



**BURUNDI**  
**JOINT REFUGEE RETURN  
AND REINTEGRATION PLAN**

January — December 2019

**CREDITS:**

This JRRRP is the result of multiple consultations, meetings and discussions with different humanitarian and development actors, as well as the participation of some Burundian refugee returnee families and host populations.

This is the occasion for UNHCR and UNDP to express their sincere gratitude to the other UN agencies, national and international NGOs, the international movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, civil society and the governmental departments and directorates of Burundi for their contribution to the creation of this plan.

UNHCR and UNDP wish to acknowledge the contributions of partners and staff in Burundi and in the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordination Office (RRC) - Nairobi who have participated in the preparation of the narrative, financial requirements and graphic design of this document.

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All statistics are provisional and subject to change.

For more information on the Burundi crisis go to: [data.unhcr.org/burundi](https://data.unhcr.org/burundi)

**FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH:**

Children carrying water after a water point was rehabilitated for their community through a returnee reintegration initiative in Gisuru commune IOM/ Amber Christino

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**2019 PLANNED RESPONSE**

**116,000**

PROJECTED ASSISTED & SELF-ORGANISED REFUGEE RETURNS IN 2019

**74,000**

ASSISTED & ESTIMATED SELF-ORGANISED REFUGEE RETURNS FROM 2017-18

**82,000**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN MAIN AREAS OF RETURN

**US\$ 77.9 M**

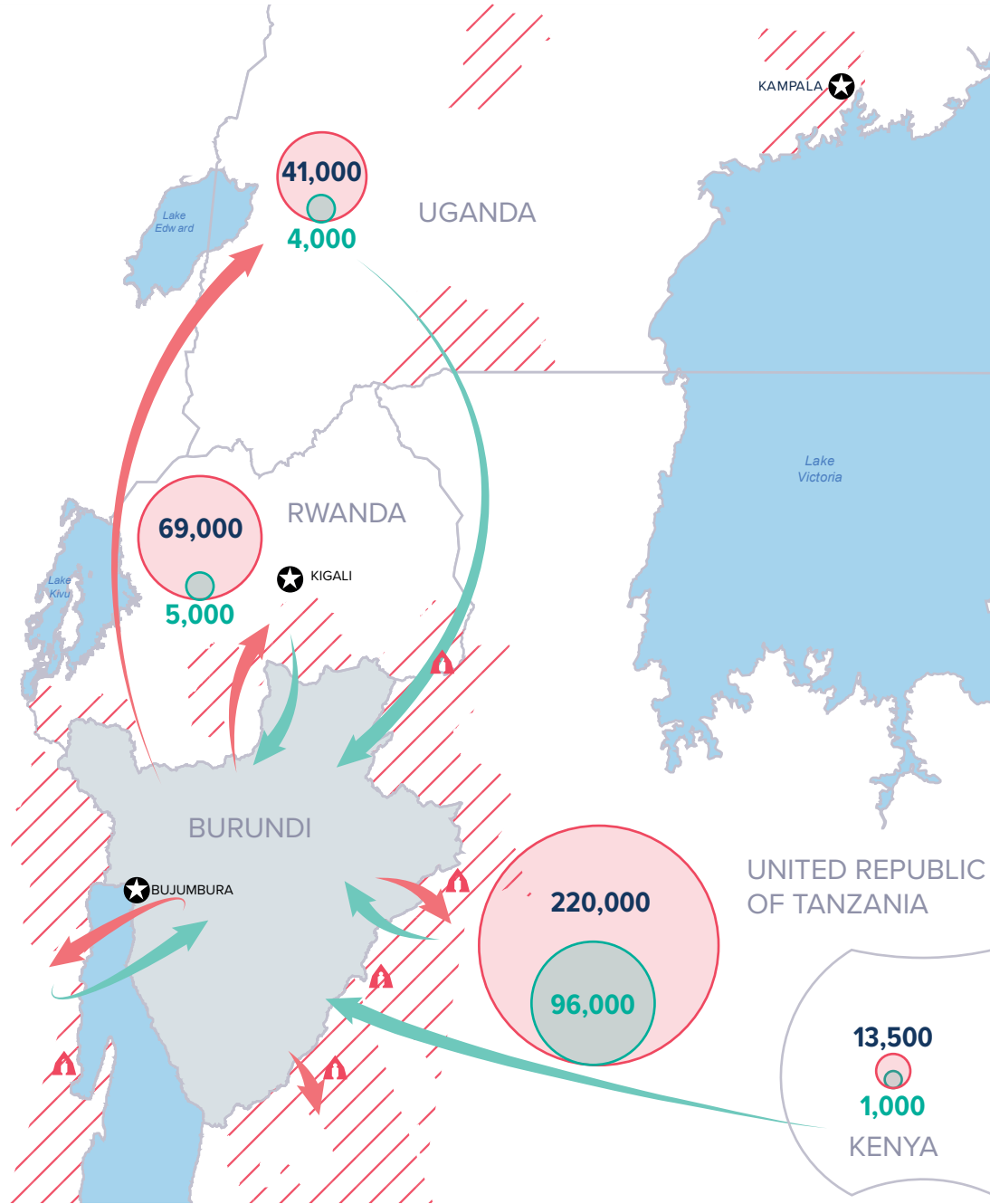
REQUIREMENTS IN 2019

**19**

PARTNERS INVOLVED

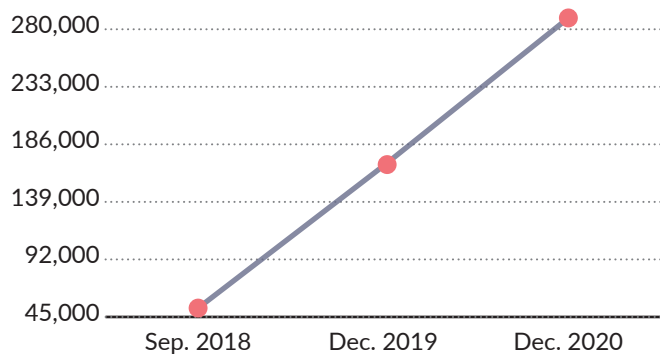


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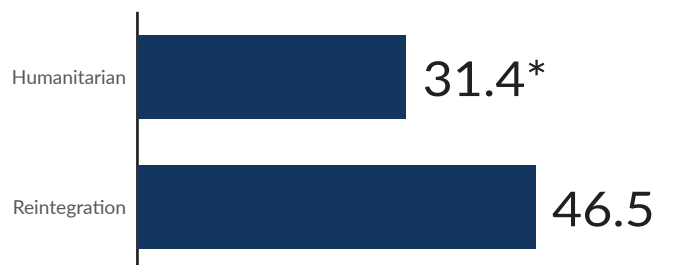


- █ Refugees and asylum seekers (end of 2018)
- █ Assisted and self-organised returns (2019 projection)
- ▲ Refugee camp
