

RWANDA

Refugee Influx from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Immediate Needs for Women and Children from June to September



©UNICEF/Rwanda/2012/Yasmine

Intense fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo has forced more than 12,000 people to flee across the border into Rwanda, more than half of those arriving in Rwanda are children.

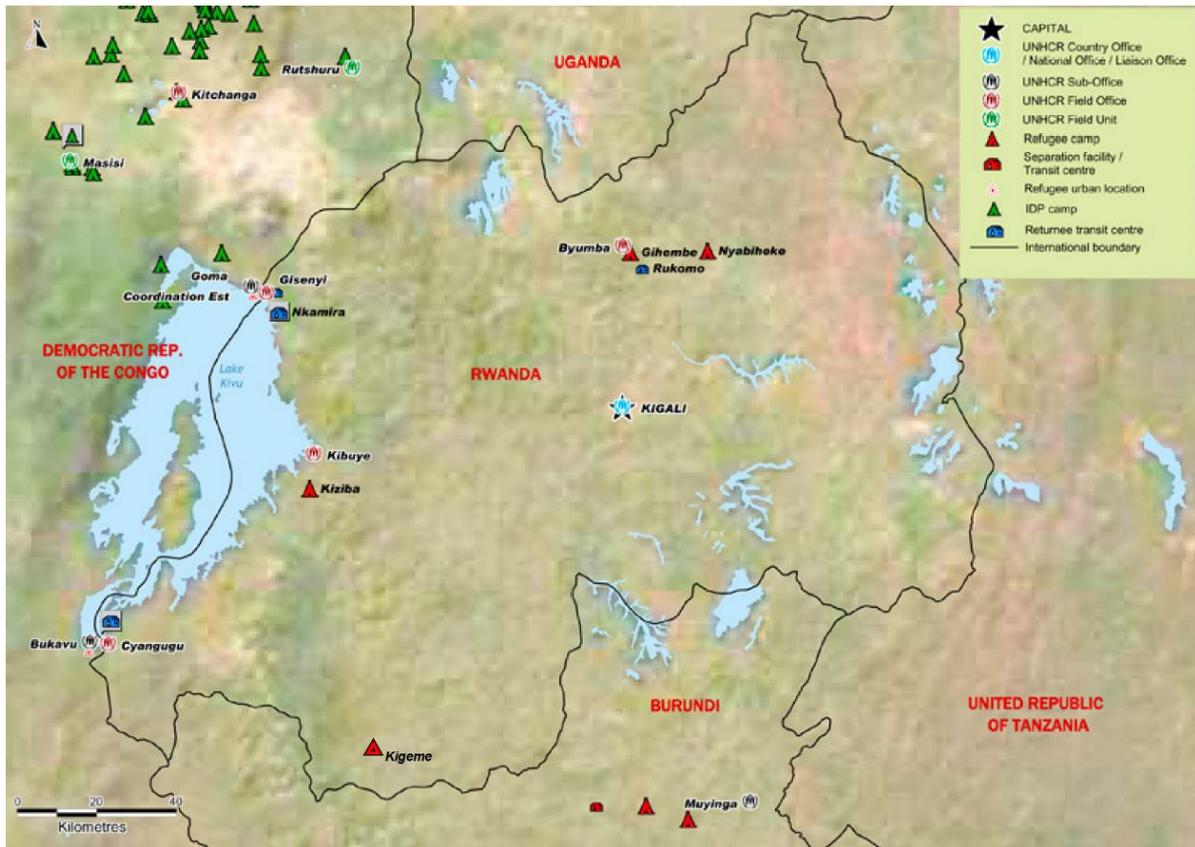
14 June, 2012

unite for
children



United Nations
RWANDA
Unity *in* Diversity





Source: UNHCR

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Intense fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between Congolese Government forces (FARDC) and former Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP) rebel soldiers, loyal to General Bosco Ntaganda, has left over 100,000¹ people either internally displaced or forced to flee into neighboring Rwanda and Uganda.

Since the fighting began in the Masisi Zone, North Kivu Province, on 27th April more than 12,000² people have fled across the border into Rwanda and have been accommodated at the Nkamira Transit Centre, 25 kilometers from the Gisenyi Border Crossing. UNHCR has so far registered 12,289 new asylum seekers, with women and children making up to 84 per cent of the newly registered caseload, including 2,000 children under the age of five. Given the expected deterioration of the security conditions in North Kivu, this caseload is expected to increase by another 10,000 asylum-seekers thus bringing the total projected caseload of new arrivals to 20,000.

