

# BURUNDI SITUATION

JULY 2019

**344,100**

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

**16,232**

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 2,128 assisted in July.

**4,591**

Total Burundian refugee arrivals recorded so far in 2019. In July, 988 new arrivals were reported.

**74,979**

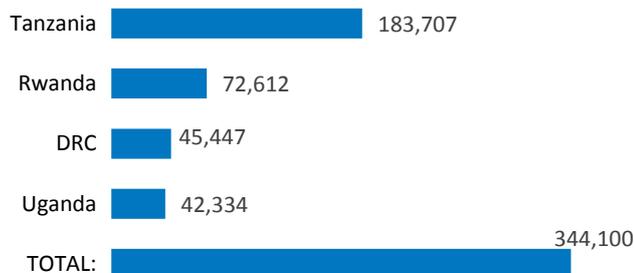
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between 2017 and 31 July 2019, mainly from Tanzania.

**113,067**

Number of IDPs in Burundi as of July 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

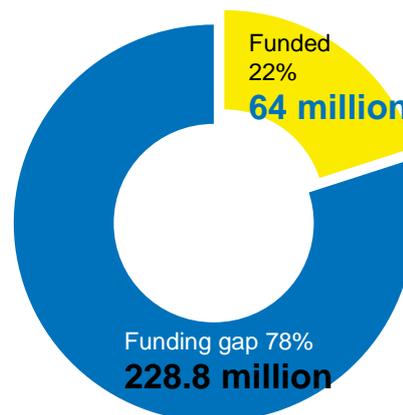


\* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective 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 August 2019)

**USD 292.9 million**



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

## New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of July)
DRC	2,141	0
Rwanda	2,966	1,509
Tanzania	1	0
Uganda	2,851	3,082
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>4,591</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- **On 9 July, the Independent National Electoral Committee officially announced the 2020 elections schedule. The deadline to nominate candidates is 5 March 2020 and the list of candidates is assumed to be released on 21 March 2020.** The presidential, legislative and municipal elections are scheduled for 20 May 2020, with the proclamation of provisional results on 25 May 2020.
- **In the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ebola outbreak has been declared an international public health emergency on 17 July 2019.** With the first anniversary of the complex outbreak in the volatile eastern part of the country looming, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that it was time to “work together in solidarity with the DRC to end this outbreak and build a better health system,” for its people. The Ebola virus disease has moved closer to the 147 km land border between Burundi and the DRC since the outbreak began in August 2018 in North Kivu.
- **As of August 2019, merely 64 million USD was received out of the total requirements of 292.9 million USD for the 2019 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for Burundi.** Despite the 22 per cent that have currently been received, compared to 2018, when in the same period, only 10 per cent had been reached, the Burundi situation continues among the world’s least-funded situations.

## 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

- While returnees are welcomed back by the Government of Burundi, they face socio-economic challenges towards their effective reintegration, including a lack of livelihood opportunities.
- In July, 2,128 refugees voluntarily returned to Burundi, bringing the total number of Burundian returnees to 74,979 since the exercise began in September 2017. While UNHCR does not promote voluntary repatriation, it supports the exercise to ensure that returns are safe and sustainable, 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

- **In Kibondo district, a total of 80 people, half from the host community and half from the refugee population, graduated from courses in tailoring, carpentry and joinery.** Since 2016, some 240 youth were trained and received a start-up kit to help launch their careers. The joint training helps foster peaceful coexistence and social cohesion between the communities and helps support livelihoods. The next courses are scheduled to begin in August, and new trainees are being recruited in Nduta camp and nearby Rusohoko village.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **In July, work to upgrade health facilities have started in Nyarugusu camp.** A new mortuary and generator house are under construction, and the female ward of the health facility is being renovated and extended. The new constructions will improve the quality of service provided to both refugees and the host community.

### RWANDA

#### Latest Developments

- **In July, 73 Burundians were reported to have spontaneously departed, either to Burundi or to other countries of asylum.** While UNHCR and partners are not promoting returns to Burundi, we respect the refugees' right to return based on the principles of voluntariness and free and informed choice.
- **In the framework of the CRRF, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Rwanda to give access to 12,045 urban refugees (11,470 Burundians) and 1,780 camp based refugee students to boarding schools.** The latter refugees are from camps settings in Rwanda and will also be included in the national Health Insurance System starting 1st September 2019.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **The admission process of five Burundian refugee students in African Leadership University (ALU) was completed.** UNHCR and ALU are jointly mobilizing resources to fund the scholarships.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest Developments

- **On 9 July, 88 Burundian refugees were voluntarily repatriated from Lusenda camp in DRC, to Burundi.** This was the first repatriation convoy from DRC to Burundi. Previously, there have been some spontaneous returns back to Burundi.

- **The World Food Programme (WFP), in coordination with UNHCR and implementing partners, has transitioned from voucher-based food assistance to cash assistance for Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province.** Cash helps refugees access the food market, and allows them to build their own livelihoods. In partnership with TMB (Trust Merchant Bank), each refugee received the equivalent of USD12 (19,500 Congolese francs) to meet their food needs in August.

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **UNHCR provided rapid malaria diagnostic tests to health facilities in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, in order to improve screening and drug prescription.** Malaria is the main cause of morbidity among refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe, especially for children under five.
- **In July, four unaccompanied children in Lusenda camp were reunited with their families.** That was a result from a child's Best Interest Determination (BID) panel meeting held by UNHCR and partners ICRC and War Child.

## **UGANDA**

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda (ERP) is currently undergoing a review and revision process.** This consultative process, which started at district level in the Mid-West and South-West of the country in June, is conducted to maximise feedback and discussion with Government counterparts, refugee representatives and education sector partners representing both districts and settlements. Feedback and guidance from this completed "roadshow" is feeding into the planning and prioritisation for 2020.
- **UNHCR completed the accountability report on Global Fund for malaria commodities (ACTs), so far received in 2019 from the Ministry of Health (MoH).** A similar request of additional malaria commodities was placed and MoH has agreed to provide UNHCR with 4 months of stock through December 2019.

## 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

## External / Donors Relations

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### LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

UNHCR Burundi Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/burundi-situation.html>

UNHCR Burundi Global Focus : <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>

Recent News Story: <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2019/5/5cd2b7887/burundian-refugees-returning-home-need-urgent-support.html>

RRRP Funding Tracking for 2019:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaM2M2NDMyZTgtZmQ4OC00ZDE1LWEyYWMtMTAxZDY2NzMyY2QxliwidCI6ImU1YzZM3OTgxLTY2NjQtNDEzNC04YTBjLTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOjh9>