- Refugee crossing
- Refugee returning
- Refugee locations

**Returns Trends 2018 - 2020**



**Needs** in millions US\$



\* A further USD 11.1 million is included in the 2019 HRP to support refugee returns through sectoral humanitarian interventions at the community level, complementing the immediate reception support for assisted refugee returnees.

# Introduction

The 2019 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan is an integrated inter-agency response plan with both humanitarian and development-oriented components, designed to offer a safe and dignified repatriation to Burundian refugees returning from the sub region and to promote their resilience and sustainable reintegration. The stakes of achieving the aims of this inter-agency plan are high, for Burundian refugee returns and the most vulnerable community members in the main areas of return and to reinforce social cohesion, peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region as a whole.

The latest developments in Burundi in 2017 and 2018 have provided an opportunity to pursue durable solutions for some of those displaced since April 2015, including more than 77,000 Burundian refugees who were assisted to voluntarily return from Tanzania, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (with additional numbers having returned on their own from Rwanda and possibly Uganda). Burundi has accomplished some progress, notably the stabilisation of the country following the 2015 crisis and the announcement of the May 2020 election, which will give

an indication of progress. However, the socio-political and economic situation in Burundi has also continued to adversely impact the lives of Burundians, including refugee returnees who are among the most vulnerable segment of the population. The planning figure of 72,000 Burundian refugees to return in 2018, projected at the March 2018 Tripartite meeting, was not fully realised due to constraints on sending and receiving capacity as well as the impact of the temporary suspension of the voluntary repatriation exercise in October 2018.

