

BURUNDI SITUATION

MAY 2019

346,819

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

11,641

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 3,388 assisted in May.

3,080

Total Burundian refugee arrivals recorded so far in 2019. In May, 511 new arrivals were reported.

70,223

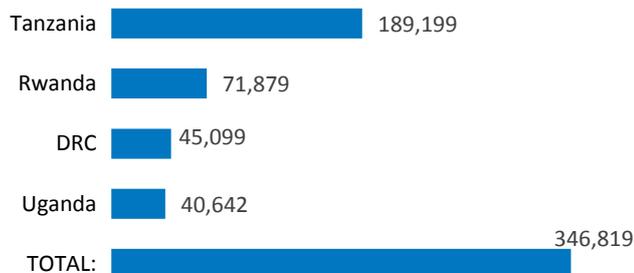
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between 2017 and 31 May 2019, mainly from Tanzania.

119,890

Number of IDPs in Burundi as of April 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, 76 per cent of the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, 24 per cent are linked to the socio political situation.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries

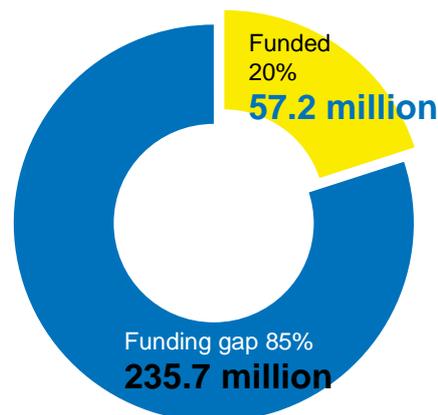


* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 42,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of June 2019)

USD 292.9 million



*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Response Financial Tracking

New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of May)
DRC	2,141	0
Rwanda	2,966	1,248
Tanzania	1	0
Uganda	2,851	1,832
TOTAL	7,959	3,080

Highlights and Operational Context

- **UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) for the Burundi situation, Ms. Catherine Wiesner carried out an advocacy mission to Washington DC (6-8 May), New York (9-10 May), and Brussels (13-14 May) with the main objective to raise awareness and mobilize resources for the Burundi situation given that it remains among the least funded situations globally.** The mission provided an opportunity to gauge the views of a few key interlocutors on UNHCR's and RRRP partners' response to the Burundi situation, especially the assisted return component. The RRC also emphasized in this respect the solutions-oriented approach the organization has taken in line with the objectives of the CRRF/GCR, in particular objective 4, which focuses on support to conditions in countries of origin for return, and specifically sought support for funds for both the repatriation and reintegration component.
- **In Uganda, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) jointly released the revised 2019-2020 Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP).** The revision is a result of an exercise of planning figures, targets and budgets with a reduced refugee population as of year-end 2018 which started last February. With a new baseline population of 1.19 million refugees as of 31 December 2018, RRP partners revised their plans to cater for 1.31 million refugees by the end of 2019 and 1.30 million refugees by the end of 2020 contrary to the initial projections of 1.74 million by year-end 2019 and 1.73 million by year-end 2020.
- **From 14-17 May 2019, the East African Community (EAC) convened a meeting of Partner States to review the initial draft policy and provide guidance to the next steps on the EAC Common Policy on Refugee Management.** A technical working group (TWG) meeting was held on 14-15 May with delegates from EAC Partner States' Directorates/Departments responsible for Refugee Affairs, the EAC Secretariat and consultants and UNHCR. The participants acknowledged that the presented initial draft policy still needed considerable work and as such, provided observations to guide the consultants in the revision. The delegates were grateful for UNHCR's detailed technical inputs and positively agreed to take into account UNHCR's written comments. On 16-17 May, the Chiefs of Refugee Management (CRM) were presented with the TWG report, to which they made added notes for the revision of the draft Policy. The EAC Secretariat will organise the next regional validation meeting planned end of July to review a second draft policy. If this draft policy is validated by the CRMs, the next steps will be to present it to the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers on Interstate Security for adoption in September.
- **As of 18 June 2019, merely 27.9 million USD was received out of the total requirements of 106 million USD for the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Burundi which includes the humanitarian needs of Burundian returnees.** Out of the 31.4 million USD specifically required to support sustainable return and reintegration; less than 600,000 USD has been received thus far.

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

Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting returns 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.
- To ensure a sustainable reintegration in Burundi, support has been requested for both returnees and communities in areas of return in line with the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in particular objective four (4), which focuses on supporting conditions in countries of origin for return.

