

# VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES



from Tanzania to Burundi - 5 April 2018

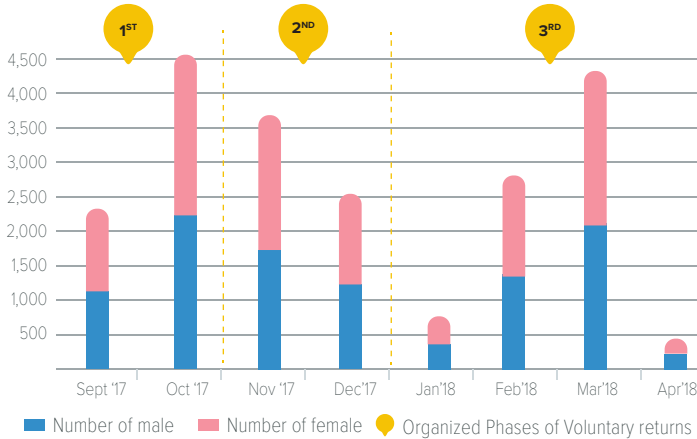
On 28 March 2018 at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a work plan from 5 April to 31 December 2018, entailing the voluntary repatriation of approximately 72,000 Burundian refugees (two convoys per week each of 1,000 refugees). Priority for repatriation will be given to the 19,148 refugees whose registered intention to return had already been verified by UNHCR.

The meaningful and durable reintegration of all returning refugees will be pursued, discussions on innovative and sustainable modalities for the provision of adequate support to all returnees will be initiated, and access will be granted to UNHCR and its partners to both sides of the border and to areas of return in Burundi. While the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania intend to move towards a phase of sensitisation and promotion of returns, UNHCR reiterates its position not to promote returns at this time.

In Burundi, UNHCR and partners will continue to improve the returnee monitoring framework

## OVERALL RETURN FIGURES AND TRENDS

The **third phase** of the voluntary repatriation operation ran from **5 January to 3 April 2018** during which a total number of **8,345** refugees returned to Burundi in **15 convoys** (bringing the total from 7 September 2017 to 21,449).



The demography of the returnee population generally **aligns** with the demographics of the Burundian refugee population hosted in Tanzania.



**2 out of 3** families have a female head of household



**453** returnees are unaccompanied and separated minors



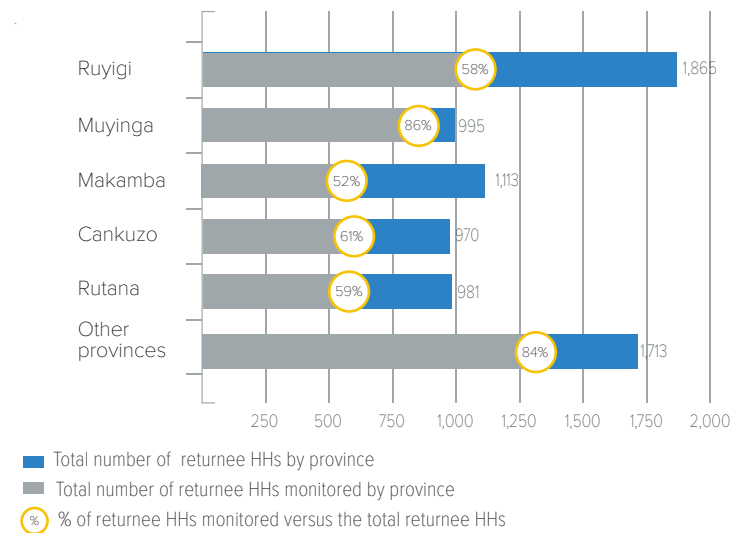
**64%** of girls are school age



21% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2015  
 47% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2016  
 32% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2017

## MONITORING OF BURUNDIAN RETURNEES IN BURUNDI

UNHCR and Caritas set up a monitoring system with **129 monitors** covering all areas of return. By **5 April 2018**, **4,987** families have been monitored (out of 7,167), which represents **70%** of those assisted to return.



■ Total number of returnee HHs by province  
 ■ Total number of returnee HHs monitored by province  
 ○ % of returnee HHs monitored versus the total returnee HHs

- 67% of returnees had only 1 meal per day
- 72% of returnees did not have a birth certificate and 35% did not have National Identification card
- 67% of school age children did not have access to education
- 34% of returnees were without access to the health system, many due to financial problems
- 40% of returnees found their agricultural land temporarily occupied by others (including family members)
- 84% of returnees had access to water. A minority are affected by seasonal water shortages.
- 90% of returnees are subsistence farmers
- 22% of returnee HHs have vulnerabilities
- 76% of children are vaccinated for measles

For more information please contact:

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