UNHCR Burundi Operations Review

December 2022
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL POPULATION (thousand)</td>
<td>303.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees in camps and urban areas</td>
<td>83.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum seekers</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisted returnees</td>
<td>206.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally displaced persons</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons at risk of statelessness</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics as of 30 November 2022 or latest available.
While the number of people for whom UNHCR has been entrusted with a responsibility by the international community to protect and assist in Burundi continues to increase, the UN Refugee Agency continues to face an unprecedented funding gap. As of 30 November 2022, there were 303,100 persons in need of life-saving aid, while the funding levels stood at only 38%.

**PEOPLE OF CONCERN**

**FUNDING**

- **7,631** Internally Displaced Persons are verified by IOM (DTM) covered by UNHCR’s mandate
- **791** statelessness
- **206,930** Burundian Refugees repatriated since September 2017
- **4,024** Asylum-seekers registered
- **84,241** Refugees living in camps and urban areas

**STAFFING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAFF BY CATEGORY</th>
<th>182 STAFF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STAFF BY OFFICE**

- **04 LOCATIONS**
  - Bujumbura: 75 staff, 41%
  - Makamba: 17 staff, 9%
  - Muyinga: 41 staff, 23%
  - Ruyigi: 49 staff, 27%

**GENDER BREAKDOWN**

- Female: 34%
## Operation Overview

### Summary by Donor | 2017 - 2022 | 2023-2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Funded</th>
<th>Prevision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
<td>589,667</td>
<td>825,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>696,428</td>
<td>156,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>261,643</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Emergency Response Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,527,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECHO</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>2,527,999</td>
<td>150,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>434,311</td>
<td>580,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint United Nations Programmes on HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOICA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors France</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors Hong Kong</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors Italy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors Netherlands</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors Switzerland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors Thailand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priv. Donors USA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>583,363</td>
<td>1,539,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>522,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Great Lakes Regions Cross-Border Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>169,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Peacebuilding Fund</td>
<td>933,333</td>
<td>466,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>10,142,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Diabetes Foundation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
<td>2,690,252</td>
<td>13,657,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>4,739,102</td>
<td>19,477,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>11,223,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Donor and country contributions | 2022**

![Donor logos]
BURUNDI OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Refugees and asylum seekers
as of 30 Nov 2022

Key figures

• 88,265 Refugees and asylum seekers
• 84,241 Refugees
• 4,024* Asylum seekers
• 64,424** registered by BIMS

Breakdown of refugees and asylum seekers by gender and age

- 37% Men
- 63% Women
- 27% Boys below 18 years
- 27% Girls below 18 years
- 21% Men over 18 years
- 22% Women over 18 years
- 3% are elderly

Refugees by location type

- Urban: 32,666 (37%)
- Kavumu: 17,629 (20%)
- Nyankanda: 11,009 (13%)
- Bwagiriza: 10,021 (11%)
- Musasa: 9,164 (10%)
- Kinama: 7,776 (9%)
- Grand Total: 88,265

Donor and country contributions

- United States
- Canada
- European Union

Refugees by country of origin

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): 98.7%
- Rwanda: 1.2%
- Others: 0.1%

Refugee camps and urban areas

- There are 32,666 refugees in urban areas and 55,599 in the camps.

* They are mainly in urban areas.
** More than 3/4 of the people who are not fingerprinted are children under the age of 5 (as this is not a requirement).

Sources: UNHCR
Feedback: ndamawan@unhcr.org, iradukun@unhcr.org

Creation date: 13 Dec 2022
UNHCR and partners have been facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees since 2017. These refugees have been returning after making free and informed decisions. More than 200,000 Burundian refugees had been recorded as having returned by the end of November 2022. Majority of them are from Tanzania, followed by Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and other countries in the region. These returns take place under the framework of the Tripartite Agreements between the Government of Burundi, the Governments of countries of asylum, and UNHCR, with all parties having committed to respect the voluntary nature of these returns.

Key figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>206,930</th>
<th>21,157</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>since 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in 2022 (138 convoys and flights)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown by gender and age

- 48% men
- 52% women
- 56% children

Returns by country of asylum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries of asyml</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Since 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>5,690</td>
<td>145,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>31,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. R. Congo</td>
<td>3,371</td>
<td>12,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1,255</td>
<td>3,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>9,911</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>21,157</td>
<td>206,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reintegration package (for 3 months)

- Non-Food Items
  - Basic NFI (kitchen set, soap, blankets, loincloths for women, jerrycans, buckets, mosquito nets, plastic mat, plastic sheet, flannel, travel bag, …) provided by UNHCR.
- Food assistance
  - Food rations for 3 months provided by WFP (beans, oil, corn flour, salt).
- Cash grant
  - Cash assistance provided by UNHCR through mobile cash. The equivalent of 150 USD (277,000 FBU) per adult and of 75 USD (138,500 FBU) per minor. Note that the cash grant in 2017 was 75 USD for an adult and 40 USD for a minor. In 2020, it has been increased to 150 USD for an adult and 75 USD for a minor.
- Secondary trans.
  - The returnees are transported to their return commune then the returnee covers transport to the hills.

Donor and country contributions

50,000 Individual
30,000 Individual
10,000 Individual

Note that the cash grant in 2017 was 75 USD for an adult and 40 USD for a minor. In 2020, it has been increased to 150 USD for an adult and 75 USD for a minor.
Context

UNHCR processes resettlement cases from three locations (Bujumbura, Muyinga and Ruyigi) in Burundi. The quota allocation for Burundi is 4100; USA (4,000) and Canada (100) out of 18,500 refugees identified to have resettlement needs in Burundi in 2022. A total of 3,798 refugees, representing 93% of 4,100 refugees, have been submitted for resettlement consideration in 2022, while 1037 have departed for the USA, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Norway and France in 2022.

