

# Tanzania

Reporting period: 07 – 20 November 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

- 1,848 individuals assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi (939 females & 909 males)
- 14% of returnees were persons with specific needs
- 4 return convoys (7, 9, 14, and 16 November 2017)
- Provinces of return: Cankuzo, Karuzi, Makamba, and Rutana

## Overall Return Figures and Trends

The Voluntary Repatriation Operation commenced on 7 September 2017. As at 20 November 2017, a **total of 8,836 Burundian refugees** were assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi.

- 51% of returnees are female and 49% are male
- 57% of returnees are children
- 12% of returnees are persons with specific needs
- Highest number of returns have been to Makamba and Cankuzo provinces (1,866 and 1,438 returnees respectively)

The tables/charts below show the breakdown of Burundian refugee returns per date/month, age and sex, refugee camp, period of asylum in Tanzania, and return destination in Burundi.

**Table 1:** Number of Returns by Date/Month

Date of Return	Phase I		Phase II	Total
	September 2017 (7 convoys)	October 2017 (9 convoys)	As at 2 November 2017 (5 convoys to date)	
<b>Individuals</b>	2,344	4,541	1,951	<b>8,836</b>

**Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown**

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
<b>Female</b>	977	1,028	527	1,828	178	<b>4,538</b>	51%
<b>Male</b>	1,013	1,002	485	1,627	171	<b>4,298</b>	49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>3,455</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>8,836</b>	100%
<b>%</b>	22.5%	23%	11.5%	39.1%	3.9%	100%	

**Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees prior to Registration**

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
94	113	855	5,487	2,287	<b>8,836</b>
1%	1%	10%	62%	26%	100%

**Table 4: Provinces of Return**

Return Provinces	Individuals
Bujumbura	273
Bururi	5
Bubanza	8
Cankuzo	1,438
Cibitoke	11
Gisuru	358
Gitega	3
Karuzi	505
Kirundo	928
Makamba	1,866
Muyinga	1,378
Muramvya	20
Mwaro	2
Ngozi	152
Rutana	441
Rumonge	205
Ruyiga	1,243
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,836</b>

**Table 5: Total Departures per Camp**

Camp	Phase I % of returns	Phase II % of returns	Overall % of returns
Mtendeli	21%	40%	<b>28%</b>
Nduta	78%	56%	<b>70%</b>
Nyarugusu	1%	4%	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total returns</b>	<b>6,885</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>8,836</b>

## Key Partners

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

**Table 6: Key Partners and Activities**

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