Considering the current socio-economic and political situation, it is imperative that humanitarian and development stakeholders, both at provincial and communal levels, work jointly to support a sustainable return and reintegration process. The reintegration process should allow refugee returnees to return in safety and dignity and enjoy the same rights as other citizens. In this regard, it is fundamental that social cohesion remains central to the design of projects for refugee returnees.

# Background

While not promoting returns in the current context, UNHCR has supported Burundian refugees to exercise their right to return as long as the decision is voluntary, based on a free and informed choice, and that the returns should take place in safety and dignity.

The protracted socio-political crisis has constricted the country's economic growth. The 2015 political crisis slowed down the country's economic development trajectory, which has affected peacebuilding and social cohesion. According to the Human Development Report 2018, Burundi ranks 185 out of 189 in the Human Development Index (HDI) of 2017. Burundi's Gross

National Income (GNI) per capita decreased by about 32 percent between 1990 and 2017. Additionally, and despite the efforts of the government, the average poverty level in rural areas remains high at 72.9 per cent in 2018. Low agricultural productivity (lowest in the region) and inadequate processing and value-addition capacity combined with imbalance of trade and poor access to electricity (4 per cent) as well as aggravating climate change impacts (drought, floods, landslides and erosion) continue to slow down economic growth.

The economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture, which accounts for more than a third of the country's Gross Domestic Production (GDP). Ranked 171 out of 181 countries on resilience to natural disasters and climate change, according to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative, Burundi is highly vulnerable to external shocks such as droughts, soil erosion, landslides, floods, strong winds, torrential rains, and ensuing land disputes and conflicts. Even though the 2018 agricultural season's harvests were better than those of previous years, a

considerable number of people still face acute food insecurity even during the harvest and post-harvest periods.

Refugee returns, and further displacement, are exerting additional pressure in already extremely vulnerable and fragile Burundian communities. Most refugees have returned to the provinces of Makamba, Kirundo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Cankuzo and Rutana. These are among the poorest and chronically food and nutrition insecure provinces of Burundi, lacking social and economic infrastructure for a sustainable reintegration of refugee returnees. These are also the provinces with the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDP) and victims of natural disasters (HRP 2019) facing persistent food insecurity. The challenges faced in the areas of highest return include:

