

BURUNDI SITUATION

1-31 AUGUST 2018

383,283

Total refugees from Burundi in the four main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

5,333

Burundian refugees assisted to return from the United Republic of Tanzania in August 2018, totalling 32,517 assisted to return in 2018.

103

Burundian refugee arrivals /registrations recorded in August 2018, totalling 6,207 arrivals in the region in 2018.

45,618

Burundian refugees assisted to return from the United Republic of Tanzania since September 2017.

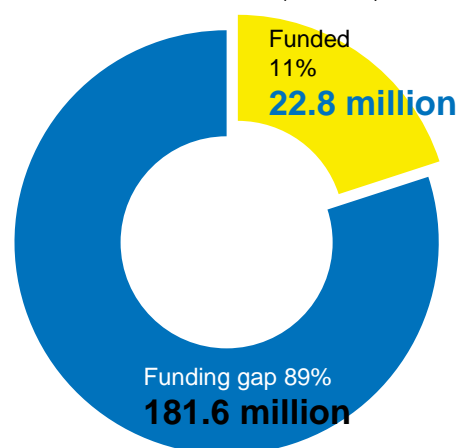
159,152

Number of IDPs in Burundi, according to IOM, 74% of whom are linked to natural disasters and 26% of whom are linked to the socio political situation as of August 2018.

FUNDING (AS OF END OF AUGUST 2018)

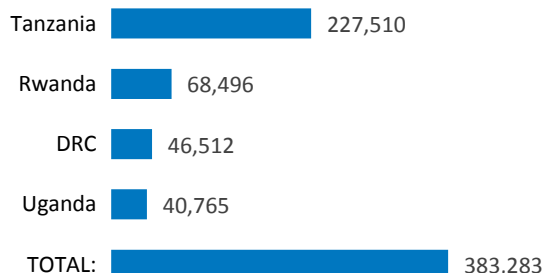
USD 204.4 million

requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2018 Burundi RRRP.

** The total above is in line with the 2018 Burundi RRRP regional coverage, and does not include some 23,700 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 23,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

New Arrivals

| | In 2017 (Jan to Dec) | In 2018 (as of 31 August) |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| DRC | 8,575 | 1,904 |
| Rwanda | 7,683 | 2,311 |
| Tanzania | 40,287 | 1 |
| Uganda | 5,312 | 1,991 |
| TOTAL | 61,857 | 6,207 |

Highlights and Operational Context

- **Addressing the UN Security Council on 9th August, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Burundi, Michel Kafando, commended the efforts made by Burundi, Tanzania and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), to enable the voluntary return of some 35,000 Burundian refugees since September last year.** Mr. Kafando noted the overall improvement of the security situation since the 17 May national referendum on the new constitution and urged the government and all stakeholders to maintain inclusive dialogue in preparing for the 2020 elections including the resumption of the East Africa Community facilitated Inter-Burundian Dialogue.
- **The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection and the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Burundi Situation convened a meeting with UNHCR Representatives in the region on 16 August in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania to assess the latest developments of the situation over the last year.** The meeting reaffirmed that UNHCR will not promote returns to Burundi at this time but will continue to assist those who make a free and informed choice to return voluntarily. The consequences of severe underfunding for the regional response, including for the ongoing repatriation operations, were also discussed with a view towards further enhancing fundraising efforts.

Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania

Background

- UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, however it is working with the governments involved to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.
- The current return operation is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite agreement between the two governments and UNHCR in which all parties have acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons not to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.

Update

- Both UNHCR Burundi and Tanzania operations are in need of additional resources to scale up the operation to reach 2,000 returnees per week as agreed to at the March 2018 Tripartite Commission meeting, as well as to continue attending to the humanitarian needs of refugees in Tanzania and to support [returnees](#) in Burundi.

Partners

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR is collaborating closely with the following partners: Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HelpAge International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Plan International, and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- In Burundi, UNHCR is collaborating with the Department of Repatriation under the Government of Burundi, World Food Programme (WFP), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

Achievements during the Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- **UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Mr. Volker Türk carried out a four-day visit to Tanzania from 13th to 16th August 2018.** The visit entailed meetings with government and partners to discuss the protection challenges and solutions for over 340,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the country, out of which 227,510 are Burundians. Mr. Türk conveyed the High Commissioner's appreciation to the Government of Tanzania's commitment to refugee protection and longstanding generosity towards those fleeing conflict and persecution, urging the government to ensure Burundian refugee returns are voluntary and based on individual choices, and welcoming reassurances from the government in this regard.

Achievements and Challenges

- **More than 50% of refugees in Tanzania, where the majority of Burundian refugees are hosted, are still living in emergency tents.** The operation faces serious gaps in all basic services including water, sanitation, food, health and education putting lives at risk and leaving refugees extremely vulnerable.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- **Weekly monitoring visits were conducted in Mahama camp for Child Protection survivors to assess the healing process.** These children are victims of child neglect, physical abuse, psychological and emotional abuse, as well as child trafficking.