The asylum-seekers are currently accommodated at Nkamira Transit Center, which is located only 25 kilometers from the main border crossing thus creating security concerns due to its proximity to the DRC border. Additionally, the center has exceeded its capacity four-fold, which makes living conditions extremely challenging and poses serious challenges to providing care,

¹ UNHCR, Briefing Notes, 12th June 2012: www.unhcr.org/4fd72ff49.html

² UNHCR, Briefing Notes, 12th June 2012: www.unhcr.org/4fd72ff49.html

shelter and protection for the refugees, particularly for women and children. Currently there is insufficient water, inadequate emergency shelter, latrines, hygiene facilities and health, education and protection services. Overcrowding might lead to the spread of preventable diseases.

Hence, in order to mitigate security concerns and increase the accommodation capacity, the Government of Rwanda, with the support of the UN family and UNICEF, has agreed to establish a refugee camp in Kigeme, Nyamagabe District, situated in the south of the country, where the basic humanitarian needs of the community can be met.

Whilst the urgent relocation of refugees to the Kigeme Camp began on 10th June, the Nkamira Transit Center will continue to be used as a transit center for new arrivals. It is expected that at least 100 people will be transferred to the site on a daily basis, and progressively more refugees will be transferred as the construction of the Camp progresses. At present the Kigeme Camp urgently requires the construction of basic shelter, water and sanitation facilities, health facilities and education and protection services in order to accommodate more than 12,000 people, of whom 59 percent are children, with those under-five comprising 20 percent.

The Government of Rwanda and UNHCR have requested the urgent support of UNICEF to provide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health and Nutrition, Child Protection and Education services to the refugees at the Kigeme Camp and sustain support for the requirements of those arriving at the Transit Centre.

Refugee Statistics

Estimated Refugee Population			
<i>(Estimates calculated based on initial figures from registration at Nkamira Transit Centre)</i>			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Refugee Population*	12,289	5,161	7,128
Refugee Children (Under 18)	7,238	3,467	3,771
Refugee Children Under Five	2,457	1,203	1,254

*Number of refugees registered by UNHCR at the Nkamira Transit Centre as of 10th June 2012

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Key humanitarian needs for the refugee population are as follows:

Safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, hygiene promotion - Access to water and sanitation facilities remains a critical challenge; currently there is an insufficient number of water points providing clean drinking water, with the population using much less than the SPHERE standard of at least 7.5 liters to 15 liters, per person, per day. Sanitation and hygiene facilities are strained given the continuing influx of refugees, with additional latrines and showers urgently needed to meet the needs of the population. Signs of open defecation are evident and cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) have been reported. **The risk of outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea and cholera are of serious concern.**

Health - Many of the children arriving at the center have not received routine vaccinations in the DRC; this needs to be addressed urgently to prevent the outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease such as measles and polio. Basic health care to manage pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria is needed to limit childhood illness and deaths, avoid excess maternal and neonatal mortality, as well as prevention of diseases of epidemic potential such as cholera and malaria.

Nutrition – The refugee population includes a large number of children under the age of five who are at risk of acute malnutrition given the limited diversity of diet. An initial nutritional assessment of 1,954 children between 6-59 months showed a global acute malnutrition rate of 12.9 percent. 217 children (11 percent) were identified as Moderately Acutely Malnourished (MAM) and 36 children (1.8 percent) have been identified as Severely Acutely Malnourished (SAM); these children have been provided with appropriate treatment.

Child Protection – The significant number of unsupervised children at the site without adequate protection mechanisms or child-friendly spaces in place, as well as the large numbers of school-age adolescents and youth is a key concern. Children are extremely vulnerable to the stresses brought on by conflict and are at increased risk of separation from primary caregivers, sexual and gender-based violence, physical harm and long term negative emotional and psychological effects. In addition child-friendly and temporary learning spaces for the large numbers of school-age children and youth need to be established to address the issues of interrupted education, and the protection risks that large groups of adolescents in an overcrowded camp setting pose.

