

Burundi Situation

January-February 2020

337,179*

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

1,247

Burundian refugees **assisted to voluntarily return** in February 2020 – no assisted returns took place in January 2020.

2,385

Burundian arrivals since **1 January 2020**.

80,030

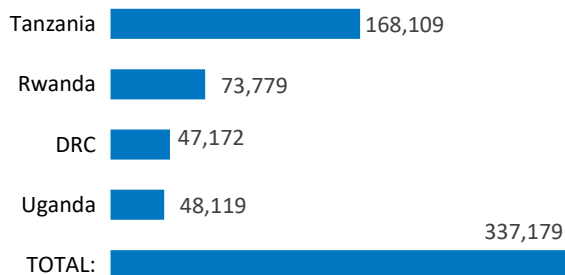
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return since September 2017.

112,522

Number of IDPs in Burundi as of January 2020 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix. For 79 per cent the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, for 21 per cent they are linked to the socio-political situation.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 29 FEBRUARY)

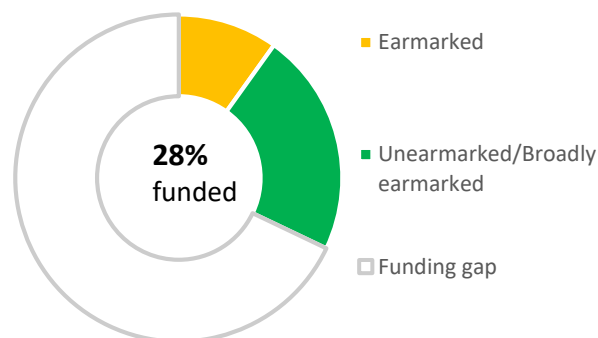
Host Countries



**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 29 FEBRUARY)

USD 292.9 million



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

New Arrivals

	In 2019 Jan to Dec	In 2020 Jan-Feb
DRC	2,725	840
Rwanda	2,706	479
Tanzania	0	0
Uganda	5,820	1,066
TOTAL	11,251	2,385

Highlights and Operational Context

- The security situation in Burundi remains unpredictable as the country prepares for general elections scheduled for May 2020. On 26 January, the CNDD-FDD ruling party announced that Evariste Ndayishimiye, a former General of the Burundian Army will be its candidate for the presidential election. This is an indication that President Pierre Nkurunziza will retire at the end of his current term as indicated. Contingency planning for the election is underway with UNHCR country operations in the region updating their plans and undertaking preparedness assessments in close consultation with UN/NGO partners and host governments.
- On 27 February, Amnesty International released a statement calling upon the Government of Burundi to drop the demand on INGOs to disclose ethnic identities of their staff. In a letter dated 13 February, the Minister of Home Affairs instructed INGOs to submit detailed and sensitive personal data on all employees by 28 February. In the case of Burundian nationals, it includes providing the ethnicity of each employee, listed by name. This measure follows the application of the 2017 law that requires foreign NGOs to recruit national staff in line with the ethnic and gender quotas laid out in Burundi's Constitution, already applicable to state institutions. The INGOs replied on 28 February to the government providing data but without disclosing any information regarding their employees' ethnicities.
- The European parliament asked members to expand punitive sanctions imposed on rights violators in Burundi, ahead of the planned election in May. On 13 February, the parliament passed a resolution condemning Bujumbura's alleged crackdown on activists and members of the opposition which it said raised concerns about the fairness of the coming election. The non-binding resolution says; "The European parliament calls for the expansion of the EU's targeted sanctions and urges the UN Security Council to impose its own targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, against individuals responsible for ongoing serious human rights violations in Burundi." It also claimed that there had been "large scale" violations of human rights and intimidation of the opposition, while journalists are arrested for doing their job.

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 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

- At the start of 2020, the countries of the Great Lakes Region were host to approximately 333,000 Burundian refugees, including over 11,000 who arrived in 2019. The situation in Burundi remains complex with some refugees returning, while others continue to seek asylum abroad. Some 21,000 refugees were assisted to return voluntarily in 2019, the vast majority from the United Republic of Tanzania. The repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania resumed on 6 February after a three month pause. As of 29 February, a total of 1,247 persons had been assisted to return to Burundi.

