UNHCR and partners began to assist the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017 as a durable solution for those refugees who indicate a desire to return home. The vast majority of returns have been from Tanzania, with smaller numbers assisted to return from Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Almost all returns from Rwanda and Uganda have so far been self-organized.

**KEY FIGURES - ASSISTED REPATRIATION**
- 74,979* individuals
- 25,189 households
- 160 convoys
- 48% male
- 52% female

**RETURNS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of registered Burundian refugees</th>
<th># of assisted returns since September 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>183,707</td>
<td>74,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>71,490</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>45,336</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>42,334</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RETURNS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM**
- 1,439 unaccompanied and separated children
- 57% are children

**OVERVIEW**

1. UNHCR and partners are providing assistance to refugees who have decided to return to Burundi so that they may do so in safety and dignity, as well as to support social cohesion and sustainable return at the community level.

2. Additional funding is critically needed to ensure that returns can continue as well as to strengthen return monitoring and support sustainable reintegration.

3. The voluntary return operation from Tanzania to Burundi is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite agreement between the two governments and UNHCR. All parties have agreed to ensure returns are voluntary.

4. While the governments of Burundi and Tanzania have undertaken to promote refugee return. All actors in the region acknowledge the importance of refugees having the opportunity to make a free and informed choice about repatriation.

5. While returnees are generally being welcomed back by the Government of Burundi and their communities of origin without incident, returnee monitoring indicates many do face a number of reintegration challenges.
METHODOLOGY
Protection monitoring of returnees to Burundi is an essential protection activity and UNHCR commitment under the Tripartite Agreement. It aims to collect, process, analyse and disseminate in a systematic and regular way, data and information on: 1) the conditions of return of assisted returnees; and 2) the level of reintegration in return areas.

The purpose is to propose an effective protection response by area of intervention and for advocacy purposes (towards sectors of intervention, development actors, donors and government authorities). It was initially established in September 2017 after the repatriation started in Tanzania and was revised in 2019 to better meet operational needs.

MONITORING PROGRESS
By 31 July 2019, 20,634 interviews with returnee families were conducted (see below the breakdown by province).

- Ruyigi
- Muyinga
- Kirundo
- Cankuzo
- Makanza
- Other provinces

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

- Only 34% of returnee HHs report that HH members have a national identification card
- 45% of returnee HHs report their children received a birth certificate
- 90% of refugees returned to their place of origin
- 9% returnee HHs have vulnerabilities, most often characterized by chronically ill and/or disabled family members

EDUCATION

- 43% of returnee children are attending primary and secondary schools
- 34% of returnee HHs report that HH members have a national identification card

HEALTH CARE

- 78% of returnee HHs have access to health care
- 93% of returnee HHs have access to water
- 52% of those having access to water use public wells/fountains

WATER

- 93% of returnee HHs have access to water
- 52% of those having access to water use public wells/fountains

ACCESS TO HOUSING

- 33% of returnee HHs could access housing they owned prior to fleeing
- 48% could not access it after arrival (another 19% did not own housing before flight)
- 83% of those who cannot access previous housing report it being inhabitable upon arrival

LIVELIHOODS

- 93% of returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers

ACCESS TO LAND

- 82% of returnee HHs report having access to land
- 6% HHs have a problem accessing land and 12% HHs did not own land before leaving

TOP 3 PRIORITIES IN THE USE OF CASH ASSISTANCE

All refugees who have returned with the assistance of UNHCR receive an initial return package in Burundi consisting of a financial grant, basic household supplies, and food items. Returnees report the cash grant was used for the following top priority expenses:

1. Household items (38%)
2. Land rental (18%)
3. Shelter (18%)

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