Early Childhood Development – More than 2,000 children at the center are under the age of six. Early Childhood Development (ECD) interventions in an emergency are vital in providing young children with the protection, care and support they need to survive and develop to their full potential. Interventions to promote physical, intellectual and emotional development in early childhood, particularly in times of stress, make a difference to young children and their caregivers both immediately and over the long term. To this effect an integrated package of ECD services including nutrition, protection and learning activities, targeting the most vulnerable children under the age of six is a critical need.

Education – Over 6,000 children are of school-going age. For these children returning to school is urgently needed to restore a sense of security and normalcy. Currently at the Nkamira Transit Centre, children have not been attending temporary learning centers and as such their right to education is at risk. Educational services need to be urgently provided to these children, it is

expected that the children will have access to temporary learning spaces at the Kigeme Camp and others will be integrated into existing schools in the local area.

Emergency Shelter – There is an urgent need to improve basic emergency shelter at both the Nkamira Transit Center and at the Kigeme Camp. Despite the fact that the families accommodated at the Nkamira Transit Center are to be transferred to the Kigeme camp, the projected arrival of another 10,000 asylum seekers calls for improving living conditions in both sites. Emergency Shelter needs will be provided by UNHCR.

Coordination – The overall refugee situation is being coordinated by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) and UNHCR, with the support of sister UN agencies. Following Government request, UNICEF has assumed immediate technical leadership in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, education and child protection and is providing key support in the area of health. Daily coordination meetings, chaired by MIDIMAR and UNHCR are held at the Nkamira Transit Centre. Bi-weekly situation reports are produced by the ONE UN Inter-agency taskforce that includes UNICEF. Activities are being implemented through partners including international and national NGOs.

3. UNICEF ACTIONS TO DATE

UNICEF is working with UN sister agencies in partnership with civil society organizations and the Government of Rwanda, to respond to the immediate needs of women and children at the Nkamira Transit Centre. Actions to date include:

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

- UNICEF is providing clean drinking water to close to 12,000 refugees at the Nkamira Transit Centre, through the restoration of the existing water system and installation of temporary water tanks. However these services need to be improved and expanded urgently to continue to meet the needs of the growing population
- 4,000 jerry cans and 4,000 buckets have been distributed to 2,500 families
- The construction of four separate shower blocks (each with 12 cubicles) for men and women at the Nkamira Transit Centre has been completed.
- Construction of five blocks of separate latrines for men and women (each block has 16 cubicles) at the Nkamira Transit Centre has been completed.
- Water quality analysis and monitoring to prevent the spread of water-borne disease at the camp is currently underway.

Health

- A first round vaccination campaign against measles and polio, and the distribution of Vitamin A supplements and de-worming tablets was conducted at the Nkamira Transit Centre
- Provision of 12 tents to accommodate health and shelter at the Nkamira Transit Centre

Nutrition

- Nutritional screening and assessment of 1,954 children under five was completed at the Nkamira Transit Centre.
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding provided to those children identified with moderate acute malnutrition or severe acute malnutrition.

Child Protection

- Creation of two child friendly spaces and provision of recreational activities for children, adolescents and youth for one month at the Nkamira Transit Center. These activities have reached so far 670 children a day.

Education

- UNICEF supported the facilitation of exams for 300 children at the Nkamira Transit Centre, to prevent final examinations being disrupted due to conflict in the DRC.

4. UNICEF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

WASH (USD\$1,083,641)

- UNICEF will continue to provide and improve access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities for close to 12,000 refugees currently at the Nkamira Transit Centre; the number of people at the site is expected to decrease as transfer to Kigeme Camp continues.
- UNICEF will lead the construction and rehabilitation of the water system at the new refugee camp in Kigeme to meet the needs of close to 20,000 refugees.

Activities will include:

- Installation of water tanks to provide access to safe drinking water for close to 20,000 refugees at the Kigeme Refugee Camp;
- Construction of latrines, showers to meet the basic immediate needs of the population at the new Kigeme Refugee Camp.
- Water quality analysis and monitoring to prevent the spread of water-borne disease at the camp.
- Hygiene promotion campaigns for the adoption of safe hygiene practices including hand washing with soap at critical times, use of clean drinking water and safe latrines. UNICEF will ensure that hygiene promotion activities will be linked to those that the community may have been exposed to previously in the DRC.
- WASH messages will be delivered through life-skills education at schools, child-friendly spaces and at outreach services at ECD centers.
- Additional water and sanitation facilities will be provided at three local schools, supporting the integration of refugee children in the Rwandan educational system.
- Water and Sanitation facilities will be provided at two ECD centers at Kigeme Camp.
- Additional WASH facilities will be provided at the local Health Center in Kigeme, which will support the health needs of the refugee population.

