

Tanzania

Reporting period: 25 September – 6 October 2017

Background

On 31 August 2017 at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the Tripartite Commission (United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR) issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a work plan from 7 September to 31 December 2017, which entails the voluntary repatriation plan of Burundian refugees who wish to return to Burundi. The voluntary repatriation operation will take place in phases.

The Tripartite Commission also acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not seeking to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection. While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, it is supporting the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.

Highlights from the Reporting Period

- Total of 1,630 individuals assisted to repatriate voluntarily
- 104 (6%) of total were persons with specific needs
- 4 return convoys (26 & 28 September and 3 & 5 October)
- Areas of return: Karuzi, Kirundo, and Ngozi provinces

Overall Return Figures and Trends

The Voluntary Repatriation Operation commenced on 7 September 2017. As at 6 October 2017, a **total of 3,296 Burundian refugees** were assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in nine return convoys.

- The highest number of returns have taken place to Makamba province (1,453 returnees)
- 78% of returnees lived in Tanzania for one year or less prior to return
- 51% of returnees are female
- 59% of returnees are children
- 10% of returnees are persons with specific needs

The tables below show the breakdown of Burundian refugee returns per convoy, destination of return, period of asylum in Tanzania, and age and sex.

Table 1: Number of Returns by Date

Date of Return	7 Sep	12 Sep	14 Sep	19 Sep	21 Sep	26 Sep	28 Sep	3 Oct	5 Oct	Total
Individuals	301	220	486	503	156	496	181	528	425	3,296

Table 2: Destination / Area of Return

Areas of return (provinces)	Individuals	%
Bujumbura	273	8%
Bururi	5	0%
Gisuru	358	11%
Karuzi	380	12%
Kirundo	425	13%
Makamba	1,453	44%
Ngozi	152	5%
Rumonge	205	6%
Ruyiga	45	1%
Total	3,296	100%

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
9	39	171	2,375	702	3,296
0%	1%	5%	72%	21%	100%

Table 4: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	366	405	191	676	47	1,685	51%
Male	405	375	193	591	47	1,611	49%
Total	771	780	384	1,267	94	3,296	100%
%	23%	24%	12%	38%	3%	100%	

Key Partners

The voluntary repatriation operation is led by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and supported by UNHCR and partners.

Table 5: Key Partners and Activities

Government	Registration, documentation and security
UNHCR	Coordination, verification of return, biometric enrolment, and documentation
DRC	Management of departure centre, accommodation, wet feeding, and distribution of high-energy biscuits provided by WFP
HelpAge	Assistance to persons with specific needs
ICRC/TRCS	Restoration of family links in Burundi
IOM	Fit-to-travel medical screening and transportation of refugees
Plan International	Child protection (unaccompanied and separated children)
WFP	Provision of food for wet feeding in departure centre, on arrival at transit centre and dry ration