



# United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: September 2018

## 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. 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

- 6,642 individuals assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in September which is the highest recorded number of returns since the exercise began;
- 3,349 (50%) males and 3,293 (50%) females;
- 605 of returnees were persons with specific needs;
- 8 return convoys.

## Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 30 September 2018, 52,260 individuals have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 26,526 (50.8%) females & 25,734 (49.2%) males;
- 29,869 (57.2%) children;
- 5,534 and 10.5% persons with specific needs; and
- The highest number of returns were to Ruyigi, Muyinga and Makamba provinces (11,102, 10,342, and 7,645 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<br>(Sep & Oct 2017) | Phase II<br>(Nov & Dec 2017) | Phase III<br>(Jan – March 2018) | Curent Phase<br>(as at 30 September 2018) | Total         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Number of returns</b> | 6,887                       | 6,216                        | 8,347                           | 30,810                                    | <b>52,260</b> |

**Table 2:** Age and Sex Breakdown

|               | 0-4 yrs | 5-11 yrs | 12-17 yrs | 18-59 yrs | Over 60 yrs | Total         | %            |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Female</b> | 6,305   | 5,727    | 2,895     | 10,814    | 785         | <b>26,526</b> | <b>50.8%</b> |



|              |               |               |              |               |              |               |       |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| <b>Male</b>  | 6,494         | 5,759         | 2,689        | 10,086        | 706          | <b>25,734</b> | 49.2% |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>12,799</b> | <b>11,486</b> | <b>5,584</b> | <b>20,900</b> | <b>1,491</b> | <b>52,260</b> | 100%  |
| <b>%</b>     | 24.5%         | 22.0%         | 10.7%        | 40.0%         | 2.9%         | 100%          |       |

**Table 3:** Period of Asylum of Returnees

| <1 month | 1-3 months | 4-6 months | 7-12 months | >1 year | Total         |
|----------|------------|------------|-------------|---------|---------------|
| 105      | 249        | 1,373      | 17,610      | 32,923  | <b>52,260</b> |
| 0.2%     | 0.5%       | 2.6%       | 33.7%       | 63.0%   | 100%          |

**Table 5:** Total Departures per Camp

| Camps in Tanzania | Individuals   | %           |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Nduta             | 35,362        | 67.7%       |
| Mtendeli          | 13,885        | 26.6%       |
| Nyarugusu         | 3,013         | 5.8%        |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>52,260</b> | <b>100%</b> |

**Table 6:** Registered & Processed vs. Returned

| Registered intention to return | Returned (as of 30 September) | Withdraws /No Shows/ Convoy Dropouts | Pending Verification | Pending Departure |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 80,864                         | 52,260                        | 2,076                                | 3,589                | 22,939            |

**Table 4:** Provinces of Return

| Return Provinces | Individuals   |
|------------------|---------------|
| Ruyigi           | 11,102        |
| Muyinga          | 10,342        |
| Makamba          | 7,645         |
| Cankuzo          | 7,109         |
| Kirundo          | 5,645         |
| Rutana           | 3,780         |
| Karuzi           | 1,495         |
| Gitega           | 1,217         |
| Rumonge          | 1,214         |
| Ngozi            | 932           |
| Bujumbura        | 568           |
| Bururi           | 399           |
| Gisuru           | 358           |
| Kayanza          | 125           |
| Muramvya         | 119           |
| Citiboke         | 99            |
| Bubanza          | 78            |
| Mwaro            | 33            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>52,260</b> |

**Table 7:** Key Partners and Activities

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