Health (USD\$311,667)

- Scaling up vaccination campaign for polio, measles, Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming to reach all children under the age of five.
- Procurement and distribution of 10,000 malaria nets for all children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women.

- Procurement of 40 Interagency Emergency Health Kits containing essential medicines including anti-malarial medicines for the treatment of malaria and rapid diagnostic kits.
- UNICEF will provide an integrated community health package, this will include the training of 25 community health workers (CHWs) to manage diseases such as pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea and promote HIV prevention messages amongst the refugee population. The CHWs will also be trained to provide home-based maternal and newborn care.
- UNICEF will provide maternal and neonatal care through the provision of 15 midwifery kits (including Newborn and Clean Delivery Kits) and equipment to ensure more than 50 safe deliveries.
- HIV counseling and testing for all pregnant and lactating women, their children and male partners will be provided at Health Centers at Kigeme Camp.
- Provision of antiretroviral prophylaxis and treatment to HIV positive mothers, their children and male partners.

Nutrition (USD\$214,000)

- Scale up nutritional screening activities to reach all refugee children aged 6-59 months currently at the centre and those arriving over the next few months.
- Screening of infants less than six months for malnutrition and provision of Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) counseling and support as needed.
- Providing supplementary and therapeutic feeding to children, identified as moderately and severely malnourished through community based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM).

Child Protection and Early Childhood Development (USD\$ 668,750)

- Creation of four age appropriate adolescent and 'child friendly spaces' and the provision of recreational activities so children and adolescents can feel safe, play, and receive psychosocial support.
- Provision of recreational kits for children to participate in sports activities.
- Provision of Early Childhood Development activities and psychosocial activities for children under the age of six.
- Construction and operationalization of Early Childhood Development and Family Outreach Centers to provide ECD activities, nutritional screening and family outreach at the camp.
- Provision of Early Childhood Development Kits to support learning activities for children under the age of six at the ECD centers.
- Provision of psychosocial support for refugee children and women.
- Ensure Gender based Violence (GBV) prevention and rapid response mechanisms are in place at the camp.
- Awareness raising campaigns for children and women about protection against gender based violence and sexual abuse.

Education (USD\$ 538,210)

- In order to meet the educational needs of over 6,000 school-age refugee children and minimize interruption in their education, UNICEF will support the construction of temporary learning spaces at the Kigeme Refugee Camp and will support the Government to identify and train teachers.

- UNICEF will also support the Nyamagabe District to facilitate the temporary integration of refugee children into the Rwandan educational system. This will be done through the provision of accelerated English language training for teachers and children.
- UNICEF will provide support to three host community schools by providing temporary classrooms, teacher training and educational materials.
- Provision of Emergency Education Kits to support children’s return to school.

5. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

UNICEF is urgently requesting **US\$3,013,407** to ensure that the rights of refugee children and women are met through addressing the immediate needs at both the Nkamira Transit Centre and the relocation of refugees to the Kigeme Refugee Camp. The immediate needs reflected in this IND will be incorporated into the ONE UN Response Plan Appeal currently under development.

Table 2. Estimated funding requirements from June to December 2012

Sector	US\$
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,083,641
Health	311,667
Nutrition	214,000
Child Protection	668,750
Education	538,210
Subtotal	2,816,268
Coordination, Monitoring and Logistics	197,139
Total	3,013,407

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF’s Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

**Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other, under-funded emergencies.

Further information on the UNICEF refugee crisis response in Rwanda can be obtained from:

<p>Noala Skinner</p> <p>Representative UNICEF Rwanda Tel: +250 788 302 716 Fax: +250 252 59 2810 Email: nskinner@unicef.org</p>	<p>Dermot Carty</p> <p>Deputy Director Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) UNICEF Geneva Tel: + 41 22 909 5601 Fax: + 41 22 909 5902 E-mail: dcarty@unicef.org</p>	<p>June Kunugi</p> <p>Deputy Director Public Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization Office (PARMO) UNICEF New York Tel: + 1-212 326 7009 Fax: + 1-212 326 7165 Email: kunugi@unicef.org</p>
---	---	---