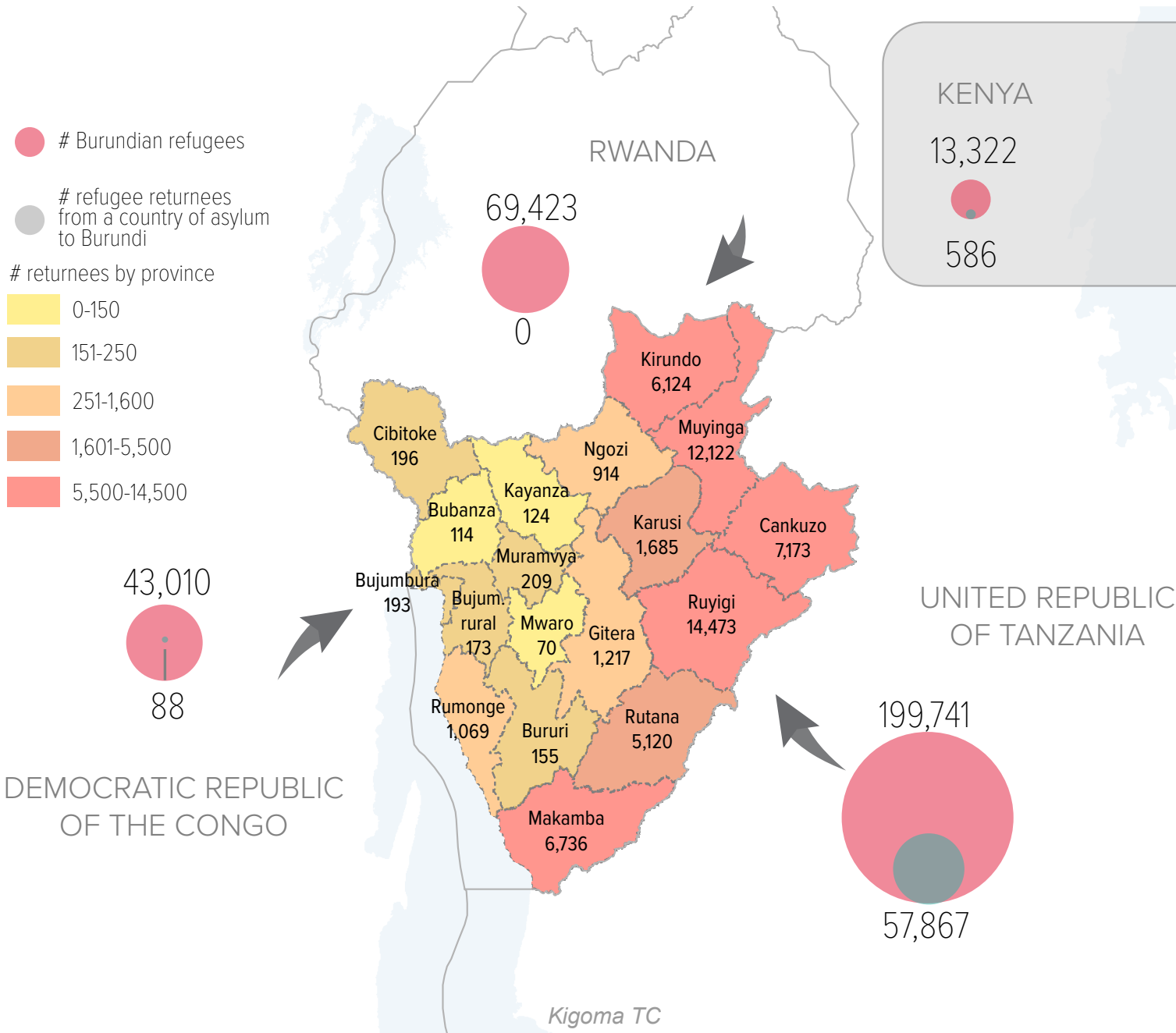
- Funding shortages;
- Insufficient coping mechanisms in the face of food insecurity;
- Inadequate income generation schemes to enable rural populations to diversify their livelihoods;

## Projected Burundian Refugee Returns

	Assisted Refugee Returns by 31 Dec. 2018	Projected Returns (Assisted and Self-Organized) by 31 Dec. 2019
DRC	88	10,000
Rwanda	-	5,000
Tanzania	57,867	96,000
Uganda	2	4,000
Kenya	586	1,000
Others	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,546</b>	<b>116,000</b>



- Scarcity of land and lack of compensation measures for expropriated families' properties;
- Concerns about a possible negative impact of elections on inter-ethnic dynamics;
- Protection concerns and needs in-transit from asylum countries;
- Challenge of tracking refugee returnees locations and determining protection and material assistance needs;
- The consequential need for a nuanced approach to inclusion within national systems for response;
- The specific needs of refugee returnee women and children;
- The need to enhance Education and WASH as primary basic services to ensure that returns are sustainable; and
- Risk of onward movements if basic services and protection are not in place at location of origin for refugee returnees.





# Scope of the JRRRP

The 2019 JRRRP is an integrated response catering for immediate humanitarian as well as longer-term resilience and reintegration needs of Burundian refugees who voluntarily repatriate from Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya, and the vulnerable communities to which they return.

The plan will target the following categories of persons:

- 190,000 refugee returnees, including:
  - A total of 74,000, including approximately 59,000 assisted returnees who returned to Burundi in 2017 and 2018 and have not received appropriate assistance for adequate reintegration; and
  - 116,000 assisted and self-organised refugee returnees projected to return from the five main countries of asylum in 2019.
- 82,000 members of host communities in the six main provinces of return (Ruyigi, Makamba, Muyinga, Kirundo, Cancuzo and Rutana) which have a high level of vulnerability (source OCHA).