In accordance with the objectives of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), Burundi continues efforts to broaden refugee access to solutions in third countries, by seeking complementary pathways, such as family reunification, humanitarian corridors, education and labour mobility programs.

Submission target 4,100  
Referral 3,608  
Submission 3,798  
Departures 1,229*

Submission indicator

93%
achieved so far in 2022

Submission priority

98.1%
of referral are of Normal Priority.
1.8% of Urgent and 0.1% of Emergency.

Submission criteria

- Survivors of Violence and/or Torture: 47%
- Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs: 28%
- Women and Girls at Risk: 23%
- Medical Needs: 1%
- Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions: 1%

* 1,149 Congolese, 18 Burundian and 3 Rwandan. Of these people, 17 individuals were submitted this year.

In accordance with the objectives of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), Burundi continues efforts to broaden refugee access to solutions in third countries, by seeking complementary pathways, such as family reunification, humanitarian corridors, education and labour mobility programs.
Since 2017, UNHCR has supported the voluntary repatriation of over 200,000 returnees, including 65,000 in 2021 and 16,621 in 2022. Upon arrival of returnees in their areas of return, UNHCR and its partners conduct follow-up activities to review their level of reintegration. Monitoring data indicates a low capacity of returnees to access basic social services, which makes some refugees reluctant to return. Despite efforts by the Government of Burundi with support from humanitarian and development actors, access to housing, land, and employment remains a major challenge. For example, over 70 percent of returnees are not satisfied with their level of food security. Nevertheless, there have been improvements in the security and justice sectors (land dispute resolution) compared to previous years.

### MEASURABLE RESULTS BY SECTOR

**PROTECTION**

Respondents reported that at least 72% of adults in households have national ID cards. 68% of children have received birth certificates in 2022 (48% in 2021), a significant improvement following registration outreach.

**EDUCATION**

51% of children who arrived this year, compared to 50% in 2021, are enrolled in school. This decrease is explained either by birth certificates or by the fact that some children arrived towards the end of the year (second semester).

**HEALTH**

71% of returnee households do not have a health insurance card compared to 65% in 2021. 85% of returnee children arriving in 2022 are vaccinated against measles from asylum countries. The major challenge is access to health services in the return areas.

**WATER, HYGIENE, AND SANITATION**

80% of households in 2022 reported having access to safe water. More than 50% of them find water within two kilometers. During the drought period, there is an increased need for containers to store sufficient quantities of water at the household level.

**SHELTER**

31% of returnees live in their own homes. 46% live in rented houses; 71% of this group are in the northeastern provinces (Muyinga, Kirundo, and Cankuzo). The returnee community is in great need of support in terms of shelter kits and building materials.

**FOOD SECURITY**

74% of returnee households eat only once a day. 77% of the returning households reported never having received food aid after the one they received upon arrival at the transit center.

**ACCESS TO LAND**

54% of returnees in 2022 have spent their cash allowance to buy land (fields). 69% of those who have land cannot cultivate them due to lack of seeds and farming tools.

**LIVELIHOODS**

74% of returnee households report living on less than $0.5 per day on average. 64% of returnees are employed as agricultural laborers in the host community’s fields. Many returnees living in border areas cross the border back and forth to engage in temporary labor.
Since its introduction in 2019, the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP) has brought the Government of Burundi, UNHCR, UNDP and partners together. UNHCR has indicated to donors the need for resources to support the process and urged stakeholders to amplify resource mobilization. The annual JRRRP implements the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, bringing together actors to support voluntary repatriation and build the resilience of returnees and host communities to ensure the sustainability of reintegration.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS | 2021 - 2022

SHELTER, LAND AND PROPERTY
- 2,500 construction kits distributed in 6 of the largest communes hosting returnees.
- 4,320 returnees and the local community assisted with rental support for three months.
- 1,599 households received land certificates to secure their property.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
- 228 returnees assisted with latrines and 788 households benefited from a new constructed water system.

EDUCATION
- 5,111 returnees children (2,560 girls and 2,551 boys) attended catch-up classes and returned to school.

LIVELIHOOD
- 1,787 returnees supported with the combination of financial and non-financial assets to rebuild their livelihoods.
- 1,440 households assisted to improve socio-economic resilience through a partnership with the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender.

SOCIAL COHESION
- 2,700 returnees, 4,121 host community members benefitted from community dialogues and social cohesion activities.

CASH ASSISTANCE
- $2,135,000 of cash assistance disbursed to support reintegration (benefiting 19,141 returnees).

CHALLENGES AND UNMET NEEDS

PROTECTION/DOCUMENTATION
Access to civil documentation and justice for returnees is challenging due to the weak infrastructure and limited capacity of formal and informal justice mechanisms in Burundi.

REBUILDING/LIVELIHOODS
There are gaps in support to reintegration and broader development efforts in the main areas of return, leading to low absorption capacities.

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY
Challenges remain for returnees to access housing and/or land. Limited supply of renewable household construction materials often impact the environment as well.

EDUCATION
Differences in the education systems provided in the countries of asylum cause children to drop out of school, due to educational challenges as well as administrative hurdles.

Returnees who arrive in 2022 are receiving a three-month food ration and core relief items per household, depending on the family size.

Burundi officially submitted pledges on 21 January 2022 in support of the Global Compact on Refugees, including on refugee return and sustainable reintegration.

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