

**Call for applications** for DERF funding of rapid response interventions answering to the following humanitarian crisis:

**Title:** Refugee Influx into Burundi Driven by the South Kivu Conflict

**Country and location(s):** Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (South Kivu Province) and neighbouring border areas in Burundi

**DERF Funding Modality:** Applicants are to apply for the DERF Funding Modality *Rapid Response* as per the DERF Funding Guidelines.

**Call window for submission of applications:** Applications are received and processed on an ongoing basis from Friday, 9 January 2026, until Friday, 30 January 2026, at 12:00 noon (CET).

**Funds allocated for this call:** The DERF allocates a total of up to **DKK 1.5 million** for this call. Applicants can apply for **maximum DKK 749.999** each.

Alert title and location(s)	Alert type, source and date	Crisis type	Information on the humanitarian crisis and emergency relief needs	Known DK org. in crisis location(s)	Assessment of DERF relevance
<p><b>Title:</b> Refugee Influx into Burundi Driven by the South Kivu Conflict</p> <p><b>Country &amp; locations:</b> Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (South Kivu Province) and neighbouring border areas in Burundi</p>	<p><b>Alert Type:</b> Local Alert</p> <p><b>Alerting Organisation:</b> Baptist Union Denmark</p> <p><b>Crisis Start:</b> 5 December 2025</p> <p><b>Sources supplemented with:</b> UNHCR, Influx of people from eastern DR Congo, 28/12/2025</p> <p>UNHCR, regional external update #25, 17/12/2025</p>	<p>Spike in protracted crisis</p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In early December 2025, a sudden escalation of the protracted crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) triggered a severe humanitarian crisis with significant cross-border consequences. The security situation in South Kivu, DRC deteriorated sharply following the M23 offensive in and around Uvira, which began on 5 December 2025. The intensification of violence led to large-scale displacement into neighbouring Burundi. Since early December 2025, an estimated 100,000 people have fled fighting in South Kivu and sought refuge across the border, bringing the total number of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers in Burundi to more than 200,000 (UNHCR, 28/12/2025). In response to the scale of the influx, the Government of Burundi declared a state of emergency on 17 December 2025 (UNHCR 17/12/2025).</p> <p>On the DRC-side of the border, hostilities in South Kivu continue. Ongoing clashes, including drone strikes and shelling, have displaced more than 500,000 people since early December 2025 (WFP, 23/12/2025). Many public buildings, including schools, are now being used as makeshift shelters and are severely overcrowded. At the same time, the first cases of cholera have been reported, further compounding the humanitarian situation (UNHCR, 19/12/2025).</p> <p>The rapid escalation of violence, together with the scale, pace, and cross-border nature of displacement, collectively constitute a spike in the protracted humanitarian crisis and has generated urgent, life-saving humanitarian needs requiring immediate response.</p> <p><b>Humanitarian impact:</b></p> <p>This emergency is unfolding in an already overstretched humanitarian context. Local authorities and existing humanitarian actors have been unable to absorb the sudden influx, and reception capacity and basic services are severely overstretched (UNICEF 31/12/2025). Humanitarian needs are acute across transit and reception sites, where overcrowding and limited access to basic services persist. Nutrition risks are critical for children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women, with rising severe acute malnutrition and insufficient supplies for moderate malnutrition. WASH conditions are extremely poor,</p>	<p>Number of organisations present in-country: 12</p> <p>Number of organisations with external funding experience (both CSF and DERF grants): 8</p> <p>Number of organisations present in specific localities: 4</p>	<p>Critical emergency and/or protection needs: Yes</p> <p>Particularly vulnerable groups: Yes</p> <p>Timeliness of potential DERF funded intervention : Yes</p> <p>Significant funding gap exist: Yes</p> <p>DERF funds available: Yes</p>

	<p>WFP, News release, 23/12/2025</p> <p>UNHCR, Briefing notes, 19/12/2025</p> <p>UNICEF, Flash Update #2, 31/12/2025</p> <p>MSF, press release, 23/12/2025</p>	<p>with water availability far below humanitarian standards and inadequate sanitation increasing the risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases. The threat of vaccine-preventable diseases, notably measles, as well as malaria, remains critically high (MSF, 23/12/2025). Protection risks remain significant, including gender-based violence, family separation, and a high number of unaccompanied and separated children. At the same time, education is severely affected by language barriers, psychosocial stress, and limited school capacity. Refugee households face extreme vulnerability due to limited access to food, essential items, livelihoods, and delayed cash assistance, compounded by weak community engagement and accountability mechanisms (UNICEF 31/12/2025).</p> <p><b>Prioritised Emergency Actions</b></p> <p>Humanitarian actors are scaling up WASH, health, nutrition, child protection, and education responses, with particular emphasis on child-focused services, psychosocial support, and preventive interventions in the most affected areas (UNICEF 31/12/2025).</p> <p>Basic humanitarian needs are staggering, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food assistance, nutrition &amp; primary healthcare</b>, including psychosocial support</li> <li>• <b>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)</b>, hereunder access to safe water, addressing inadequate water supplies and sanitation issues</li> <li>• <b>Emergency Education</b>, including temporary and transitional learning facilities</li> <li>• <b>Protection</b>: Safety concerns including GBV, child protection, emotional abuse, and family separation (restoring family links).</li> <li>• <b>Shelter and NFIs</b>, incl. support for refugees, camp settings and host families</li> </ul> <p><b>Vulnerability</b></p> <p>Vulnerability remains high as gaps in shelter, WASH, health care, child protection, education, and nutrition continue to generate urgent life-saving needs. Recently displaced households have lost assets, livelihoods, and support networks, leaving them highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. Nutrition vulnerability is significant due to inadequate food intake, poor diet quality, and limited access to nutrition services, increasing the risk of acute malnutrition, particularly among children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Children, pregnant women, elderly persons with disabilities, and individuals with chronic illnesses are disproportionately affected, facing heightened risks of disease, protection concerns, and exclusion from basic services.</p> <p><b>Funding Situation</b></p> <p>Despite ongoing response efforts, humanitarian needs continue to far exceed available resources. Humanitarian actors warn that without additional funding, the situation risks further deterioration, particularly for children and women (UNICEF, 31/12/2025). UNHCR is seeking USD 47.2 million over the next four months to support 500,000 internally displaced people in the DRC and neighbouring countries, including Burundi (UNHCR, 19/12/2025).</p>		<p><b>Recommend:</b> Activate DERF.</p>
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