UNHCR and partners began to assist the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017 as a durable solution for those refugees who have decided 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 the Congo (DRC). Almost all returns from Rwanda and Uganda have so far been self-organized.

**KEY FIGURES – ASSISTED REPATRIATION**

- **86,147** individuals
- **30,029** households
- **190** convoys
- **48%** male
- **52%** female

**RETURN TRENDS BY MONTH SINCE SEPTEMBER 2017**

**RETURNS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM**

- **Tanzania**: 164,620
- **Rwanda**: 72,007
- **DRC**: 48,581
- **Uganda**: 48,303
- **Kenya**: 13,800

**POOPULATION PROFILE AT A GLANCE**

- **2,084** returnees are unaccompanied and separated children
- **56%** are children
- **26%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2015
- **41%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2016
- **28%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2017
- **5%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2018

**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 returnee monitoring and support sustainable reintegration.

3. The voluntary return operation from Tanzania to Burundi is taking place under the framework of the 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 activities 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.

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* Includes assisted returns from Tanzania (85,209), Kenya (742), DRC (184), Zambia (5), Uganda (2), Cameroon (2), Gabon (1), Senegal (1) and Burkina Faso (1).

** Excludes number of refugees from DRC, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

** Excludes number of refugees from Zambia, Senegal, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.
RETURN MONITORING IN BURUNDI

METHODOLOGY
Protection monitoring of returnees to Burundi is an essential protection activity for UNHCR and its commitment under the Tripartite Agreement. It aims to collect, process, analyse and disseminate in a systematic and regular way, the 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 early 2019 to better meet operational needs.

MONITORING PROGRESS
By 31 May 2020, 25,274 interviews with returnee families were conducted (see below the breakdown by province).

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION
- 35% of returnee HHs report that HH members have a national identification card

EDUCATION
- 49% of returnee children attend school, of which 33% primary school and 16% secondary school

LIVELIHOODS
- 94% of returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers

DISPLACEMENT
- 44% of returnee HHs report their children received a birth certificate

HEALTH CARE
- 79% of returnee HHs have access to health care

ACCESS TO LAND
- 93% of returnee HHs report having access to land

VULNERABILITY
- 90% of refugees returned to their place of origin

ACCESS TO HOUSING
- 9% returnee HHs have vulnerabilities, most often characterized by chronically ill and/or disabled family members

WATER
- 93% of returnee HHs have access to water

TOP 3 PRIORITIES IN THE USE OF CASH ASSISTANCE
- 1. Household items (39%)
- 2. Land rental (18%)
- 3. Shelter (17%)

For more information please contact:
UNHCR Burundi: Brigitte Mukanga Eno, Deputy Representative, eno@unhcr.org; Gwendolyn Roeske, Snr Prot. Officer, roeske@unhcr.org; Ana Maria Rivas, Prot. Officer (Monit. analyst), rivasa@unhcr.org; Felix Ndama Wa Ndama, Assc PIM Officer, ndamawan@unhcr.org
UNHCR Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lake: Anna Minuto, Snr. IMO, minuto@unhcr.org
UNHCR Tanzania: Antonio Canhandula, UNHCR Representative, canhandu@unhcr.org; George Kuchio, Deputy Representative, kuchiog@unhcr.org