

United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: August 2018

Background

On 31 August 2017 at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the Tripartite Commission (United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR) issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a work plan from 7 September to 31 December 2017, which entails the voluntary repatriation plan of Burundian refugees who wish to return to Burundi.

On 28 March 2018, a follow up Tripartite Commission Meeting was held in Bujumbura, Burundi. While UNHCR continued to maintain that it will assist and not promote voluntary returns to Burundi due to the unresolved political situation, both governments reaffirmed their commitment to promoting return and upholding the principle of voluntariness. With the completion of Phases I, II and III, the two Governments, UNHCR and key partners agreed to implement a new work plan to return 72,000 individuals from 5 April to 31 December 2018. While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, it is supporting the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.

The Tripartite Commission also acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not returning at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.

Return Figures and Trends from the Reporting Period

- 5,331 individuals assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in August;
- 2,640 and 49% males and 2,691 and 51% females;
- 536 of returnees were persons with specific needs;
- 7 return convoys.

Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 31 August 2018, 45,618 individuals have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 23,233 (50.9%) females & 22,385 (49.1%) males;
- 17,102 (57.2%) children;
- 4,929 and 10.8% persons with specific needs; and
- The highest number of returns were to Musinga, Makamba and Cankuzo provinces (9,261, 7,645, and 7,108 returnees respectively).

The tables below show the breakdown of Burundian refugee returns per month, age and sex, refugee camp, period of asylum in Tanzania, and return destinations in Burundi.

Table 1: Number of Returns per Phase

Phase	Phase I (Sep & Oct 2017)	Phase II (Nov & Dec 2017)	Phase III (Jan – March 2018)	Current Phase (as at 31 August 2018)	Total
Number of returns	6,887	6,216	8,347	24,168	45,618

Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	5,459	5,029	2,584	9,480	681	23,233	50.9%
Male	5,614	5,018	2,398	8,725	630	22,385	49.1%



Total	11,073	10,047	4,982	18,205	1,311	45,618	100%
%	24.3%	22.0%	10.9%	39.9%	2.9%	100%	

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
105	249	1,373	12,116	31,775	45,618
0.2%	0.5%	3.0%	26.6%	69.7%	100%

Table 5: Total Departures per Camp

Camps in Tanzania	Individuals	%
Nduta	30,278	66.4%
Mtendeli	12,327	27.0%
Nyarugusu	3,013	6.6%
Total	45,618	100%

Table 6: Registered & Processed vs. Returned

Registered intention to return	Returned (as of 31 August)	Withdraws/ No Shows/ Convoy Dropouts	Pending verification	Pending Departure
79,033	45,618	2,338	4,121	26,956

Table 4: Provinces of Return

Return Provinces	Individuals
Muyinga	9,261
Makamba	7,645
Cankuzo	7,108
Ruyigi	7,078
Kirundo	4,129
Rutana	3,780
Karuzi	1,494
Gitega	1,217
Rumonge	1,214
Ngozi	918
Bujumbura	568
Bururi	399
Gisuru	358
Kayanza	120
Muramvya	119
Citiboke	99
Bubanza	78
Mwaro	33
Total	45,618

Table 7: Key Partners and Activities

Government	Registration, documentation, security, and convoy and immigration formalities
UNHCR	Coordination, verification of return location, biometric enrolment, and documentation
DRC	Management of departure centre, accommodation, wet feeding, and distribution of high-energy biscuits provided by WFP
HelpAge	Assistance to persons with specific needs
ICRC	Restoration of family links in Burundi
IOM	Fit-to-travel medical screening and transportation of refugees
Plan & IRC	Child protection (unaccompanied and separated children)
TRCS	Medicine and ambulances
WFP	Provision of food for wet feeding in departure centre, on arrival at transit centre and dry ration