

United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: September 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

- 6,642 individuals assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in September which is the highest recorded number of returns since the exercise began;
- 3,349 (50%) males and 3,293 (50%) females;
- 605 of returnees were persons with specific needs;
- 8 return convoys.

Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 30 September 2018, 52,260 individuals have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 26,526 (50.8%) females & 25,734 (49.2%) males;
- 29,869 (57.2%) children;
- 5,534 and 10.5% persons with specific needs; and
- The highest number of returns were to Ruyigi, Muyinga and Makamba provinces (11,102, 10,342, and 7,645 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)	Curent Phase (as at 30 September 2018)	Total
Number of returns	6,887	6,216	8,347	30,810	52,260

Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	6,305	5,727	2,895	10,814	785	26,526	50.8%

Male	6,494	5,759	2,689	10,086	706	25,734	49.2%
Total	12,799	11,486	5,584	20,900	1,491	52,260	100%
%	24.5%	22.0%	10.7%	40.0%	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	17,610	32,923	52,260
0.2%	0.5%	2.6%	33.7%	63.0%	100%

Table 5: Total Departures per Camp

Camps in Tanzania	Individuals	%
Nduta	35,362	67.7%
Mtendeli	13,885	26.6%
Nyarugusu	3,013	5.8%
Total	52,260	100%

Table 6: Registered & Processed vs. Returned

Registered intention to return	Returned (as of 30 September)	Withdraws /No Shows/ Convoy Dropouts	Pending Verification	Pending Departure
80,864	52,260	2,076	3,589	22,939

Table 4: Provinces of Return

Return Provinces	Individuals
Ruyigi	11,102
Muyinga	10,342
Makamba	7,645
Cankuzo	7,109
Kirundo	5,645
Rutana	3,780
Karuzi	1,495
Gitega	1,217
Rumonge	1,214
Ngozi	932
Bujumbura	568
Bururi	399
Gisuru	358
Kayanza	125
Muramvya	119
Citiboke	99
Bubanza	78
Mwaro	33
Total	52,260

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