UNHCR Burundi Operations Overview

February 2024
TOTAL POPULATION

332 800

85 600
refugees in camps and urban areas

2 600
asylum seekers

235 600
assisted returnees

8 200
internally displaced persons

800
persons at risk of statelessness

Statistics as of 29 February 2024 or lastest available
While the number of people for whom UNHCR has been entrusted with a responsibility by the international community to protect and assist in Burundi continues to increase, the UN Refugee Agency faces an unprecedented funding gap. As of 29 February 2024, there were 332,800 persons needing life-saving aid, while the funding levels stood at only 7%.

**PEOPLE OF CONCERN**

![Bar chart showing the number of people of concern from 2017 to 2024](chart1.png)

- **332,800** persons needing life-saving aid
- **8,177** internally displaced persons verified by IOM (DTM) covered by UNHCR’s mandate
- **791** statelessness
- **235,575** Burundian Refugees repatriated since September 2017
- **2,580** Asylum-seekers registered
- **85,589** Refugees living in camps and urban areas

*The 8,177 IDP figure refers to the IDPs of concern to UNHCR. This figure has been revised down from the total 73,931 IDPs previously reported in Burundi (IOM/DTM), most displaced due to natural disasters.*

**FUNDING**

![Stacked bar chart showing annual budget and total funding](chart2.png)

- **Received to date**: $7.3 million (7%)
- **Gap**: $90.99 million (93%)

**STAFFING**

- **183** staff
- **71%** National
- **16%** International
- **13%** Affiliate

**STAFF BY OFFICE**

- **Bujumbura**: 71 staff, 39%
- **Makamba**: 16 staff, 9%
- **Muyinga**: 42 staff, 23%
- **Ruyigi**: 54 staff, 29%

**GENDER BREAKDOWN**

- **Female**: 34%

Creation date: 06 March 2024 | Sources: UNHCR | Feedback: ndamawan@unhcr.org
## Summary by Donor | 2017 - 2024

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<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>4,739,102</td>
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<td><strong>Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments</strong></td>
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<td>1,316,547</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
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<td>32,512,726</td>
<td>7,294,944</td>
<td>19,069,694</td>
<td>18,091,754</td>
<td>26,457,654</td>
<td>31,196,179</td>
<td>1,748,280</td>
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BURUNDI OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Refugees and asylum seekers
as of 29 February 2024

Key figures
88,169
Refugees and asylum seekers
85,589
Refugees
2,580*
Asylum seekers
62,311 **
registered by BIMS

Breakdown of refugees and asylum seekers by gender and age

Refugees by location type

Location | Number | Percentage
---|---|---
Urban | 32,820 | 37%
Kavumu | 18,183 | 21%
Nyankanda | 11,419 | 13%
Bwagiriza | 9,688 | 11%
Musasa | 8,727 | 10%
Kinama | 7,332 | 8%
Grand Total | 88,169 |

Refugee camps and urban areas

Donor and country contributions

* They are mainly in urban areas.
** More than 3/4 of the people who are not fingerprinted are children under the age of 5 (as this is not a requirement).
**HIGHLIGHTS**

UNHCR and partners have been facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees since 2017. These refugees have been returning after making free and informed decisions. More than 235,600 Burundian refugees had been recorded as having returned by the end of February 2024. Most are from Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and other countries. These returns take place under the framework of the Tripartite Agreements between the Government of Burundi, the Governments of countries of asylum, and UNHCR, with all parties having committed to respect the voluntary nature of these returns.

**Key figures**

- **235,575** since 2017
- **1528** in 2024 (3 convoys and flights)
- **724** convoys and flights (since 2017)

**Breakdown by gender and age**

- 49% men
- 51% women
- 56% children

**Returnees by country of asylum**

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<tr>
<th>Countries of asylum</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>Since 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>165,869</td>
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<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>32,224</td>
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<td>D. R. Congo</td>
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<td>3,461</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>15,859</td>
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<td>Uganda</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>207</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>112,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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<td>48,486</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1528</td>
<td>235,575</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Reintegration package** (for 3 months)

- **Non-Food Items**
  - Basic NFI (kitchen set, soap, blankets, loincloths for women, jerrycans, buckets, mosquito nets, plastic mat, plastic sheet, flannel, travel bag, ...) provided by UNHCR.

- **Food assistance**
  - Food rations for 3 months provided by WFP (beans, oil, corn flour, salt).

- **Cash grant**
  - Cash assistance provided by UNHCR through mobile cash. The equivalent of 200 USD (560,778 BIF) per person.

- **Secondary trans.**
  - The returnees are transported to their return commune then the returnee covers transport to the hills.

**Donor and country contributions**

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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**Sources:** UNHCR, DGRRR

**Feedback:** ndamawan@unhcr.org, fongni@unhcr.org
Since 2017, UNHCR has supported the voluntary repatriation of over 234,000 returnees, including 65,000 in 2021 and 21,788 in 2022. Upon the arrival of returnees in their province of return, UNHCR and its partners conduct follow-up activities to review their level of reintegration. Monitoring data indicates a low capacity of returnees to access essential social services, which makes some refugees reluctant to return. Despite efforts by the Government of Burundi with support from humanitarian and development actors, access to housing, land, and employment remains a significant challenge. For example, over 69% of returnees are not satisfied with their level of food security. Nevertheless, there have been improvements in the security and justice sectors (land dispute resolution) compared to previous years.

**MEASURABLE RESULTS BY SECTOR**

**PROTECTION**

The respondents reported that at least 74% of adults in households have national identity cards. 75% of children received birth certificates in 2023 (compared to 69% in 2022), a significant improvement resulting from registration campaigns.

**EDUCATION**

57% of the children who arrived this year, compared to 52% in 2022, are enrolled in school. The observed decrease is due to the fact that the majority of children arrived during the second semester and experienced difficulties in enrolling and adapting to the Burundian education system.

**HEALTH**

68% of returnee households do not have a health insurance card compared to 70% in 2022. 82% of returnee children arriving in 2022 are vaccinated against measles from asylum countries. The major challenge is accessing quality healthcare services in the return areas.

**WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION**

85% of households in 2022 reported having access to safe water. More than 90% of them find water within two kilometers. During the drought period, there is an increased need for containers to store sufficient quantities of water at the household level.

**SHELTER**

28% of returnees live in their own homes; 41% live in rented houses; 68% of this group are in Muyinga, Cibitoke, Kirundo, and Ruyigi provinces. The returnee community is in great need of support in terms of shelter kits and building materials.

**FOOD SECURITY**

64% of returnee households eat only once a day. 76% of the returning households reported never having received food aid after the one they received upon arrival at the transit center.

**ACCESS TO LAND**

In 2023, 38% of repatriated households used their cash allowance for the acquisition of land (fields), but only 13% were able to practice farming during the last cropping season. The challenges are the lack of seeds and agricultural tools.

**LIVELIHOODS**

88% of returnee households report living on less than USD 1 per month on average. Many returnees living in border areas cross the border back and forth to engage in temporary labor.