Update

- While returnees are welcomed back by the Government of Burundi, they face socio-economic challenges towards their effective reintegration, including a lack of livelihood opportunities.
- Funding is needed to address the reintegration needs of Burundian returnees, including improvements to the returnee monitoring framework and related services, addressing critical staffing shortages; increasing the capacity of transit centres and transportation to reach all areas of final return.

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

- In May, the number of formal and informal markets rapidly increased in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps, placing more pressure on existing camp infrastructure across the three camps as result of the ongoing common markets closure following cessation of activities in February due to security reasons and because their locations outside the camps were deemed too close to the host community areas. The advocacy efforts with the Government of Tanzania to lift restrictions on livelihoods and reopen the common markets is ongoing.

Achievements and Challenges

- In Nduta camp, there has been a significant increase in the cases of watery diarrhoea to about 3,500 in May in comparison to previous months where it stood at 1,900, primarily among children aged between six months and two years of age. Investigations into the causes are currently underway by UNHCR and partners. Meanwhile, oral rehydration solution stations have been setup across the camp alongside mobile health clinics.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- The first Mental Health and Psycho-social support (MHPSS) taskforce meeting was held in Mahama in May and started working on the recommendations made by UNHCR's Senior Mental Health expert. Refugees and other people of concern experience and respond to loss, pain, disruption and violence in significantly different ways, and there is a need to ensure that a supportive family and community environment is available to support their mental health and psychosocial well-being.

Achievements and Challenges

- In May, 1,099 women headed households were grouped in 45 Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) associations. Each of these associations include up to 25 members and 120 household from host community. There is a need for funds to continue supporting women head of families in business to generate more income and reduce their vulnerability.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- In May, about 130 Burundian refugees (43 households) have indicated their intention to return to Burundi to UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (*Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés – CNR*). The preparations for convoys in early July are underway.

Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR's partner Action Aid carried out the payment of school fees for 6,755 Burundian primary school pupils and 1,468 Burundian secondary school pupils in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement.** The fees to sit the National Primary School Leaving Examination were also paid for 501 Burundian refugee pupils in Lusenda and Mulongwe.
- **UNHCR's partner ADRA introduced a new method to produce smaller and more efficient biomass briquettes.** Biomass briquettes are an alternative fuel to firewood, as an eco-friendly solution for cooking and also provide a source of income to refugees, contributing to their self-reliance.

UGANDA

Achievements and Challenges

- **On 31 May, UNHCR convened the first task-force meeting to develop the Inter Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in Uganda, on 31st May 2019.** While UNHCR already has its own internal SOPs on PSEA, the Inter Agency SOPs will facilitate joint actions by humanitarian and development agencies in Uganda, to protect beneficiaries from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and enhance the collective capacity of the agencies and affected populations to prevent and respond to SEA committed by aid workers. The SOPs are to be finalized in June 2019.
- **During the month of May, a total of 1,808 cases were handled through the Inter-Agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) Helpline. This is a 29% increase in comparison to April and the second highest number of calls received through the helpline in a calendar month.** A total of 765 referrals were made to partners and UNHCR field staff, an increase of 474 from the previous month. While an increase in total cases and referrals made was observed, a decline in the number of cases resolved was also witnessed, with 45 fewer cases being addressed than during the previous month. The decline in cases resolved is likely a result of the higher number of cases received combined with the need for an increase in human resources, in order to manage these referrals. Overall, the system continues to perform well but, greater oversight is required from partners in the field, in order to ensure that, a higher percentage of cases are resolved and that issues are addressed.

2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 35 partners across the four main countries of asylum:

Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène | African Initiatives for Relief & Development | American Refugee Committee | Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants | CARE International | Caritas | Church World Service | Community Environmental Management and Development Organization | Danish Refugee Council | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation | Good Neighbours Tanzania | Handicap International | HelpAge International | Impact Initiatives | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee | Medical Teams International | Norwegian Refugee Council | Oxfam | Plan International | Relief to Development Society | Save the Children International | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Uganda Red Cross Society | United Nations Capital Development Fund | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Population Fund | UN Women | Water Mission | Women Legal Aid Center | World Food Programme | World Health Organisation

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/afr/news/stories/2019/5/5cd2b7887/burundian-refugees-returning-home-need-urgent-support.html>

RRRP Funding Tracking for 2019:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiM2M2NDMyZTgtZmQ4OC00ZDE1LWEyYWMtMTAxZDY2NzMyY2QxliwidCI6ImU1YzZM3OTgxLTY2NjQtNDEzNC04YTBjLTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOjh9>