

United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: May 2019

Background

On 31 August 2017 at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the Tripartite Commission (United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR) issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a work plan from 7 September to 31 December 2017, which entails the voluntary repatriation plan of Burundian refugees who wish to return to Burundi.

On 28 March 2018, a follow up Tripartite Commission Meeting was held in Bujumbura, Burundi. While UNHCR continued to maintain that it will assist and not promote voluntary returns to Burundi due to the unresolved political situation, both governments reaffirmed their commitment to promoting return and upholding the principle of voluntariness. With the completion of Phases I, II and III, the two Governments, UNHCR and key partners agreed to implement a new work plan to return 72,000 individuals from 5 April to 31 December 2018. The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees will continue as planned until a new Tripartite Commission Meeting addressing arising needs is called. While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, it is supporting the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.

The Tripartite Commission also acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not returning at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.

Return Figures and Trends from the Reporting Period

- 3,388 people assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in May
- 1,726 women (51%) and 1,662 (49%) men
- 431 returnees have specific needs
- 6 return convoys

Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 31 May 2019, 69,508 people have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 35,145 (50.6%) women & 34,363 (49.4%) men
- 39,665 (57.1%) children
- 6,680 and 9.6% have specific needs
- The highest number of returns were to Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Makamba provinces (15,420, 13,343 and 12,198 returnees respectively).

The tables below show the breakdown of Burundian refugee returns per month, age and sex, refugee camp, period of asylum in Tanzania, and return destinations in Burundi.

Table 1: Number of Returns per Phase

Phase	Phase I (Sep & Oct 2017)	Phase II (Nov & Dec 2017)	Phase III (Jan – March 2018)	Current Phase (as at 31 May 2019)	Total
Number of returns	6,889	6,216	8,347	48,056	69,508

Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	8,469	7,458	3,928	14,282	1,008	35,145	50.6%

Male	8,637	7,469	3,704	13,639	914	34,363	49.4%
Total	17,106	14,927	7,632	27,921	1,922	69,508	100%
%	24.6%	21.5%	11.0%	40.2%	2.8%	100%	

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
122	812	2,395	20,883	45,296	69,508
0.2%	1.2%	3.4%	30.0%	65.2%	100%

Table 5: Total Departures per Camp

Camps in Tanzania	Individuals	%
Nduta	43,392	65.3%
Mtendeli	17,243	24.8%
Nyarugusu	6,873	9.9%
Total	69,508	100%

Table 6: Registered & Processed vs. Returned

Pending Travel Arrangements	Returned (as of 31 May)	Withdrawals and Departure No Shows	No Shows for Voluntariness Assessment
1,627	69,508	13,213	4,363

Table 4: Provinces of Return

Return Provinces	Individuals
Ruyigi	15,420
Muyinga	13,343
Makamba	12,198
Cankuzo	7,883
Kirundo	6,633
Rutana	5,157
Karuzi	1,769
Gitega	1,412
Rumonge	1,294
Ngozi	1,028
Bururi	1,077
Mwaro	919
Bujumbura	794
Cibitoke	156
Muramvya	143
Kayanza	142
Bubanza	140
Total	69,508

Table 7: Key Partners and Activities

Government	Registration, documentation, security, convoy and immigration formalities
UNHCR	Coordination, ensuring voluntariness of return, verification of return location, biometric enrolment, and documentation
DRC	Management of departure centre, accommodation, wet feeding, and distribution of high-energy biscuits provided by WFP
HelpAge	Assistance to persons with specific needs
ICRC	Restoration of family links in Burundi
IOM	Fit-to-travel medical screening and transportation of refugees
NRC	Management of departure centre, accommodation, wet feeding, and distribution of high-energy biscuits provided by WFP
Plan & IRC	Child protection (unaccompanied and separated children)
TRCS	Medicine and ambulances
WFP	Provision of food for wet feeding in departure centre, on arrival at transit centre and dry ration