

BURUNDI SITUATION

January 2018

430,087

Total refugees from Burundi in the four main hosting countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda), as of 31 January 2018.

766

Burundian refugees assisted to return from Tanzania in January 2018, in addition to 13,102 assisted to return in 2017.

1218

Burundian refugee arrivals recorded in January 2018.

13,868

Number of Burundian refugees assisted to return from Tanzania as of 31 January 2018.

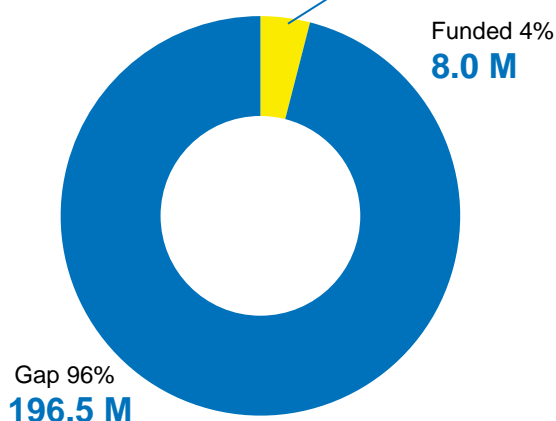
175,936

IDPs in Burundi according to IOM, where 32% of IDPs are linked to the current political crisis, and 68% are linked to natural disasters, as of 31 January 2018.

FUNDING (AS OF 29 JAN 2018)

USD 204.4 M

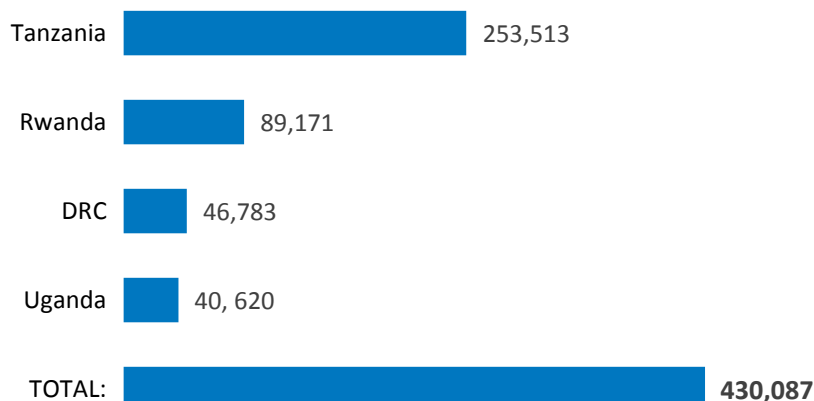
requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries

Note: Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2018 Burundi RRRP



*The total above is in line with the 2018 Burundi RRRP regional coverage, and does not include some 12,828 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programs, as well as a further 23,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

Highlights and Operational Context

- **Some 430,000 Burundian refugees are being hosted across the region** by the governments and people of Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.
- **The recent surge in violence in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is driving large numbers of Congolese to flee to neighboring Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, which is straining resources and negatively impacting the response to Burundi refugees and returnees in those countries.** During January 2018, Uganda received 10,533 asylum seekers from DRC, Burundi over 8,000, and 1,207 persons had arrived in Tanzania.
- **The Government of Burundi is encouraging its citizens to sign up to cast their votes in the upcoming constitutional referendum scheduled for May 17.** The constitutional referendum proposes to change the length of the presidential term from five to seven years, among other changes.
- **Due to funding shortfalls, WFP has implemented in all camps in Rwanda a 25 per cent reduction from January onwards in food or cash assistance** affecting more than 100,000 refugees from Burundi and DRC. In Tanzania, which host the majority of Burundian refugees, food rations remain at 72 per cent (reduced by 28 percent) as they have been for much of 2017.
- According to IOM most recent Displacement Tracking Mechanism [report](#), **from November 2017 to January 2018, there was a decrease of 11,690 internally displaced persons (IDP's) in Burundi, or 6% of IDPs across the country.** The main reasons driving this movement are the rehabilitation of IDP homes, the achievement of sustainable solutions, the restoration of security, and improved harvests in the areas of origin of IDPs who had fled the consequences of drought during the previous months. Kayanza, Bururi, Mwaro and Gitega are the provinces where this decrease has been most significant.

Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian Refugees from Tanzania

Background

- UNHCR is not promoting refugee returns, but following the reactivation of a Tripartite Voluntary Repatriation Agreement in 2017 will continue to support the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness, informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity. UNHCR and partners are also developing context specific modalities for those who may express a desire to return from Rwanda, DRC, or elsewhere in 2018.

Update

- UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania supported the voluntary repatriation of 766 individuals to Burundi in January. The number of Burundian refugees repatriated since the start of the exercise stands at 13,868 individuals as of 31 January 2018.

Partners

- In Tanzania, UNHCR is collaborating closely with the following partners: Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HelpAge International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) /Tanzanian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (TRCS), 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, WFP, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

Achievements during the Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest developments

- **The Student Refugee Program (SRP), a World University Services of Canada (WUSC) programme that combines resettlement with opportunities to obtain higher education in Canada was launched in Nyarugusu Camp.** Up to 20 students will be targeted for 2018/2019, with the first cohort expected to commence their studies in September 2018.
- **Food assistance for the more vulnerable segment of the population continues to be delivered at 100%.** This includes pregnant and lactating women (PLW), children aged between 6 and 23 months and 24 to 59 months, and children who have moderate acute malnutrition.

Achievements and challenges

- **In January 2018, the health sector was able to maintain a low mortality rate** with a crude mortality rate of 0.5/1000/month and an under five-year mortality rate

of 0.8/1000/month. Increased access to comprehensive, reproductive health care including family planning, maternal and child health care remains crucial.

- **There is a critical need for additional decentralized health and nutrition infrastructures, as well as equipment such as ambulances, incubators and X-ray machines, and staffing** to broaden the scope of action of existing health facilities (two hospitals, two health centers, one maternal health centre and seven health posts in Nyarugusu and Mtendeli camps, as well as one hospital and six health posts in Nduta camp).
- **Food assistance through the general food distribution is provided to persons of concern at 72% of the full basket.** The overall prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition is 3.9% across all camps, which is below the 5% World Health Organisation (WHO) threshold in emergencies. However, the camps' rates have increased from 1% to 2.2% in Nyarugusu camp, 2.4% to 6.1% in Nduta camp and 3.5% to 4.4% in Mtendeli camp in 2017. The relationship between reduced rations and malnutrition remains unclear and further analysis is needed to assess the underlying reasons behind malnutrition in the camps.
- **Only 31% of households in all three camps have their own family latrine.** However, UNHCR remains focused on ensuring that all families have access to a latrine near their dwelling, whether a shared communal latrine or a family latrine.
- **There is a limited number of indoor and outdoor materials for child friendly spaces (CFS) across the three camps.** This reduces opportunities for young people to socialize and participate in sports and recreational activities and hinders efforts to improve ties between refugees and host communities which are sometimes invited to participate in recreational activities.
- **Due to lack of classrooms, the ongoing rainy season has been routinely disrupting education activities usually held under trees in 5 out of the 9 basic schools in Nduta camp.** This situation may hinder the adequate cover of the syllabus in the camp as students are either sent home or forced to find shelter in already occupied classrooms.

RWANDA

Latest developments

- **A joint verification exercise of refugees and asylum seekers residing in Rwanda** was launched by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry for Disaster Management and Refugees (MIDIMAR), the National Identification Agency (NIDA), Immigration, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) for the purpose of updating information and verifying their physical presence in the country through collection of biometric data. This exercise will positively impact refugees by facilitating their access to identity documents, national services, employment, and finally improve the freedom of movement, within and outside the country.
- **UNHCR published the recommendations of the 2017 Participatory Assessment (PA)**, a regular exercise conducted jointly by refugees and all service

providers to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the situation of the persons of concern and the host communities in Rwanda, as well as the evolving context as they experience it. The aim of the assessment was to determine the level of knowledge and understanding, among persons of concern, of their rights and opportunities in Rwanda, as well as to hear their opinions on themes that are relevant to the provision of services by UNHCR and partners under the Multi-Year Multi-Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy approach. The findings of the assessment and the recommendations are outlined in the [report online](#).

