## VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

UPDATE AS OF 31 MAY 2020

UNHCR and partners began to assist the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017 as a durable solution for those refugees who their intention 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**

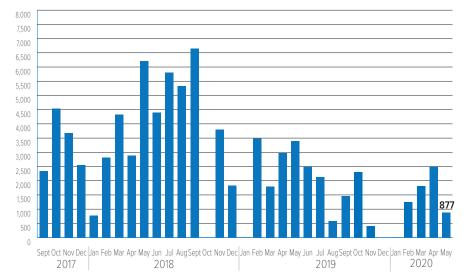


**30,029** households

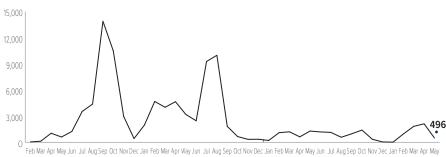
## 👆 190 convoys 🌔



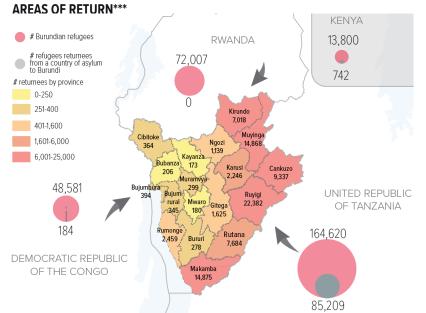
### **RETURN TRENDS BY MONTH SINCE SEPTEMBER 2017**







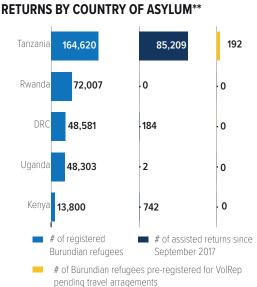
2017 2018 2019



\* 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 Zambia, Senegal, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

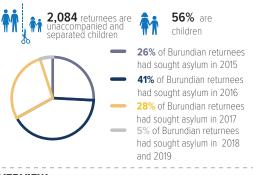
\*\* Excludes number of refugees from DRC, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.



48%

male

#### **POPULATION PROFILE AT A GLANCE**



#### **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.

# **RETURN MONITORING IN BURUNDI**

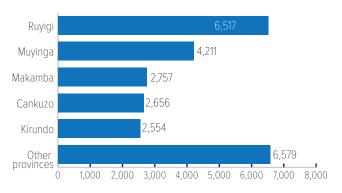
### METHODOLOGY

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** DISPLACEMENT **VULNERABILITY** 前中选 35% of returnee HHs **44%** of returnee HHs 90% of refugees 9% returnee HHs have report their children received a **birth** returned to their place of origin report that HH members vulnerabilities, most often characterized by chronically ill and/or have a national identification card certificate disabled family members **EDUCATION HEALTH CARE** WATER ACCESS TO HOUSING 33% returnee HHs 93% returnee HHs have access to water could access housing 49% of returnee **79%** of they owned prior to fleeing 48% could not access it after arrival returnee HHs have children attend school, of 56% of those having access to water use public wells/fountains access to health (another 19% did not own housing before flight). 83% of those who which **33% primary** care school and 16% cannot access previous housing report it being inhabitable secondary school upon arrival LIVELIHOODS TOP 3 PRIORITIES IN THE USE OF CASH ASSISTANCE ACCESS TO LAND All refugees who have returned with the assistance of UNHCR receive an initial return package in Burundi consisting of a cash grant, basic household supplies, and food items. Returnees report the cash grant was used for the following top priority 82% of returnee HHs expenses: report having access to 94% of returnee heads of households 6% HHs have a problem accessing land and 12% HHs did not own land before are subsistence 1. Household items (39%) farmers 2. Land rental (18%) leaving 3. Shelter (17%)

#### For more information please contact:

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