Rwanda CO Situation Report

DATE OF SITREP – July 15

Highlights
- The total number of Burundian refugees has now reached 68,665.
- Partners are preparing for a larger influx of refugees in the lead up to Burundi’s presidential elections, postponed until 21 July.
- A six-month basic education orientation programme for Burundian children has started at Mahama Refugee Camp.
- An increasing number of children are benefitting from the child friendly spaces (CFS) programme, with up to 8,500 now attending.
- Cases of severe acute malnutrition have reduced.
- Prevalence of childhood illnesses remains high and the hospital tent at the camp is working at maximum capacity.
- CO continue to experience dire funding with a gap of 77% underfunding out of an appeal of about US$4,050,000 to the Burundian refugee crisis remains significant.

Key targets and results – UNICEF with partners, according to Refugee Response Plan (RRP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Target*</th>
<th>Results</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH: People provided with minimum 10 litres clean water daily</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>&gt;47,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health: Children under-15 vaccinated against measles and children under 5 against polio</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>&gt; 23,000 children **</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition: Severely malnourished under-5s being treated</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>242***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection: Unaccompanied/separated children reached with tracing and alternative care arrangements</td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>1,537</td>
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<td>Education: Children with access to education programmes</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>9,135</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECD: Children 0-59 months receiving ECD services</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>3,009</td>
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* Targets based on RRP calculation of 100,000 refugees over six months
** Vaccination activities are being carried out daily as the refugee children (<15 and <5) register, and includes children vaccinated during two campaigns.
*** Cases of severely acute malnourished children have decreased as they have been successfully treated (102 children so far).

UNHCR figures as of 13 July 2015

68,665
Recently-arrived Burundian refugees now in Rwanda

29,875
Hosted at Mahama refugee camp
77% are children and women

Main Issues
- Improving maternal and new born health services
- Meeting demand for WASH
- Child protection cases

Funding requirement:
US$4,050,000
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Following the second major influx of Burundian refugees in the lead up to the parliamentary elections in Burundi on 29 June, numbers of new arrivals have dropped from a peak of 1,691 on 28 June to a low of 116 on 9 July. Part of the reason for the fall in new arrivals could be due to reports by refugees of more checkpoints and blockades by Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling party. Refugees report leaving without their belongings and travelling through the forest at night so that they will not be stopped from leaving the country.

Since 13 July, a total of 68,665 Burundian refugees have been registered in Rwanda, with 29,875 at Mahama refugee camp. There are a further 13,696 refugees currently in Bugesera reception centre, 1,021 refugees in Nyanza reception centre and 702 in Nyagatare transit centre.

UNICEF and its partners, under the overall coordination of the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR, are on high alert as the presidential elections approach. Of particular concern are clashes reported to have taken place on 10 July between Burundian government soldiers and unidentified military groups in Kayanza province in Burundi near the border with Rwanda.

During this reporting period, it remained a challenge for UNHCR and UNICEF to meet the demand for WASH due to the increased number of refugees. Water continues to be brought in on trucks and surface water treatment in Mahama refugee camp has started.

Nutrition status among newly arrived children significantly improved during the last reporting period. However, UNICEF and partners are preparing for a second wave of refugees when there could be a significant increase in number of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

There are over 200 health consultations per day, most of them children. Health consultations continue to be mainly due to respiratory infections (39 per cent), watery diarrhoea (25 per cent) and malaria (17 per cent). There have been, on average, 45 hospitalizations each week, and the tent serving as a hospital has reached over 100 per cent capacity with all 22 beds full. Moreover, more than 12 deliveries per week are taking place in one small delivery room in the camp’s health centre. The minimum standards for maternal and newborn health services are not being met. Moreover, there is also only one ambulance at the camp. Last week, two children under 5 years died; one was a neonatal death due to hypoglycaemia and the other was due to pneumonia.

A total number of 9,135 pupils enrolled in orientation classes. Furthermore, Burundian teachers from the refugee community and Rwandan teachers are working together.

Out of a total of 1,537 unaccompanied and separated children, some 281 have been reunited with their parents, customary caregivers or relatives. In addition, so far, 35 cases of sexual and gender based violence have been reported, mostly domestic violence and denial of resources (UNHCR, 7 July).

