The United Republic of Tanzania was host to 326,942 refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 December 2018. The majority of refugees are from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo and reside in three refugee camps in north western Tanzania: Nyarugusu, Nduta, and Mtendeli. By year end, 241,976 Burundians were registered as refugees or asylum-seekers, including 70,140 in Nyarugusu camp, 92,388 in Nduta camp and 37,213 in Mtendeli camp. There are approximately 19,154 Burundians in the Old Settlements of Ulyankulu, Mishamo and Katumba and a further 23,047 who are self-settled in Kigoma villages and receive protection assistance. A small population of refugees of mixed nationalities (270) are hosted in urban centres, mainly in Dar es Salaam.

In 2018, access to territory and asylum for new arrivals from Burundi was further restricted following the closure of all 19 reception border entry-points by July 2018 after which the Government of Tanzania made efforts to mobilise returns to Burundi. From July 2018, livelihoods opportunities were further restricted as a result of the temporary closure of the refugee common markets and some refugee-run businesses across the three camps.

Since September 2017, a total of 57,865 Burundians have voluntarily repatriated. However the uncertain political and security context in Burundi continues to impact sustainable returns. A chronic lack of funding was another major obstacle, resulting in severe gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance. As of 31 December 2018, Tanzania received only 36 per cent of the funding requested for the Burundi RRP.

While the Government of Tanzania is not formally applying the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), it supported the 2018 consultations leading up to the Global Compact on Refugees and voted favourably for its affirmation at the UN General Assembly in December 2018.
The protection space continued to shrink in Tanzania following an increasingly restrictive approach towards refugees, territory and asylum which was further compounded by a lack of clear guidance from the Government. However despite these challenges, great strides were made with regards to bolstering protection interventions. In 2018, SGBV response and awareness was strengthened: 78 SGBV awareness raising campaigns and training workshops for 238 partners and government counterparts were carried out thus improving survivors’ access to timely services. In addition, 53 per cent of rape cases were reported within 72 hours compared to 41 per cent in 2017, demonstrating enhanced coordination and knowledge of referral pathways. 100 per cent of survivors who filed reports within 72 hours were also referred to key medical services, including post-exposure prophylaxis.

Legal aid was provided to 941 survivors and a total of 24 persons were convicted of SGBV related crimes. In 2018, 5,152 children with specific needs received case management support. With the best interest determination (BID) process being further enhanced, a total of 743 BIDs were conducted particularly for durable solutions. 114 community based child protection structures contributed to timely identification and case referrals and supported awareness raising of prevalent child protection issues. Improved access to alternative care arrangements saw a total of 2,471 unaccompanied and separated children placed in alternative care. Moreover, 3,026 Burundian received legal services across all camps in 2018. 65,531 persons of concern were reached through mass legal awareness sessions on their rights and obligations.

A total of 7,000 booklets and fliers on this topic were distributed in Kirundi and Kiswahili during community sensitization sessions. In addition, one training session was conducted for law enforcement officers in Kigoma and Kibondo and regular prison monitoring visits were carried out to identify persons of concern held in detention, where they received legal aid support and core relief items. A total of 57,865 Burundians were also assisted to return with 13,732 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers pending movement and a further 1,751 pending completion of return registration formalities. However a number of challenges remained, including restricted access to territory for asylum purposes and increased restrictions on freedom of movement and limited safe spaces to address survivors’ physical security among others.

In collaboration with the National Examination Council of Tanzania, the provision of exams and certificates for Burundian refugees continued in 2018. Burundian refugees continue to be taught the country of origin curriculum, resulting in limited opportunities for inclusion in the national education system in Tanzania. 78.5% of primary school children and 14.4% secondary school children were enrolled in school in 2018. Over 1,400 teachers received training on PSEA.
An additional 150 classrooms were completed in 2018, helping to reduce the number of primary school students learning under trees from over 5,500 (30 per cent of the 18,359 children enrolled) in June 2018 to 1,200 students by year end. A lack of qualified teachers, appropriate and sufficient educational materials and overcrowding in classrooms continued to hamper the provision of access to quality education. There are only three schools in the camps which serve a secondary school-age population of 29,408. In addition, 99 per cent of children who completed secondary school have no opportunity to access further education and remain idle in the camps. The lack of access to tertiary education coupled with restrictions to freedom of movement have made it difficult for refugees to engage in meaningful livelihood activities. As a result, self-sufficiency has been severely hindered, prolonging refugees’ dependency on humanitarian assistance.

The vast majority of Burundian refugees remained heavily dependent on food and nutritional assistance in 2018. As a result of funding shortages, the level of food rations distributed averaged 86 per cent in 2018 although supplementary feeding for more vulnerable groups within the camps was delivered at 100 per cent. Children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and people living with HIV/TB were provided with specialized nutritional foods, including fortified maize meal. General food distribution was administered through individual household distributions in Nyarugusu and group distributions in Nduta and Mtendeli. In most cases, women were the main entitlement holders.