Both assisted and self-organised returnees who returned to Burundi in 2017 and 2018 have been factored into the 2019 JRRRP, as they have received no or very limited reintegration support to date. The Communique adopted at the Tripartite Meeting between the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania and UNHCR in March 2018 foresaw 72,000 Burundians voluntarily repatriating from Tanzania by the end of the year. As noted previously, this figure was not fully realised due to a number of factors. By 31 December 2018, Burundi had received 58,546 assisted Burundian refugee returnees, nearly 45,000 of whom returned in 2018. This included 586 Burundian refugees assisted to return from Kenya through an airborne assisted refugee return programme, while 88 refugees were assisted to return from DRC in 2017 and 2018.

The total number of self-organized refugee returns is hard to estimate, as these returns were not facilitated by UNHCR. Approximately 8,000 were accounted for through protection monitoring in 2017. There are indications that self-organized return continued in 2018, especially from Rwanda. With this in mind, the 2019 JRRRP makes provisions for this population, as they have not received targeted assistance for reintegration.

By the end of 2018, over 391,000 Burundian refugees remain in exile in Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia. It is important to note this number includes some refugees who fled prior to April 2015. For 2019, it is expected that 116,000 Burundians could opt to voluntarily return: 96,000 from Tanzania; 10,000 from the DRC; 5,000 from Rwanda; 4,000 from Uganda and 1,000 from Kenya. Failure to adequately mobilise resources to respond to the needs of these anticipated refugee returnees will compound existing protection and reintegration challenges for those who have already returned, and could reverse the gains made thus far, including triggering movement of refugee returnees back into exile. Moreover,

should more Burundian refugees express the intention to return from DRC, Rwanda, or Uganda, the rate of return would further accelerate. This would in turn heighten the imperative of reception facilities budgeted for under this plan to be rapidly expanded and upgraded and necessitate more robust reintegration support.

Applying a short-term, purely humanitarian lens to recurrent, protracted humanitarian crises, without taking larger resilience and development issues and root causes of conflict into account, is both inefficient and ineffective. It hinders the achievement of collective outcomes in saving lives, stabilization, and early recovery, imparting resilience and creating effective prevention mechanisms in the context of coherent multi-year responses.

The international community has recognized the need to switch to comprehensive support of Burundi's reintegration process and the leveraging of synergies across the humanitarian-development-nexus. This response plan endeavours to achieve these synergies through a linkage between humanitarian and the resilience/development interventions.

## **SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN & VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION**

Voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity remains the preferred solution in the majority of refugee situations. The overriding priorities are to promote the enabling conditions for voluntary repatriation in full respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*, to ensure the exercise of a free and informed choice and to mobilize support to underpin safe and dignified repatriation. It is recognized that voluntary repatriation is not necessarily conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin, in order not to impede the exercise of the right of refugees to return to their own country. It is equally recognized that there are situations where refugees voluntarily return outside the context of formal voluntary repatriation programmes, and that this requires support. While enabling voluntary repatriation is first and foremost the responsibility of the country of origin towards its own people, the international community as a whole stands ready to provide support, including to facilitate sustainability of return.

Accordingly, without prejudice to ongoing support to host countries, this plan suggest that as a whole the international community will contribute resources and expertise to support countries of origin, upon their request, to address root causes, to remove obstacles to return, and to enable conditions favourable to voluntary repatriation. These efforts will take into account existing political and technical mechanisms for coordinating humanitarian, peacebuilding and development interventions, and be in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, anchored in the principle of leaving no one behind. In some contexts, it is useful for relevant States and UNHCR to conclude tripartite agreements to facilitate voluntary repatriation.

In addition, States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise to support countries of origin upon their request with respect to social, political, economic and legal capacity to receive and reintegrate refugee returnees, notably women, youth, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. This may include support for development, livelihood and economic opportunities and measures to address housing, land and property issues.