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).

Updates and Achievements

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- On 22 January, the Government of Tanzania lifted a ban it had imposed on UNHCR registration and protection staff. The ban effectively barred the affected staff from accessing all refugee designated areas thus preventing them from doing their work. Following weeks of negotiations with the Government, the lifting of the ban allowed the voluntary repatriation exercise, which was affected by the ban, to resume.

RWANDA

Achievements and Impact

- 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 was completed where 61,737 refugees were verified, and their data updated.
- A total of 240 birth certificates were issued to Burundian refugees in the month of January 2020.
- A total of 16,7013 individuals were employed or engaged in income-generating activities. In addition, 416 refugees have been provided with financial support through loans from Voluntary Savings and Lending Groups in order to boost their businesses.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- In January, 46 new Burundian asylum-seeker households (121 persons) were admitted in the Kavimvira Transit Center (TC). All reception structures being saturated, new arrivals were forced to wait outside the TC. Due to road conditions, the transfer of asylum-seekers and refugees to Mulongwe settlement was delayed. In January, 2,389 persons (862 households) were accommodated in Sange Assembly Point, Kavimvira TC, and Mongemonge TC, although the total capacity of the three locations is 2,100. Among them, 1,912 asylum seekers await their Refugee Status Determination (RSD).

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's partner African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) rehabilitated 1,500 shelters that were damaged by weather conditions in 2019 in Lusenda camp. Evaluations are in progress to identify additional shelters that were damaged following heavy rains and winds in the Lusenda area.
- With UNHCR's support, refugee committees on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) organized six workshops for 458 Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, to raise awareness on the prevention of SGBV and HIV/AIDS. Male participants in Mulongwe recommended that UNHCR provide

male condoms and raise awareness on the use of contraceptives and family planning. UNHCR and partners are also working on improving reporting systems for survivors of sexual violence.

- During the reporting period, ActionAid made a cash donation to the eight primary schools in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, to respond to the schools' operational needs. They also facilitated the payment of school fees for 1,741 secondary school refugee pupils for the first quarter of the 2019-2020 school year, to allow them attend classes in Lusenda and Mulongwe.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- The World Bank are in the process of finalizing the design of their Uganda Secondary School Expansion Project (USEEP) which is seeking to address the extremely low enrolment rate at secondary level; inequitable access to secondary school for girls – both refugees and Ugandans; and the lack of comprehensive education system reforms. Refugee enrollment in secondary school in 2019 stood at 15 percent. UNHCR is supporting the design with data and analysis of secondary school enrolment from the refugee settlements; infrastructural update and gaps; and have accompanied the World Bank team on scoping missions in the development of their secondary school framework.

Achievements and Impact

- In line with the continued effort to address fraud identified in refugee SIM card registration, UNHCR is supporting the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to establish a live linkage to authenticate refugee biometrics and documentation for the issuance of SIM cards. A Data Protection Impact Assessment was carried out for the initiative and the main recommendation of the assessment is the finalization of a Data Sharing Agreement between UNHCR, OPM and UCC, prior to the live launch. Meanwhile, testing is ongoing with challenges being addressed by the UNHCR headquarters development team.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with Food and Nutrition Solutions (FONUS), OPM, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), UNICEF, WFP, District Local Governments (DLGs) and partners, supported the implementation of primary data collection of the Refugee Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA). The annual periodic survey is carried out in refugee settlements and their hosting districts to estimate the situation of Food Security, Nutrition, WASH and Health. This survey will help identify priority areas and inform programming by all stakeholders for the benefit of refugees, their host communities, and the refugee population in Kampala. The 2019 FSNA round was funded by UNICEF.

2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 37 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

CONTACTS

Tina Ghelli, Senior Communications Advisor, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Nairobi - ghelli@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2224

Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi, Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Nairobi - munyao@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2305

Kabami Kalumiya, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Nairobi - kalumiya@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2350

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 \(RFT\)](#)