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

- **88,448** individuals
- **30,736** households
- **198** convoys
- **48%** male
- **52%** female

**AREAS OF RETURN**

- **Burundian refugees**
- **30,763** households
- **198** convoys

**RETURNS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM**

- **Tanzania**: 164,873
- **Rwanda**: 72,007
- **DRC**: 48,582
- **Uganda**: 48,275
- **Kenya**: 13,800

**REGISTRATION FOR VOLREP IN TANZANIA 2017-2020**

- **2,301** registered Burundian refugees
- **634** assisted returns since September 2017

**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.

* Includes assisted returns from Tanzania (87,510), 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.
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 July 2020, 25,970 interviews with returnee families were conducted (see below the breakdown by province).

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION
34% 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

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

LIVELIHOODS
94% of returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers

DISPLACEMENT
45% of returnee HHs report their children received a birth certificate

WATER
93% of returnee HHs have access to water

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 cash 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. Shelter (20%)
3. Land rental (19%)

VULNERABILITY
9% returnee HHs have vulnerabilities, most often characterized by chronically ill and/or disabled family members

ACCESS TO HOUSING
33% 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.

ACCESS TO LAND
82% of returnee HHs report having access to land

EDUCATION
49% of returnee children attend school

LIVELIHOODS
94% of returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers

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

WATER
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For more information please contact:
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