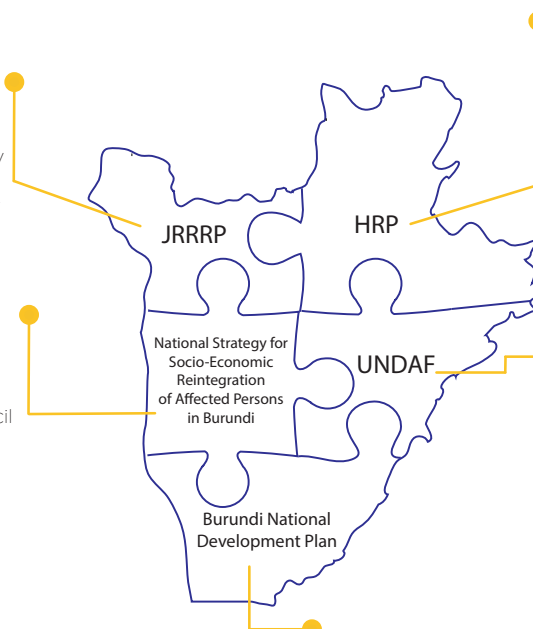
## BURUNDI: HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS 2019

### ALIGNMENT OF THE JRRRP TO OTHER PLANS

The **JRRRP** is an integrated response plan for the immediate humanitarian and longer-term resilience and reintegration needs of Burundian refugees who voluntarily repatriate from countries of asylum, as well as the vulnerable communities to which they return.

The goals underpinning the JRRRP are also fully consistent and anchored within the **National Strategy for Socio-Economic Reintegration of Affected Persons in Burundi (2017-2021)** adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2017. It pursues the following three main objectives:

- (i) to reinstate returnees and other affected persons in their communities;
- (ii) to enhance their means of economic livelihoods through access to local markets, formal and informal employment opportunities; and
- (iii) to empower them to resume their previous lives as peaceful and productive members of the community.



The JRRRP is also aligned with the overall objectives of the **Humanitarian Response Plan (2019)** to provide emergency assistance to the most vulnerable population to reduce their immediate needs and to strengthen their resilience. It targets the most vulnerable provinces with highest number of IDPs, returnees with food insecurity and victims of natural disasters, which is also the focus of the present Plan.

JRRRP conforms to the overarching objectives of the **UNDAF (2019/2023)** to ensure that no one is left behind, as the UN country operation reaffirms its joint commitments to work with and for community groups at risk of being left behind from national development processes or marginalized including, inter-alia: refugees, returnees, IDPs, vulnerable host communities and persons at risk of statelessness.

The JRRRP is aligned with the following objectives of the **National Development Plan (2018-2027)**:

- (i) legal protection of returnees in the areas of reintegration;
- (ii) strengthen security conditions in the host communities;
- (iii) support to the repatriation process

## Linking Humanitarian & Resilience Frameworks

The integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a new approach, which places durable solutions for the displaced at the centre of the development agenda. The JRRRP reflects this shift. The JRRRP is also a manifestation of the Global Compact for Refugees which explicitly calls for the mobilization of support to underpin safe and dignified repatriation, recognizing that voluntary repatriation is not necessarily conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin, in order not to impede the exercise of the right of refugees to return to their own country. The JRRRP is also an operationalization of the

'New Way of Working', which offers a concrete path to remove unnecessary barriers to humanitarian and development collaboration in order to enable meaningful and sustained progress. It emphasizes partnerships among UN agencies, international and local NGOs, private sector, civil society actors and governments.

The goals underpinning the JRRRP are fully consistent and anchored with the National Strategy for Socio-Economic Reintegration of Affected Persons in Burundi (2017-2021) adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2017.

It pursues the following three main objectives: (i) to reinstate refugee returnees and other affected persons in their communities; (ii) to enhance their means of economic livelihoods through access to local markets, formal and informal employment opportunities; and (iii) to empower them to resume their previous lives as peaceful and productive members of the community. Likewise, it is aligned with the following objectives of the National Development Plan (2018-2027): (i) legal protection of refugee returnees in the areas of reintegration (ii) strengthen security conditions in the host communities; (iii) support to the repatriation process.

