

# Burundi Situation

November 2019

## 329,252\*

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

## 20,916

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 409 assisted in November.

## 10,493

Total Burundian arrivals recorded in 2019. In November, 1,170 new arrivals were reported.

## 79,720

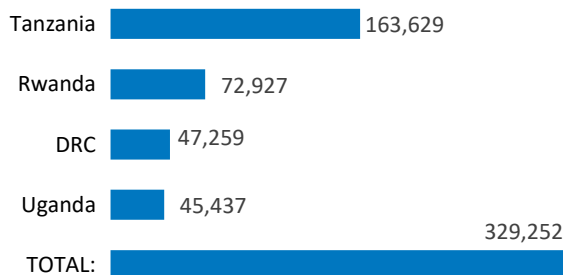
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between September 2017 and 30 November 2019, mainly from Tanzania. For more information, please check the [Voluntary Repatriation dashboard](#).

## 103,352

**Number of IDPs** in Burundi as of November 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, for 77 per cent the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, for 23 per cent they are linked to the socio-political situation.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

## Host Countries

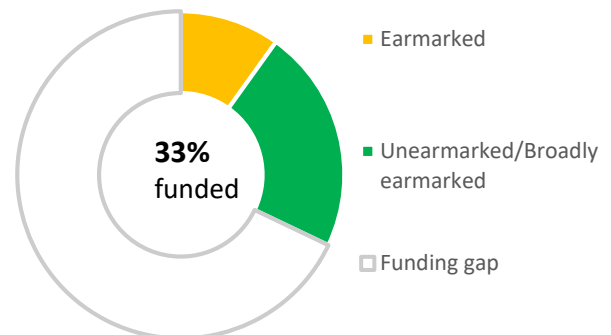


\*Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective 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 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of 30 November 2019)

## USD 292.9 million



\*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Funding Tracker

## New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of 30 Nov)
DRC	2,141	<b>2,570</b>
Rwanda	2,966	<b>2,471</b>
Tanzania	1	<b>0</b>
Uganda	2,851	<b>5,452</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>10,493</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

### 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

- On 29 November 2019, UNHCR, the Government of Burundi and the Government of Tanzania held the 21st meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam. Prior to the Tripartite, a meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Tripartite Commission took place on 27-28 November 2019.
- During the Tripartite Commission meeting, UNHCR endeavoured to address the concerns of both governments and offer constructive ideas to enhance the program, while maintaining the commitments made to respect the voluntariness of refugees returns and ensure free and unhindered access for UNHCR to persons of concern in accordance with national and international laws.
- A final Communiqué of the 21st Tripartite Commission meeting, together with the report of the TWG and the agreed upon workplan were shared at the end of proceedings.
- No return convoys have taken place since 7 November 2019.

#### 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

- Access to asylum, protection and providing refugees with opportunities of self-reliance continued to prove challenging during the reporting period. **Supporting the self-reliance of refugees has been significantly weakened** following the closure of the common markets and many refugee-run businesses. This has made it increasingly difficult for refugees to obtain diversified foods and services.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **Through funding from USAID, the National Malaria Control Program started indoor residual spraying (IRS) in Kigoma Region.** The exercise is part of an integration strategy by the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) to reduce the high prevalence of malaria in Kigoma region among the host and refugee communities. IRS is a highly effective malaria control measure which involves the spraying of residual insecticide on the interior walls of homes to kill mosquitoes.
- **A total of 2,833 refugee housing units were installed in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps, bringing RHU installation to 96 per cent of the planned target of 3,000 by year end.** The proportion of camp-based refugees living in adequate shelters now stands at 79 per cent.

### RWANDA

#### Achievements and Challenges

- As part of efforts to improve registration data and identity management by capturing biometric data of the refugees and asylum-seekers **the ongoing verification exercise in Mahama camp has reached 85 per cent of the total population** of over 60,000 refugees living in the camp.
- A total of **2,590 birth certificates have been issued to Burundian refugees** since the beginning of 2019 (180 during the month of November).
- During the reporting period, **16,975 individuals were employed or engaged in income-generating activities**, including 295 refugees employed in the Mulinga plantation near Mahama camp. In addition, 428 refugees have been provided with financial support through loans from Voluntary Savings and Lending.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest Developments

- **UNHCR and partners biometrically registered 987 Burundian asylum-seekers at Kavimvira and Sange Transit Centres (TC) in November, in addition to the 1,030 registered in October.** As of November, 2,570 new arrivals from Burundi reached the DRC in 2019 and have been transferred to Mulongwe Settlement.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **In order to assist refugees and host populations increase income generating activities and ensure peaceful coexistence, additional various activities have been launched.** 100 adolescents (84 Burundian and 14 Congolese) who are enrolled in masonry and embroidery vocational training at the Mulongwe settlement have received follow-up support by UNHCR and ADRA. This included the construction of a new fireplace for stone making and the distribution of sewing materials for clothes making.

In addition, 480 households (320 Burundian refugee households and 160 households of the host population) have received seeds and tools which will enable them to grow their own crops.

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- **The National Roadmap to implement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), foresee further inclusion of refugees in development planning and budgeting.** Currently, the next National Development Plan III (2020/21-2024/25) is being prepared at national level, whereas at district level, the planning for the next financial year is underway. In the refugee-hosting districts, development and humanitarian partners were invited to the District Budget Conferences to align District Plans and development/humanitarian interventions, with the objective to enhance joint planning and better use of resources.

### Achievements and Challenges

- Following the identification of fraud in the refugee SIM card registration process and subsequent suspension of registration of new SIM cards using refugee cards and attestation letters on 7 October 2019, **the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) issued a refugee registration interim action plan** on 12 November 2019. The interim plan allows for the manual validation process for registration of new refugee subscriptions, SIM swaps and PIN resets of existing registrations. This is part of the joint effort by UCC, OPM and UNHCR, to minimize the disruption of crucial services for refugees during the period prior to delivery of a biometric solution.
- In the capital Kampala, Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF) opened a fourth energy kiosk or 'green shop' that **provides access to clean energy solutions to refugee and host community members** including cooking baskets, charcoal briquettes and cook stoves. Training and fabrication of the items sold in the shops for income generation continued. RGF also empowered 100 women to participate in the *Run For Justice* during the launch of the 16 days of activism against gender based violence.

## 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

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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>

RRRP and JRRRP Funding Tracker: [Refugee Funding Tracker \(RFT\)](#)