

BURUNDI SITUATION

March 2018

424,791

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

4,319

Burundian refugees assisted to return from Tanzania in March 2018, totalling 7,906 assisted to return to date in 2018.

3,053

Burundian refugee arrivals /registrations recorded in March 2018.

21,449

Number of Burundian refugees assisted to return from Tanzania since September 2017.

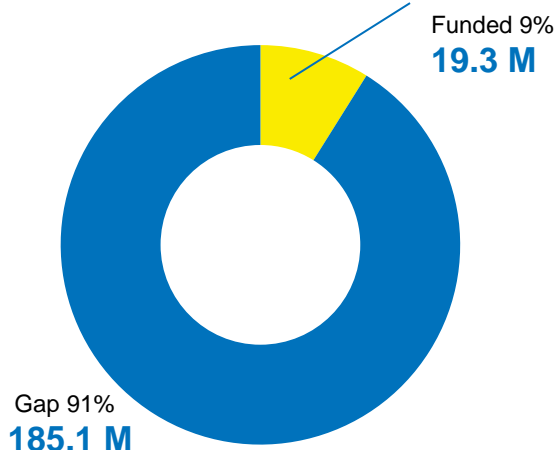
174,011

IDPs in Burundi according to IOM, where 29 per cent of IDPs are linked to the socio political situation, and 71 per cent are linked to natural disasters, as of March 2018.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 MARCH 2018)

USD 204.4 M

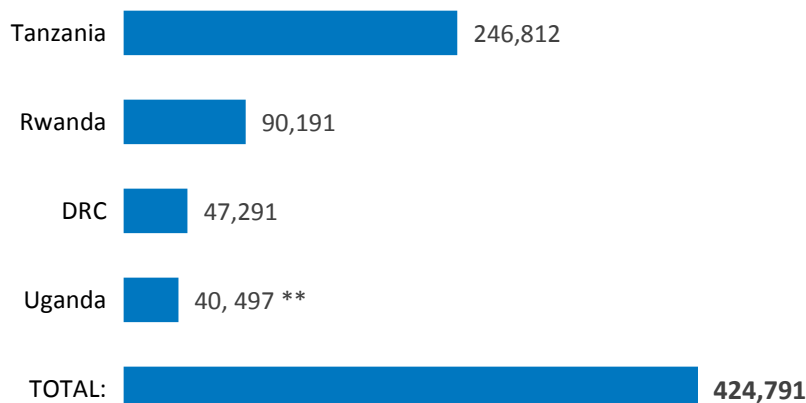
requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



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 23,000 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.

** As of 28 February 2018

Highlights and Operational Context

- **On the 2nd March 2018, the Regional Refugee Coordinator and Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Champion for the Burundi Situation, Ms. Catherine Wiesner convened a regional partners' meeting on Regional Partnerships in Protection Delivery for Burundian Refugees at UNHCR's Regional Service Centre, Nairobi.** The main focus was on the need for a multi-year protection and solutions strategy for the Burundi situation, encompassing the full cycle of displacement and solutions. In that vein the strategy under development will build upon Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) efforts to ensure the anchoring of interventions into government systems wherever possible, promote integrated social services for refugees and host communities where the policy and operating environment allows, and foster economic self-reliance for refugees and socio-economic growth in line with national development plans, while also emphasizing durable solutions.
- **The 20th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania was held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 28 March 2018.** In a joint communique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR agreed to implement a work plan for the voluntary repatriation of 72,000 Burundian refugees between 5 April and 31 December 2018. UNHCR will continue to support the operation to ensure that returns are carried out in a sustainable and durable manner, based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.

Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian Refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania

Background

- Since September 2017, 21,449 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers returned from the United Republic of Tanzania. The Phase III of returns was carried out between January and 30 March 2018 with 7,906 returning refugees assisted. The Plan of Action established at the Tripartite Meeting for 2018 plans for two convoys per week of 1,000 refugees each. Priority is to be given to the 19,148 refugees whose registered intention to return had been verified by UNHCR at the time of the 28 March meeting.

Update

- The voluntary repatriation exercise was temporarily ceased for the first two weeks of April by the Government of Tanzania, UNHCR, and IOM following 29 March road accident with a convoy transporting 515 Burundian returnees from Nduta Refugee Camp to Songore Transit Centre in Tanzania *en route* to Burundi.
- There is a rising concern about the reliability of reimbursements being made to the voluntary savings groups operating in the camps in Tanzania due to the ongoing voluntary repatriation exercise as it increases the risk of refugees leaving without repaying their loans.

Partners

- In the United Republic of 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 Society (TRCS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Plan International, and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- In the Republic of Burundi, UNHCR is collaborating with the Department of Repatriation under the Government of Burundi, World Food Program (WFP), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

