



United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: April 2019

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. The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees will continue as planned until a new Tripartite Commission Meeting addressing arising needs is called. 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

- 2,975 people assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in April
- 1,430 women (48%) and 1,545 (52%) men
- 290 returnees have specific needs
- 7 return convoys

Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 30 April 2019, 66,120 people have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 33,419 (50.5%) women & 32,701 (49.5%) men
- 37,815 (57.2%) children
- 6,249 and 9.4% have specific needs
- The highest number of returns were to Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Makamba provinces (14,566, 13,343 and 11,146 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 (Sep & Oct 2017)	Phase II (Nov & Dec 2017)	Phase III (Jan – March 2018)	Current Phase (as at 30 April 2019)	Total
Number of returns	6,889	6,216	8,347	44,668	66,120

Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	8,013	7,141	3,753	13,550	962	33,419	50.5%



Male	8,228	7,159	3,522	12,914	878	32,701	49.5%
Total	16,240	14,300	7,275	26,463	1,840	66,120	100%
%	24.6%	21.6%	11.0%	40.0%	2.8%	100%	

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
122	361	1,524	18,817	45,296	66,120
0.2%	0.5%	2.3%	28.5%	68.5%	100%

Table 5: Total Departures per Camp

Camps in Tanzania	Individuals	%
Nduta	43,855	66.3%
Mtendeli	16,172	24.5%
Nyarugusu	6,093	9.2%
Total	66,120	100%

Table 6: Registered & Processed vs. Returned

Pending Travel Arrangements	Returned (as of 30 April)	Withdrawals and Departure No Shows	No Shows for Voluntariness Assessment
2,964	66,120	14,002	4,241

Table 4: Provinces of Return

Return Provinces	Individuals
Ruyigi	14,566
Muyinga	13,343
Makamba	11,146
Cankuzo	7,655
Kirundo	6,633
Rutana	4,382
Karuzi	1,769
Gitega	1,314
Rumonge	1,214
Ngozi	1,027
Mwaro	908
Bururi	895
Bujumbura	737
Kayanza	142
Muramvya	142
Citiboke	135
Bubanza	112
Total	66,120

Table 7: Key Partners and Activities

Government	Registration, documentation, security, convoy and immigration formalities
UNHCR	Coordination, ensuring voluntariness of return, verification of return location, 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	Restoration of family links in Burundi
IOM	Fit-to-travel medical screening and transportation of refugees
NRC	Management of departure centre, accommodation, wet feeding, and distribution of high-energy biscuits provided by WFP
Plan & IRC	Child protection (unaccompanied and separated children)
TRCS	Medicine and ambulances
WFP	Provision of food for wet feeding in departure centre, on arrival at transit centre and dry ration