UNHCR and partners began to assist the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017 as a durable solution for those refugees who stated their intention to return home. After the results of the presidential and general elections of Burundi held in May 2020, Burundian refugees living in Rwanda and Namibia have expressed their desire to return to Burundi in a dignified and safe manner with support from UNHCR. After tripartite consultations with these countries and the establishment of frameworks to assess voluntariness of return as well as agreements for the voluntary repatriation process, facilitation of return started with Rwanda, DRC and Namibia.

**KEY FIGURES – ASSISTED REPATRIATION**

- **92,170* individuals**
- **31,823 households**
- **209 convoys**
- **48% male**
- **52% female**

**AREAS OF RETURN***

- **# of Burundian refugees**
- **# of refugees returnees from a country of asylum to Burundi**
- **# returnees by province**
  - 0-500
  - 501-1,000
  - 1,001-2,500
  - 2,501-10,000
  - 10,001-25,000

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

- **31,823 households**

**RETURNS BY COUNTRY OF ASYLUM**

- **Tanzania**: 162,859
- **Rwanda**: 72,007
- **DRC**: 48,586
- **Uganda**: 48,404
- **Kenya**: 13,800
- ****

- **# of Burundian refugees**
- **# of assisted returns since September 2017**
- **# of Burundian refugees pre-registered for VolRep pending travel arrangements**

**POPULATION PROFILE AT A GLANCE**

- **2,277 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 and 2019**

**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 operations from Tanzania and Rwanda to Burundi are taking place under the framework of the Tripartite Agreements between these governments and UNHCR. All parties have agreed to ensure returns are voluntary.

4. While the governments of Burundi and Tanzania have undertaken activities to facilitate 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 August 2020, 26,228 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

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

WATER
93% of returnee HHs have access to water
56% 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. 43% 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
94% of returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers

ACCESS TO LAND
82% of returnee HHs report having access to land
13% HHs have a problem accessing land and 5% 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 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%)

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