

# BURUNDI SITUATION

AUGUST 2019

## 343,939

Total Burundian refugees residing in the main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

## 16,760

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 539 assisted in August.

## 6,634

Total Burundian arrivals recorded so far in 2019, with some 1,009 new arrivals reported in August 2019.

## 75,557

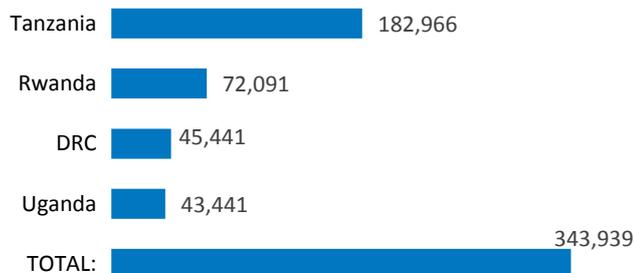
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between September 2017 and 31 August 2019, mainly from Tanzania. For more information, please check the [Voluntary Repatriation dashboard](#).

## 106,197

**Number of IDPs** in Burundi as of August 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, for 77 per cent the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, for 23 per cent they are linked to the socio political situation.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

## Host Countries

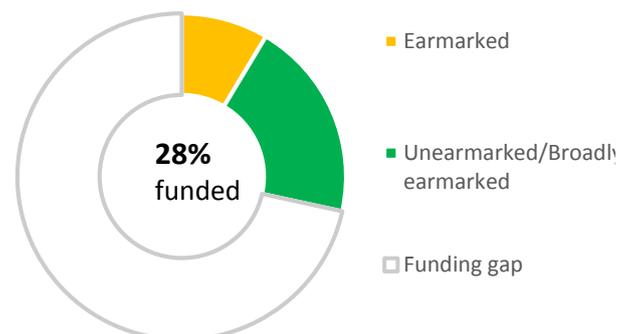


\* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 42,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

### BURUNDI REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of 3 September 2019)

## USD 292.9 million



\*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Funding Tracker

## New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of August)
DRC	2,141	<b>1,169</b>
Rwanda	2,966	<b>1,685</b>
Tanzania	1	<b>0</b>
Uganda	2,851	<b>3,780</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>6,634</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- **Burundi and Tanzania authorities sign a bilateral agreement to return Burundian refugees.** The Tanzania Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kangi Lugola, and Burundi Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Pascal Barandagiye, conducted a joint visit to Kigoma Region, Tanzania on 22-23 August 2019 after which they announced they had signed a bilateral agreement to begin repatriating refugees at the rate of 2,000 people per week beginning 1 October 2019. They visited two refugee camps and told the refugees that there is peace in Burundi now and they should return home. Following the visit and ensuing media, UNHCR has communicated to both governments UNHCR's position that returns must be voluntary, based on a free and informed choice, and take place in safety and dignity in line with the existing Tripartite Agreement and commitments made during the August 2017 and March 2018 meetings of the Tripartite Commission.
- **UNHCR published the report *Stepping Up: Refugee Education in crisis, which narrates the educational needs of 7.1 million world refugee youngsters of school age and revealed that more than half do not attend lessons.*** In the refugee population, while six in 10 refugee children attend primary school, around two in 10 refugees get a secondary education, the trend is even worrying in higher education, where only three in every 100 refugee children are able to pursue their learning. In 2019 in the region, out of 146,722 Burundian refugees of school age, 93,600 were enrolled in school, which is somewhat better than the global average. To ensure access to an inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, should be the main goal as a cross cutting theme on Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind.
- **Burundi launches Ebola vaccination campaign for health and front-line workers.** The Ebola vaccination campaign is part of Burundi's Ebola preparedness plan given the increasing proximity of the Ebola virus to the Burundi land border. The campaign will be implemented under leadership of the Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control, with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO). Financial support is provided by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. No cases of Ebola have been reported in Burundi, but preparation remains crucial. WHO also supports the Government of Burundi in engaging with communities, including refugees and returnees, community-based active surveillance, capacity building for infection prevention and control and case management and the dissemination of information on Ebola through the mass media.

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

### Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting returns to Burundi, but are 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.
- To ensure a sustainable reintegration in Burundi, support has been requested for both returnees and communities in areas of return in line with the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in particular objective four (4), which focuses on supporting conditions in countries of origin for return.

### Update

- While returnees are welcomed back by the Government of Burundi, they face socio-economic challenges towards their effective reintegration, including a lack of livelihood opportunities.
- Since January this year, an average of 2200 persons per month have been assisted to return in joint operation with the Tanzanian government, totalling 16,760 so far in 2019. While the Government of Tanzania and Burundi have announced a new bilateral agreement on returns, currently the voluntary return operation from Tanzania to Burundi is taking place under the framework of a tripartite agreement between the two governments and UNHCR to ensure returns are voluntary.
- UNHCR continues to urge both governments to respect the Tripartite Agreement as well as the willingness of the refugees and will continue supporting returns of refugees as long as the decision is voluntary and returns take place in safety and dignity.

