

# BURUNDI SITUATION

JUNE 2019

**344,931**

Total Burundian refugees residing in the main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

**14,104**

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 2,463 assisted in June.

**3,603**

Total Burundian refugee arrivals recorded so far in 2019. In June, 523 new arrivals were reported.

**72,720**

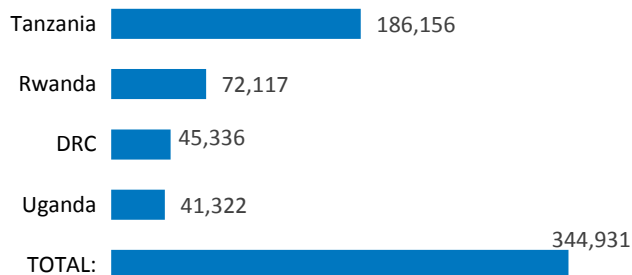
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between September 2017 and 30 June 2019, mainly from Tanzania.

**115,708**

**Number of IDPs** in Burundi as of June 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, 77 per cent of the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, 23 per cent are linked to the socio political situation.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Host Countries

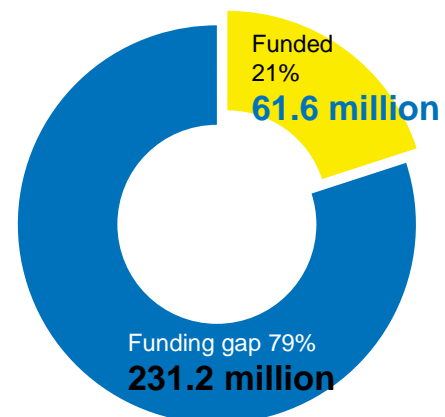


\* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 42,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

## BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of July 2019)

**USD 292.9 million**



\*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Response Financial Tracking

## New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of June)
DRC	2,141	0
Rwanda	2,966	1,382
Tanzania	1	0
Uganda	2,851	2,221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>3,603</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- **The UNHCR Regional team of the Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia situations organized a half-day meeting on 18 June 2019 to discuss the progress of the regional application of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).** The meeting was an opportunity to gather donors, UN, NGO and private sector partners with a regional remit to share and learn about comprehensive responses in the region and discuss opportunities for action in the run-up to the upcoming Global Refugee Forum to be held on 17 and 18 December 2019, in Geneva.
- **On 14 June 2019, an UN Security Council meeting on the security and political situation in Burundi was held, as the country continues to grapple with a four-year-long crisis and is gearing up for new elections in 2020.** When **addressing** the Security Council, Jürg Lauber, the chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission explained that for the peaceful conduct of the elections, there is a need for technical support, for instance in the areas of police training and security sector reform.
- **In June, two deadly Ebola virus cases were confirmed in Uganda by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Uganda Ministry of Health, stemming from the outbreak in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).** A key meeting was held on 14 June at the World Health Organization (WHO), to decide whether to announce an international public health emergency. As part of the Ebola preparedness and prevention efforts, WHO and partners have aimed at empowering communities, building national capacity for infection prevention and control in health facilities through water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, and training of staff to support communities dealing with Ebola-related stress.

## Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania

### Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting returns to Burundi, but are working with the governments involved to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.
- The current return operation is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite Agreement between the two governments and UNHCR in which all parties have acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons not to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.
- To ensure a sustainable reintegration in Burundi, support has been requested for both returnees and communities in areas of return in line with the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in particular objective four (4), which focuses on supporting conditions in countries of origin for return.

### Update

- Some 1,189 refugees signed up for returns in June 2019; significantly lower than the anticipated number. This trend is likely to continue as refugees express concern about the risk of rising insecurity ahead of the Burundi presidential elections, scheduled for May 2020. While UNHCR does not promote voluntary repatriation, it supports the exercise to ensure that all returns are safe and dignified, and the result of a free and informed choice.

### Partners

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania work in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HelpAge International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Plan International, and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- In Burundi, UNHCR is collaborating with the Department of Repatriation under the Government of Burundi, World Food Programme (WFP), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

## Achievements during the Reporting Period

### TANZANIA

#### Latest Developments

- **Food entitlements were distributed at 96 per cent of the full basket due to a pipeline break in super cereals.** The pipeline break is expected to last for two to three months. Supplementary feeding for the more vulnerable population groups was maintained at 100 per cent in June.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **16 Burundian refugees were resettled in June with most departing to the Canada (13) and USA (3).** Since January 2019, a total of 121 Burundian refugees have been resettled to third countries out of the targeted 300 Burundians for resettlement (150 from Nyarugusu and 150 from Nduta/Mtendeli).

### RWANDA

#### Latest Developments

- **In June, focus group discussions were carried out with refugees and host community members taking into account age, gender and diversity approach (AGD) to assess a livelihood strategy.** Currently, the majority of refugees are engaged in agriculture. An average of 312 refugees per day were employed in Moringa tree plantation near Mahama camp.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **On 28 June 2019 the maintenance of water treatment plant and supply of water to Mahama refugee camp was formally handed over to Ayateke Star Company.** Ayateke Star Company is a water company supplying services in rural areas in Rwanda. Oxfam provided full capacity building training to the company along with all the necessary tools for the management of the Mahama Water Treatment Plan.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest Developments

- **Further to the registration of some 130 Burundians, a cross border coordination meeting has been held to ensure safe and dignified return of refugees to Burundi.** The convoys for return are scheduled to start in July.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR registered 235 new births at Mulongwe Settlement and Lusenda Camp.** The use of the Rapid Application (Rapp) has allowed off-line registration and to expedite the time needed for registration, thus reducing the usual 90 days waiting time for free birth registration in the country.

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- **On 11 June 2019, the Ugandan Ministry of Health declared the 6th outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the country, affecting Kasese district in South Western Uganda.** The first case was a five-year-old child with a recent history of travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This child was one of six people that travelled from the DRC, following the grandfather's burial, who succumbed to EVD.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **A total of 1927 cases were received through the Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) helpline, representing a six percent increase. This represents the second highest number of cases ever received in a calendar month since the FRRM helpline was launched.** A total of 998 cases were handled at helpline level, while 929 referrals were made to UNHCR and partners for follow up.

## 2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 35 partners across the four main countries of asylum:

Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène | African Initiatives for Relief & Development | American Refugee Committee | Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants | CARE International | Caritas | Church World Service | Community Environmental Management and Development Organization | Danish Refugee Council | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation | Good Neighbours Tanzania | Handicap International | HelpAge International | Impact Initiatives | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee | Medical Teams International | Norwegian Refugee Council | Oxfam | Plan International | Relief to Development Society | Save the Children International | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Uganda Red Cross Society | United Nations Capital Development Fund | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Population Fund | UN Women | Water Mission | Women Legal Aid Center | World Food Programme | World Health Organisation

