

Tanzania

Reporting period: 09 – 19 October 2017

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. The voluntary repatriation operation will take place in phases.

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

Highlights from the Reporting Period

- Total of 1,881 assisted to repatriate voluntarily
- 237 (12.5%) of the returnees were persons with specific needs
- 4 return convoys (10th, 12th, 17th, and 19th October)
- Areas of return: Muyinga and Kirundo

Overall Return Figures and Trends

The Voluntary Repatriation Operation commenced on 7 September 2017. As at 19 October 2017, a **total of 5,177 Burundian refugees** were assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in thirteen return convoys.

- 50.8% of returnees are female
- 49.2% of returnees are male
- 56.3% of returnees are children
- 11.2% of returnees are persons with specific needs
- Highest number of returns to Makamba and Muyinga provinces (1,453 and 1,378 returnees respectively)

The tables below show the breakdown of Burundian refugee returns per convoy, destination of return, and age and sex.

Table 1: Number of Returns by Date

Date of Return	7 Sep	12 Sep	14 Sep	19 Sep	21 Sep	26 Sep	28 Sep	3 Oct	5 Oct	10 Oct	12 Oct	17 Oct	19 Oct	Total
Individuals	301	220	486	503	156	496	181	528	425	503	450	508	420	5,177

Table 2: Destination / Area of Return

Areas of Return (provinces)	Individuals	%
Bujumbura	273	5%
Bururi	5	0%
Gisuru	358	7%
Karuzi	380	7%
Kirundo	928	18%
Makamba	1,453	28%
Muyinga	1,378	27%
Ngozi	152	3%
Rumonge	205	4%
Ruyiga	45	1%
Total	5,177	100%

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
55	68	675	3,208	1,171	5,177
1%	1%	13%	62%	23%	100%

Table 4: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	588	583	280	1,092	85	2,628	50.4%
Male	605	541	318	1,003	82	2,549	49.6%
Total	1,193	1,124	598	2,095	167	5,177	100%
%	23%	21.7%	11.6%	40.5%	3.2%	100%	

Key Partners

The voluntary repatriation operation is led by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and supported by UNHCR and partners.

Table 5: Key Partners and Activities

Government	Registration, documentation and security
UNHCR	Coordination, verification of return, 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/TRCS	Restoration of family links in Burundi
IOM	Fit-to-travel medical screening and transportation of refugees
Plan International	Child protection (unaccompanied and separated children)
WFP	Provision of food for wet feeding in departure centre, on arrival at transit centre and dry ration