### Partners

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania work in partnership with the 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

- **On 13 August, UNHCR Tanzania and the Government of Tanzania launched a joint population validation exercise.** The exercise will establish the exact number of refugees, asylum seekers and other people of concern to UNHCR residing in the camps, create a new baseline for planning and implementing protection and humanitarian assistance, support durable solutions interventions that best suit the needs of families and individuals, and facilitate the issuance of essential legal documents, including identity cards and birth certificates.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **In August, 98 refugee housing units (RHUs) were installed in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps, reaching 78 per cent of the 2019 target.** In 2019, the operation planned to install a total of 3,000 RHU. The proportion of camp-based refugees living in adequate shelters now stands at 74 per cent.
- **An Ebola simulation exercise was carried out in Nyarugusu camp in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC), the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and the World health organization (WHO).** MoHCDEC and WHO also led a workshop on Ebola preparedness for partner staff from Tanzania Red Cross Society and IRC in Nyarugusu and Mtendeli camps.

### RWANDA

#### Latest Developments

- **There is an urgent need for additional space of at least 26 Hectares at Mahama refugee camp to cater for the continuous increase of refugees in the camp.** Currently Mahama camp land coverage is 175Ha and the additional land is aimed at constructing further 600 duplex shelters to adequately accommodate some 4,800 new arrivals as planned in 2018 by both UNHCR and Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA). Alternatively in 2019, the operation is also looking into "building upwards" with multiple story shelters to maximize the available camp land space.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **The average monthly clean water supplied stood at 20.2 litres/ person/day (1,234 m3/day) in Mahama camp and 33.2 m3/day in the host community, above the UNHCR minimum standards of 20 liter/person/day.** In the camp, there are 132 water points (792 taps) which makes an average of 75 users per tap.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Latest Developments

- **135 new Burundian asylum-seekers were registered in August, with reports of up to 268 new arrivals in total, to be confirmed pending individual registration.** With most of the 1,507 Burundian arrivals in 2019 still living in transit centers, the Kavimvira, Sange and Monge Monge transit centers are now over capacity. Kavimvira has a capacity of 700 and currently hosts 730 persons and Sange with a capacity for 400 persons, holds some 578 persons. As a result, the infrastructures at the transit center are overwhelmed, including water and sanitation facilities. UNHCR is working with government to streamline procedures whereby new asylum seekers can only be transferred to Lusenda camp or Mulongwe settlement - and official statistics updated – when the responsible government body endorses their registration as asylum seekers.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR and partners implemented several precautionary measures in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement as part of the Ebola and cholera response.** Among others, the water and chlorinated handwashing points were reinforced, health care partners were trained on cholera management, and awareness-raising campaigns were carried out through community agents and village leaders, targeting refugees and the local population. UNHCR set up four oral rehydration points (ORP) or cholera treatment facilities in Lusenda camp and in Mulongwe settlement, and rehabilitated the Lusenda Cholera Treatment Unit (CTU).

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- **As the rainy season continues, there is a pressing need for road rehabilitation and maintenance across all refugee-hosting districts.** To prevent that roads become completely impassable, there is a need to use mechanized rehabilitation currently hampered by funding constraints.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda (ERP) is currently undergoing a review and revision process, which began at district level in the Mid-West and South West of the country in June.** This consultative process is conducted to maximise feedback and discussion with Government counterparts, refugee representatives and education sector partners representing both districts and settlements. Feedback and guidance from this completed “roadshow” is feeding into the planning and prioritisation for 2020.

## 2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 35 partners across the four main countries of asylum:

Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène | African Initiatives for Relief & Development | American Refugee Committee | Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants | CARE International | Caritas | Church World Service | Community Environmental Management and Development Organization | Danish Refugee Council | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation | Good Neighbours Tanzania | Handicap International | HelpAge International | Impact Initiatives | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee | Medical Teams International | Norwegian Refugee Council | Oxfam | Plan International | Relief to Development Society | Save the Children International | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Uganda Red Cross Society | United Nations Capital Development Fund | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Population Fund | UN Women | Water Mission | Women Legal Aid Center | World Food Programme | World Health Organisation

## External / Donors Relations

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### LINKS

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

UNHCR Burundi Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/burundi-situation.html>

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

Recent News Story: <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2019/5/5cd2b7887/burundian-refugees-returning-home-need-urgent-support.html>

RRRP and JRRRP Funding Tracker: [Refugee Funding Tracker \(RFT\)](#)