day,

Humanitarian needs

In its [Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017](#), the UN states that 3 million people in Burundi require humanitarian assistance. This figure includes 800 000 people (now 900 000) who are facing severe food shortages and 56 000 children who are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in the course of 2017. A spike in malaria cases is also of concern. After conducting a rapid assessment the World Health Organisation (WHO) shared that 8 provinces are in an advanced epidemic situation. 8 million cases were reported in 2016 alone. A new cholera outbreak has also been reported in the province of Cibitoke.

More than 390 000 Burundians have fled to Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda and Zambia where already existing camps and new refugee sites have been organised to accommodate the new arrivals. In Tanzania, the sudden influx has led to overcrowding and overstretched facilities. More than half of the refugees are under the age of 18, with among them, many unaccompanied minors.

Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania, which already hosted 64 000 refugees from DR Congo, was expanded and doubled in size before reaching its limit. With 100 000 and 50 000 refugees respectively, the Nduta and Mtendeli camps are also full. Additional space is urgently needed. There is a lack of shelters, classrooms as well as water and sanitation facilities. In a region where water-related diseases are common, overcrowding poses health as well as protection concerns. A cholera outbreak claimed dozens of lives in 2015, but was successfully contained.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Commission is closely monitoring the Burundi crisis and has released €45.5 million in humanitarian funding since the beginning of the crisis. With these funds humanitarian partners are assisting Burundian refugees in camps across the region. The refugees who are confined to camps rely entirely on assistance to meet their basic needs. In addition, some of the funds are allocated to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable people inside Burundi.

The Commission's humanitarian aid is mainly channeled into the construction of weather-proof shelters and classrooms, the creation of children-friendly spaces, as well as the provision of food assistance, protection, safe water and better sanitation. The Commission's operational partners have adopted measures aimed at reducing the risks of violence and abuse in the refugee camps, while providing support and protection to victims of violence.

Example of EU funded projects



With more than 227 000 arrivals since April 2015, Tanzania hosts the highest number of Burundian refugees in the region. OXFAM is providing potable water and sanitation facilities to the refugees in the camps while at the same time promoting safe hygiene practices. They have also distributed fuel efficient stoves. Good hygiene and safe water are of the utmost importance to prevent diseases in a congested camp setting.

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