Achievements during the Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- **UNHCR and partners launched various events in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps to commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March.** Under the theme of this year's global campaign "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives", urban refugee women had the opportunity to showcase their handmade products in Relief to Development Society's (REDESO) Office in Dar es Salaam.
- **A draft teachers' code of conduct was finalized by the Education Working Group (EWG) in March.** The document will provide a set of guidelines for teachers and will be implemented in all schools and learning centers across the camps.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Ensuring essential drugs and medical supplies are readily available continues to be a challenge.** In response to the shortage of essential drugs and supplies, UNHCR received a consignment of locally procured drugs.
- **Kiswahili and English language sessions were facilitated for 30 teachers from Nduta by Kasulu Teachers Training College with Save the Children support,** to improve teaching quality and enhance student learning.
- **Supplementary feeding programme entitlements and full rations for wet feeding for refugees in departure centres were maintained at 100 per cent,** despite the reduced ration for all commodities in the general food distribution at 73 per cent of the full basket.
- **Over 60 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers across all camps continue to live in emergency shelters.** As a key priority UNHCR plans for 65,000 refugees to receive more durable transitional shelters by the end of 2018.
- **Due to excessive deforestation there is a shortage of firewood in Nduta.** UNHCR, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Relief to Development Society's (REDESO) are in consultations to facilitate the transport of two months' supply of firewood from Mtendeli to Nduta for persons with specific needs.
- **Over-cultivation along water sources/rivers by both refugee and host communities increases the threat to the quality of water supplies in Mtendeli and Nduta.** The MHA, REDESO and other stakeholders are considering ways to improve water conservation.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- **2,733 Burundian new arrivals were registered in March. This significant increase was due to the movement of a group of 2,554 Burundian asylum seekers who crossed from the Democratic Republic of Congo.** The group coming from Kamanyola, DRC on Wednesday 07 March 2018 declared fear of persecution there.
- **From 26-29 March 2018, a Joint Support Team constituted by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP),** carried out a lessons learned review of the incidents that occurred around the Kiziba camp refugees' protests on 20 February 2018.
- **As of January 2018, as part of the nationwide refugee verification exercise, 11,463 Burundian refugees were verified in Kigali and 745 in Huye. These numbers represent 36 per cent of the total number previously registered in Kigali and 22 per cent of the ones in Huye.** Within the reasons cited for no-show are refugees moving to other locations including camps where assistance is provided or to other countries, including the country of origin.

- **A GIZ program on “economic inclusion of refugees” of USD 9.6 million was approved by the Government of Rwanda.** Over the next five years, the programme will be implemented by GIZ and target all refugees within the country.
- **A new urban refugee committee was elected on 29 March 2018 to represent and advocate for the needs and concerns of urban refugees.** All urban refugees participated in the elections. The committee includes five (two female/ three male) Burundian and three (one female/ two male) Congolese refugees.

Achievements and Challenges

- **In Mahama camp, eight primary classrooms are under construction to provide for an additional 650 refugee students.** A significant number of Burundian refugee children are already enrolled in schools, currently 19,831 out of 23,151 (85.6 per cent).
- **About 60 permanent classrooms are needed to ensure better learning conditions for more than 4,000 refugee students in Early Childhood Development (ECD) classrooms.** The ECD centers continue to be covered in plastic sheeting.
- **In order to boost micro-nutrients consumption in the camps, there has been community mobilization towards the promotion of kitchen gardens combined with cooking demonstrations.** These measures are crucial to the fight against stunting amongst children under 5 years.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- **The Katalukulu Health Center was inaugurated after rehabilitation by operational partner AFPDE (*Association des Femmes pour la Promotion du Développement Endogene*).** The Center is integrated in the national public health system and will offer free healthcare to refugees and reduced fees to locals.
- **Six cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were reported in Mulongwe and Lusenda sites, including four cases of physical aggression and two cases of rape of minors.** The survivors were referred for medical treatment and received psycho-social support.

Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR partner ActionAid distributed cash vouchers to refugees in Mulongwe site in order to cover the payment of school fees of the second term.** About 74 per cent of households paid the school fees.
- **Due to funding shortages to the Burundian situation, UNHCR will not be able to cover school fees for the upcoming school year starting in September**

2018. Moreover, in Lusenda camp there is an increasing lack of stocks of non-food items as well as hygiene kits for women and girls for Burundian refugees.

- **Cash-based Interventions were launched in Mulongwe site, through provider Vodacash.** 711 households received SIM cards (out of 850 households planned) that will allow them to receive multi-purpose cash for shelter, education and to start income-generating activities. The plan is to reach 2,000 households by the end of the year.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- **In Nakivale, water per capita ratio increased from 13.51 to 16.4 litres per person per day (l/p/d).** However, the average water access still remains below UNHCR minimum standard (20 l/p/d).
- **UNHCR is developing an Environment Impact Assessment and Action Plan per settlement** and plans on the implementation of the Global Safe Access to Fuel and Energy guidelines (SAFE) underpinned by the Energy Response Plan for Refugee Settlements (ERPRS) developed in March 2018. The focus is on biomass generation and environment conservation and protection, and access to improved energy-efficient cooking stoves, capacity building, and use of alternative clean fuels.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Sensitization campaigns next to the community have led to an increase in attendance at Early Childhood Development Centers, as well as to secondary and vocational schools.** They are carried out by UNHCR partner Windle International Uganda in a continued effort to ensure the enrollment of more children in school.
- **The Education Sector Consultation Committee (ESCC) held a special meeting on 27 March 2018, and unanimously endorsed the Education Response Plan for the Refugee and Host Communities (ERP).** The plan is in line with Uganda's refugee policy, the Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework (CRRF), and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Financial Information

Funding (in million USD) as of end of March 2018

Out of the \$204.4 million required for 2018, a total of \$ **19.3 million** has been funded.

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:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ■ CERF | ■ Japan |
| ■ European Union | ■ Sweden |
| ■ Germany | ■ United Kingdom |
| ■ Great Lakes Region Cross
Border Fund | ■ UN Peacebuilding Fund |
| ■ International Olympic Committee | |

External / Donors Relations

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

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Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

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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>

Recent News Story: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2018/3/5a97e0a14/football-gives-burundian-girls-strength-deal-trauma.html>