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Rwandan Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) and UNHCR are the overall coordinators of the inter-agency response to the refugee situation. Humanitarian partners’ priorities were initially to provide life-saving emergency protection and assistance, including building and managing the Mahama camp. Under the leadership of UNHCR, UNICEF is the UN Co-Coordinator for the response in WASH, Child Protection, Early Childhood Development, Education, Health (with WHO and UNFPA), and Nutrition (with WFP). The main implementing partners are: district and community authorities; the Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, district hospitals and health centres; AHA, ARC (Health and Nutrition); Plan International (Child Protection); CARE (ECD), ADRA (Education); shelter (ARC) and the Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC), and World Vision Rwanda (WASH).
Humanitarian Strategy

The initial focus is to register refugees, provide them with shelter, household equipment, food and water, maintain sanitation and hygiene, and give emergency health and nutrition services. UNICEF is providing WASH supplies and technical assistance; screening, treating and managing severe acute malnutrition; providing polio and measles vaccines for children; and distributing tents for health and nutrition services, and for child-friendly spaces. Unaccompanied and separated children are registered and helped, while their families are traced. Support to prevent and respond to violence against children is provided. UNICEF is supporting access to early learning and basic education for refugee children.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNHCR and UNICEF, in partnership with World Vision and PAJER, are providing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to over 47,000 refugees in Mahama camp as well as in Bugesera and Nyanza reception centres.

Construction of additional facilities continued in Mahama camp to meet the increased demand due to a surge in the influx of refugees in the lead up to the parliamentary elections. Additional WASH facilities are being constructed but meeting the recommended daily minimum requirement of drinking water of 15 litres for each refugee remains a challenge.

In Mahama camp currently each refugee receives on average 13.7 litres of water per day; in Bugesera reception centre, refugees are receiving only 11 litres per day compared to 26 litres in Nyanza reception centre. To improve the water supply in Mahama camp, the construction of a surface water treatment plant has begun while additional water trucks are being deployed in Bugesera.

Regarding latrines and shower facilities, in Mahama, there are 25 refugees per latrine and 35 refugees per shower facility; in Bugesera reception centre, there are 21 refugees per latrine and 31 refugees per shower facility; and in Nyanza, there are 14 refugees per latrine and 24 refugees per shower, mostly meeting the recommended UNICEF standards.

Nutrition

UNICEF and partners have been preparing for a possible significant increase in the number of children diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), as part of the potential second influx of refugees. However, over the last reporting period, the nutritional status among newly-arrived refugee children has shown significant improvement, with only four cases of SAM out of 185 children screened at transit and reception centres, see figure below.
Currently, the SAM programme provides treatment to 242 children, including two cases with medical complications admitted to Kirehe District Hospital. A total of 102 SAM children have been successfully rehabilitated and transferred to the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programme (SFP). The MAM Programme currently has 865 patients in the camp and reception centres.

UNICEF has provided 100 cartons of Ready-to-use Therapeutic Feeding (RUTF) to Mahama refugee camp, an adequate supply for one month at the current caseload. The routine monitoring and technical support provided by the UNICEF nutrition specialist continued both at camp and national levels.

With UNICEF support, a joint community health worker (CHW) training began on 9 July in Mahama refugee camp targeting 110 community health workers. The nutrition modules covers knowledge and skills to conduct and interpret anthropometric measurements accurately, to identify signs of malnutrition and to refer all children, pregnant and lactating women to access nutrition services at the nearest health facility. Other topics included support for breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, monitoring of malnourished children during home visits and support to mothers and caregivers to adopt appropriate behaviours and practices for improved nutrition.

Health

UNICEF support is mainly focused on immunization and community health. Technical support is given at weekly sector coordination meetings chaired by UNHCR during which all health-related issues are discussed and necessary actions are recommended.

Immunization activities are being carried out daily at the reception centres as children register. So far, in total over 23,000 children have been vaccinated at the reception centres and during two vaccination campaigns in Mahama camp. Since 10 June, at the reception centres, 2,407 children aged 0-5 years have been vaccinated against polio and 5,489 children aged 9 months to 15 years against measles and rubella (MR); and in Mahama camp, 4,910 children under 5 received a polio vaccine and 1,111 children under 15 were vaccinated for MR.