Achievements and Challenges

- **There is a critical need for land to guarantee the construction of 593 semi-permanent shelters still required.** Moreover, 1,717 semi-permanent shelters require plastering works. The 6,817 semi-permanent shelters that have been completed to date are at full capacity (100%) hosting around 56,738 individuals.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **In Lusenda camp, 9,777 refugees (2,591 households) were biometrically registered (BIMS).** The verification exercise started on 4th December 2017 using the improved biometric data collection (namely ten fingerprints and iris) with a total of 27,728 refugees registered in the 50 “villages” (districts) of the Lusenda camp as of 26th January.
- **In Lusenda camp, 600 shelter kits were distributed over the month of January** to households who were victims of the devastating storm that ravaged the region in October 2017.
- **Construction works continued at the new refugee site of Mulongwe (Fizi territory).** 11 common dorms were under construction to receive relocated refugees. Also, about 140 refugee households were granted plots of land for construction of their own shelter and technical support from UNHCR partner AIRD through the construction of a sample shelter.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Burundian refugee produced 35 tons of biomass briquettes as an alternative source of energy for cooking in Lusenda camp.** UNHCR plans to distribute the biomass briquettes to refugees instead of firewood as low-emission cooking or heating fuel. This pilot initiative, carried out by seven refugee associations across the camp, is part of activities initiated by UNHCR partner AIRD to preserve the environment, while helping refugees to generate an income.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **A total of 365 Burundians were received at Kabazana Reception Centre in January 2018**, with 7 individuals as average daily arrival trend. The new arrivals are from the provinces of Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muyinga and Ngozi.
- **New arrivals reported militia attacks and harassment of persons allegedly identified as supporters of the Burundi opposition parties.** A number of refugees were compelled to flee mainly due to the fear of persecution, forceful recruitment, forced to contribute financially to the Imbonerakure militia activities, and other human right abuses (murder or arrest).

Achievements and Challenges

- **Water supply distribution for the Burundian refugees is still lacking from the UNHCR standard of 20 liter/person/day.** Average water per capita was 15.8 l/p/d for the Burundian villages in Nakivale as compared to average water per capita of 17.7 l/p/d for the entire settlement.
- **A total of 224 Burundian children between 0 month and 5 years were screened for malnutrition.** All children moderately malnourished were enrolled in supplementary feeding programmes.

Financial Information

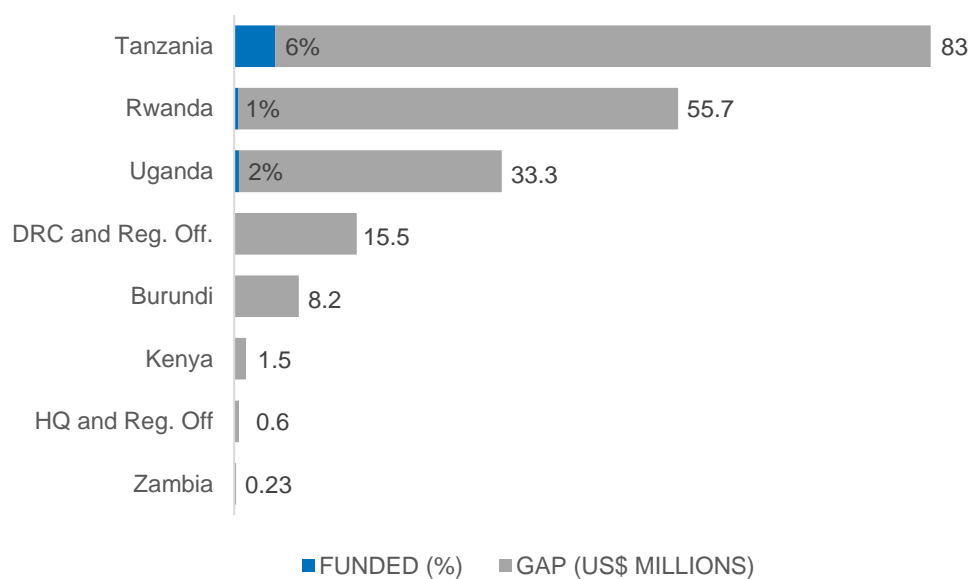
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

Donors who have contributed to the Burundi Situation in 2018:

- United Kingdom
- Germany
- International Olympic Committee

Funding (in million USD) as of 29 January 2018

Out of the \$204.4 million required for 2018, a total of \$ **8 million** has been funded



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Algeria | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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LINKS

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

UNHCR Burundi page: <http://www.unhcr.org/burundi.html>

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