

BURUNDI SITUATION

31 JANUARY 2019

346,983

Total Burundian refugees residing in the main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

0

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return in January 2019 due to temporary suspension as a result of funding shortfalls.

745

Total Burundian refugee arrivals recorded in January 2019.

58,546

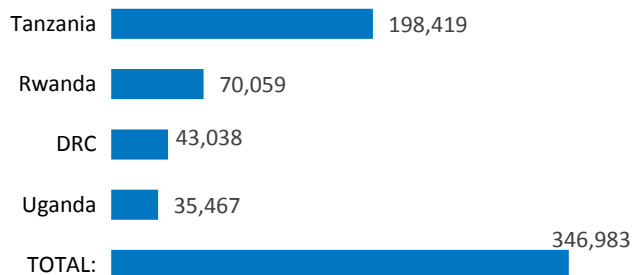
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return in 2017 and 2018 from Tanzania (57,867), Kenya (586), DRC (88), Uganda (2), Gabon (1), Cameroon (1) and Burkina Faso (1).

139,634

Number of IDPs in Burundi, according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, 77 per cent are linked to natural disasters, 23 per cent are linked to the socio political situation as of January 2019.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries

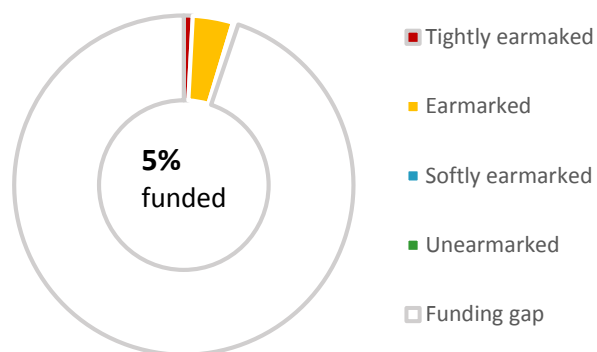


* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019 Burundi RRRP.

** The total above is in line with the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP regional coverage, and does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 42,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

EARMARKED FUNDING (AS OF 6 FEBRUARY 2019)

USD 182.9 million



* Figure is for UNHCR funding requirements. Data collection for funding received by RRRP partners is ongoing and will be included in the next update.

New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (January)
DRC	2,141	0
Rwanda	2,966	316
Tanzania	1	0
Uganda	2,851	429
TOTAL	7,959	745

Highlights and Operational Context

- **On 15th January, during a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, 35 organizations together called for USD 296 million to provide desperately needed aid in 2019 to some 345,000 Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries.** The needs are outlined in the [2019-2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Burundi Situation](#). While more than 58,000 refugees have returned to Burundi since mid-2017, hundreds of refugees still flee Burundi each month, and UNHCR urges governments in the region to maintain open borders and access to asylum for those who need it.

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

Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting return to Burundi, but are working with the governments involved to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.
- The current return operation is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite Agreement between the two governments and UNHCR in which all parties have acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons not to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.

Update

- The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania has been temporarily halted in January due to funding shortfalls faced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the partner responsible for transportation and other logistics aspects of the programme. As of 31 January, the total number of Burundian refugees who were repatriated to Burundi from Tanzania remained at 57,865 individuals.

Partners

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania work in partnership with the 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 Burundi, UNHCR is collaborating with the Department of Repatriation under the Government of Burundi, World Food Programme (WFP), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

Achievements during the Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- **While the common markets for refugees and host communities around Nduta and Mtendeli were re-opened in December 2018, restrictive directives issued by the Tanzanian government in mid-2018 on some refugee-run businesses and the common markets remained in place.** As result, opportunities for self-reliance remain severely limited leading to an increased risk of refugees resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Achievements and Challenges

- **General food distribution (GFD) was maintained at 100 per cent of the full basket in January.** Refugees received 100 per cent of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, corn-soya blend and salt entitlements for the third month in a row.
- **As of January 2018, access to Tanzania's territory continues to be limited affecting asylum seekers from Burundi as well as from other neighbouring countries.** These restrictions on access for asylum-seekers undermine the government and UNHCR's protection mandates.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- **Some 238 Burundian refugees performed well in national exams and qualified for enrollment at schools of excellence in Rwanda.** However, those refugees were not able to access the school programmes due to limited resources to fund their studies.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Serious challenges remain in carrying out regular dislodging of latrines in Mahama Camp.** While the conversion of a water tanker to serve as a second dislodging truck has helped, there is a need to improve the latrines to reduce the required frequency of dislodging.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- **Malaria was the most common disease faced by Burundian refugees in DRC between 1 to 15 January, constituting some 50 per cent of medical consultations.** There is a need to increase the provision of mosquito nets and sensitization campaigns promoting their usage.
- **The humanitarian situation in the DRC remained volatile and unpredictable during the reporting period.** Despite the elections held in December, there has been no report of increased outflows of refugees. Félix Tshisekedi was sworn in as the 5th President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 24 January 2019.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Some 470 Burundian refugee households received individual plots of land in January after having been relocated to Mulongwe settlement in August and September 2018.** Some 100 households have already started to build shelters on these parcels, while 58 shelters were finalized during the month.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

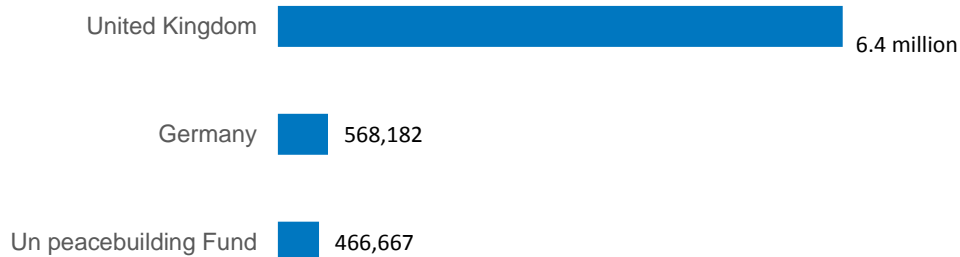
- **On 25 January, the Ministry of Health launched the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HIRRP), encompassing health related needs among the refugees and host community within the refugees hosting district.** This is the second plan linked to the national sector plans, after the Education Response Plan that was launched in September 2018.
- **UNHCR jointly with Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), launched a revision of the 2019- 2020 Country Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in late January 2019.** This is a joint effort to align the population planning figures, targets and budgets with results of the verification exercise that took place in 2018.

Achievements and Challenges

- **The use of solar pumping units and the commissioning of five newly constructed water schemes reduced water trucking needs to three per cent.** As the dry season spread through all refugee hosting districts, it has been possible to respond to an increased demand for water to be used for domestic purposes and productive activities such as mudbrick laying and construction of shelters.

Financial Information

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the Burundi situation or operations. Earmarked contributions for the Burundi Situation amount to some **\$9,5 million** as of 6 February 2019.



Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions | USD

Sweden 90.4 million | Denmark 54.9 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 27.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

External / Donors Relations

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LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

UNHCR Burundi Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/burundi-situation.html>

UNHCR Burundi Global Focus : <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>

Recent News Story: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2019/1/5c3d9cdd4/unhcr-partners-seek-us296-million-burundi-refugee-crisis.html>