UNICEF has also committed to introducing routine vaccination for children under the age of 1 at Mahama camp, planned to start this week in Mahama camp for all antigens based on the Rwanda EPI calendar: OPV (four doses), BCG, Penta (three doses), PCV13 (three doses), MR (two doses) and Rota (three doses). In addition, HPV for 12-year-old girls and TT for pregnant mothers will be introduced.

The health component of the joint CHW training, which started last week, focuses on promoting key family health practices (see C4D section). Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services started last month, integrated with antenatal care (ANC) services. There is an isolation tent in case of a cholera outbreak, and the prevention and response plan for cholera is being developed.
Child Protection

There are now 1,537 unaccompanied and separated children (377 separated children and 1,160 unaccompanied children) who were registered at the reception centres and received support. Out of these, 281 have been reunited with their families or caregivers so far. The number of registered child protection cases has risen to 30 and they are also receiving support. UNHCR reports 35 sexual and gender-based violence cases, most of which have been cases of domestic violence and denial of resources.

Some 8,500 children are now benefitting from activities in Child Friendly Spaces.

Education/ECD

UNICEF, in partnership with CARE, supported the construction of 15 temporary classrooms for the pre-school programme in Mahama refugee camp. The classrooms have already started being used by the 3,009 refugee children aged 3-6 years registered for the pre-school programme. The construction of 15 more classrooms will be completed next week.

CARE, with UNICEF support, trained 60 caregivers (19 males and 41 females) in early child stimulation, play-based learning and child rights. Trained caregivers are assisting children in early learning over two shifts. The children are using the 10 ECD kits containing early stimulation materials which were provided by UNICEF. The children continue to receive nutritional support in the form of a cereal plus porridge, which is provided by the American Refugee Committee (ARC) and supported by WFP.

The construction of 68 temporary classrooms was completed by UNHCR in partnership with ADRA. A six-month orientation programme started two weeks ago and has been attended so far by 9,135 students: 7,007 for primary level education and 2,128 for secondary level. The orientation programme aims to prepare the Burundian refugee children for integration into the Rwandan educational system, a process which will begin in January 2016.

The 96 recruited teachers (60 refugees and 36 nationals) participated in a one-day induction programme organized by UNHCR, ADRA, MIDIMAR and Kirehe district officials.

UNICEF support for the orientation programme includes the provision of 60 School-in-a-Box kits to UNHCR through ADRA and teacher training in partnership with IEE (International Education Exchange). UNICEF is purchasing students kits locally to fill the gaps in school material for students during the orientation period.

UNICEF is also supporting UNHCR in the development of the Education in Emergencies (EiE) costed strategic plan that UNHCR will use to mobilize funds. The strategy is expected to be completed in one week. UNICEF is recruiting emergency support staff to work with UNHCR and partners as well as
with government officials to advance the ECD and EiE programmes in Mahama camp.

Communication for Development (C4D)
The technical team from the Ministry of Health supported by UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, ARC and other partners facilitated the orientation of district trainers and 110 community health workers on key family health practices within the refugee community. UNICEF provided the training materials and job aids which were developed by the Ministry of Health with UNICEF technical assistance. The training started 9 July and will run over two weeks.

Media and External Communication
The news on the Burundi crisis were featured and continues to be in the Rwandan print and online media. Social media posts are being updated through official UNICEF Rwanda channels (Facebook and Twitter) on a regular basis. Human interest stories on immunisation and community health workers were posted generating increased traffic to the country office website. Other materials including photo essays and stories on nutrition, health and child protection are being finalised for sharing with the UNICEF Regional Office, National Committees and Headquarters.

Funding Requirements
Significant funding gaps remain at 77% underfunding from the requirement of US$4,050,000. Unicef welcomes the timely support from CERF Rapid Response Mechanism for Child Protection and Nutrition totalling US$270,000, and a further US$80,000 from the French National Committee. DFID funding was received on 14 July, supporting Nutrition, WASH and Health with a total amount of US$550,000. Timely funding will be critical for scaling up operations with the continued surge of refugees.

Next UNICEF Rwanda SitRep: 28 July 2015

More information:
Oliver Petrovic
Deputy Representative
+250 788 300 717
opetrovic@unicef.org