Achievements and Challenges

- **About 60 permanent classrooms are still required for over 4,000 refugee students in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres.** Three ECD centres are still covered with plastic sheeting. Urgent action is required to renovate the ECDs which are in bad condition and pose a serious risk of collapsing.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- **A major funding gap is affecting UNHCR's response to the Burundian refugee situation, compromising health and education support, and refugees' transfer from transit centers.** While an additional emergency allocation will allow UNHCR to provide essential drugs for a period of three months, the continuity of health and education services is not assured until the end of the year.
- **In August, 27 refugees from Uvira, South Kivu province (DRC) have requested assistance to return to Burundi.**

Achievements and Challenges

- **Two laundry points were finalized at Mulongwe site totaling 8 available to cater for some 5,300 refugees, with a ratio of 662 people per laundry point.** Moreover, 75 latrine and shower kits containing cash and materials to build WASH facilities were also distributed at the site, which now has 705 plots with functioning latrines and showers.
- **As part of SGBV prevention activities, 285 refugees took part in 5 different awareness raising sessions on rape and sexual violence** organized by UNHCR's partner War Child in Sange assembly point and Lusenda camp. During the reporting period, two young girls victims of rape, aged 3 and 6, received judicial support.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- **In Kyaka II, 10 acres of land were prepared for rice seed multiplication and commercial rice production by groups in Bwiriza, Bukere and Swawa zone.** This activity supported by JICA is aimed at expanding production of new rice for Africa (NERICA 4), a high value crop, to increase incomes of participating farmers.

Achievements and Challenges

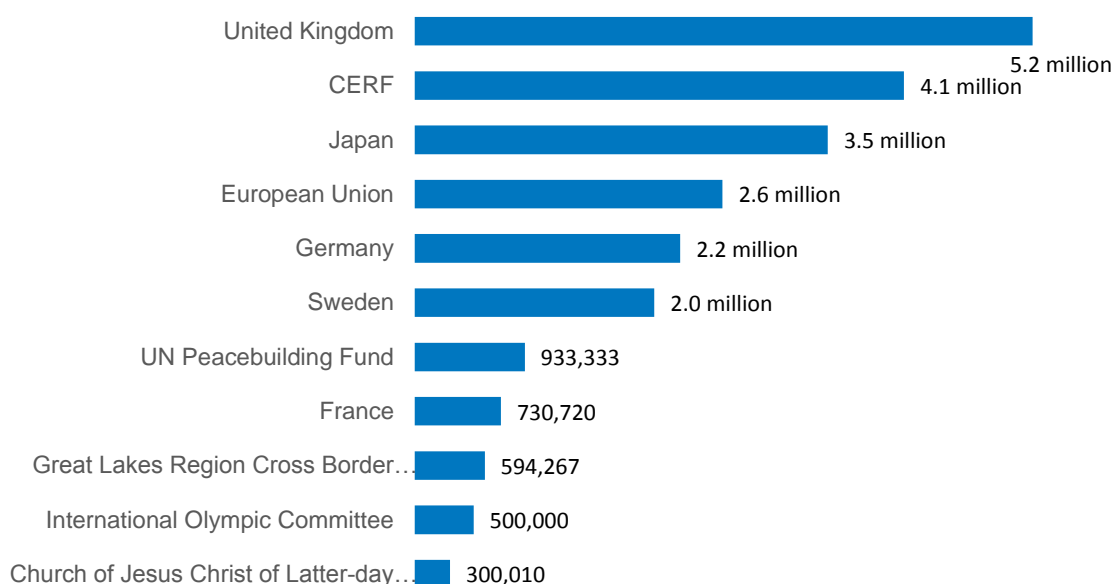
- **In Kyaka II, there is a low rate of utilization of farmland due to lack of adequate agricultural technologies, including soil and water conservation techniques.** Thus, there is a need for further support in skills training and entrepreneurship.

- A joint inter-agency **Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)** was carried out between March and June 2018 by REACH in partnership with UNHCR. The report has been used as a key reference to identify needs and inform the Regional Refugee Response Plan alongside government sector response plans and other relevant studies.

Financial Information

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the Burundi situation and as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Earmarked contributions for the Burundi situation amount to some **\$22.8 million** as of end of August 2018.



Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked and regional funds in 2018 | USD

United States of America 79.3 million | Private donors Australia 8.6 million | Canada 6.6 million | Sweden 3.2 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions | USD

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 45.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 22.2 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Japan 13 million | Private donors Italy 11.9 million | Italy 11.2 million | Private donors Sweden 10.2 million

External / Donors Relations

CONTACTS

Daena Neto, Reporting Officer, Nairobi

neto@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2225, Cell +254 780 04 3430

Wendy Rappeport, Senior External Relations Officer, Geneva

rappepor@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8993, Cell +41 (0) 79 881 91 83

LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

UNHCR Burundi page: <http://www.unhcr.org/burundi.html>

UNHCR Burundi Global Focus : <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>

Recent News Story: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/65982>