Partners continued to provide integrated health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and manage chronic life threatening illnesses affecting both refugees and the surrounding host communities. Both the crude and under five mortality rates remained within the SPHERE minimum standard of <0.75 death/1000 population/month and <1.5 deaths/1000 population/month. The global acute malnutrition rate stood at 2.6 per cent by the end of the year which was within the acceptable threshold of less than 5 per cent in emergencies. However the risk of increased mortality due to a high infectious disease burden, malnutrition and anaemia among children, limited WASH facilities, and minimum health services because of a lack of qualified staff and adequate services, infrastructure, medicine and equipment remained.

Access to health services increased in 2018 with over seven health facilities in both Nduta and Mtendeli camps. Specialist visits to the camps continued to be conducted on a monthly basis to refugees requiring mental health and psychosocial support services with over 4,384 consultations carried out in 2018. However a number of unmet needs persisted. The number of refugees referred to health facilities outside the camps remains significantly
lower than the actual need due to limited funding with only serious medical cases referred to nearby district and regional hospitals. More funding is required to strengthen camp health facilities so as to enable specialists from nearby hospitals provide medical care within the camps. Additional funding is also required to improve micronutrient deficiency prevention and management and infant and young child feeding through a community based approach.

% of refugee women delivering with assistance by qualified personnel in 2018 96%

Livelihoods & Environment

>10,000 Burundian Refugees received livelihoods support.

Environmental awareness raising reached 50% of the Burundian refugee population.

Closure of common markets and businesses limited refugee and host community livelihoods opportunities.

RRP partners provided support to over 10,000 Burundian refugees, including establishing new savings groups and mentoring existing ones that have nearly 5,000 members in total. However due to limited funding, the vast majority of Burundian refugees were left without support while some partners’ training centres were underutilized. The findings of a joint inter-agency resilience assessment in October 2018 showed that the temporary closure of the common markets in Nduta and Mtendeli and the reduced number of market days in Nyarugusu cut the income of host communities by 50 per cent and refugees by 75 per cent. Although the common markets in Nduta and Mtendeli reopened in December 2018, the ban on mobile money and certain types of businesses continued. Environmental interventions in 2018 focused on awareness raising with approximately half of the population reached through these activities. Afforestation and reforestation activities were also undertaken both within the camps and in the host communities, positively contributing to peaceful co-existence efforts. The percentage of households owning fabricated fuel efficient mudstoves reached 96 per cent exceeding the 60 per cent target. However challenges still exist with regard to the provision of sustainable alternative energy solutions and more funding is required to scale up these initiatives.

% of refugees that have access to self-employment/facilitated businesses 27%

Shelter & NFIs

4,470 Shelters constructed in 2018

7 Buildings to support service delivery constructed in 2018.

40% of Burundian Refugees continue to live in dilapidated emergency shelters.

The number of households living in adequate dwellings reached 60 per cent with 4,470 shelters (4,070 transitional shelters and 400 Refugee Housing Units) constructed in 2018. The construction of transitional shelters was done through a community based shelter approach with refugees provided with materials, tools and technical guidance from skilled refugee incentive works to construct their own shelters. In 2018, 30 per cent of these shelters were provided to persons with specific needs, including children, women and older persons and persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions, all of whom received full support in constructing transitional shelters. The shelters constructed in 2018 significantly improved refugees’ living standards and provided enhanced protection especially during the rainy season. However a number of gaps remain as 40 per cent of Burundian refugees continue to live in dilapidated emergency shelters and tents leading to unacceptable living conditions, leaving refugees, especially persons with specific needs, exposed to various health risks. The last distribution of core relief items was in 2015 as budgetary constraints have led to a shortage of core relief items.

% refugee households having semi-permanent shelter in 2018 60%
Continued strategic investments to improve water supply for Burundian refugees living in the camps in 2018 have been successful. Following the construction of 1,250 latrines, latrine coverage increased from 38 per cent to 43 per cent in 2018. In addition, four new boreholes were also brought into operation and several backup pumps and generators added in 2018, resulting in an increase in reliable water supply coverage from 19 L/person/day to 21.7 L/person/day. However a number of gaps remained. Due to financial constraints, the quantity of soap distributed stood at 250g/person/month instead of the SPHERE minimum standard of 450g/person/month and 700 g/person/month for menstruating women and girls. Inadequate quantities of soap also poses significant health risks and can limit refugees’ capacity to carry out improved hygiene practices, including regular handwashing which UNHCR and RRP partners regularly promote at the household level.

% refugee households accessing family latrines in 2018

Litres of drinking water received per day in 2018 (Target 20L per day)

RRP PARTNERS

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- African Initiatives for Relief & Development
- CARITAS The Catholic Diocese of Kigoma
- Church World Service
- Community Environmental Management and Development Organization
- Danish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Good Neighbours Tanzania
- HelpAge International
- International Organisation for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- OXFAM
- Plan International
- Relief to Development Society
- Save the Children International
- Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service
- Tanzania Red Cross Society
- United Nations Children’s Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organisation

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