In addition, the JRRRP conforms to the overarching objective of the Burundi United Nations Development Plan (UNDAF) 2019-2023 to ensure that no one is left behind. In the UNDAF, the UN Burundi country team reaffirm their joint commitment to work with and for communities and groups at risk of being left behind from the national development process or marginalized including inter-alia: refugees, refugee returnees, IDP, IDP returnees, vulnerable host communities and persons at risk of statelessness.



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During the programming phase of the UNDAF, UN agencies in Burundi explicitly committed to ensure the needs of those at risk of being left behind would be addressed through targeted intervention packages, which have the aim of ensuring their social inclusion, and strengthen their resilience. Ultimately, the goal is for each community member at risk to be able to fully realize their rights as individuals and members of Burundian society.

The JRRRP is also aligned with the overall objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan (2019) to provide emergency assistance to the most vulnerable population to reduce their immediate needs and to strengthen their resilience. It targets the most vulnerable provinces with highest number of IDPs, refugee returnees with food insecurity and victims of natural disasters, which is also the focus of the present Plan.

The JRRRP applies a whole of society and community-based approach, working with communal-level, provincial and national Government authorities and relevant line ministries of health, education, social welfare and human rights. As such, the plan is informed by day-to-day protection monitoring and participatory assessments of refugee returnees in their areas of return using an age, gender and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM) methodology.

Reintegration activities under this plan are guided by the SG's Decision on durable solutions for returning refugees. The framework provides the principles for the UN's engagement throughout the durable solutions process. It reaffirms inter-alia the state's responsibility in support of the national and local authorities, and national civil society to ensure they lead and own the process. A rights-based approach and interests of refugee returnees should be the primary consideration guiding

all policies, decisions and programmes on durable solutions pursuing the "do no harm" principle. This principle is an ethical programmatic approach endorsed by partners operating in humanitarian settings which is guided by the resolve to minimise the threat to civilians that aid may create.

The JRRRP's core rationale is to assist displacement-affected communities by strengthening their absorption capacity and resilience. A corollary objective is to reduce tensions between community members and refugee returnees and other vulnerable populations, such as IDPs, where already scarce resources are further stretched by subsequent arrivals.

The robust support of donors and other stakeholders is a pre-condition to ensure sustainable reintegration of refugee returnees who have already returned, and those who are expected to return in the coming year(s). The UN-Wide Resilience Framework for Burundi identifies addressing displacement as a priority to build resilience in Burundi.

The JRRRP also links with the Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (2019 – 2020) and the associated country Refugee Response Plans for DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, which outline the interagency response plan for the 347,000 Burundi refugees in countries of asylum at the beginning of 2019. Each RRP includes a chapter dedicated to durable solutions and anticipated refugee returns.

# Needs Analysis

During the year, refugee returnee protection monitoring showed refugee returnees were not subject to any pattern of discrimination in exercising their rights because of their status as refugee returnees. However, they have faced several socio-economic reintegration challenges which are prioritized for the 2019 response.

## Protection

Protection monitoring data indicate that: 60 per cent of refugee returnees live in totally or partially destroyed shelters; 56 per cent of repatriated households may not have access to health care; 46 per cent of repatriated households cannot afford drinking water; 87 per cent cannot afford household items; 87 per cent cannot afford clothing and 82 per cent cannot afford firewood or fuel.

“  
**18%** returnee HHS have vulnerabilities, most often chronically ill and/or disabled family members<sup>1</sup>  
 ”

### Vulnerable Refugee Returnee Women and Gender Based Violence

#### (GBV):

Given the very precarious socio-economic conditions in return areas, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to GBV. The underreporting of GBV cases is also linked to the lack of access to survivor care services in several areas of return.

While no comprehensive statistics have been compiled to show how many refugee returnee women are cumulatively impacted, several refugee returnee women reported that they are abandoned by their legal husband or the de-facto adult male member upon return to Burundi. This type of scenario exposes Burundian women to economic destitution and other multiple protection risks.

Women often lose their marital status in the country of origin or in the country of asylum. There are also cases where a man and a woman live together without a legal certificate, which is illegal in Burundi, and, as such, impedes their reintegration and protection. In such cases, should the man go in to exile and meet another woman in the country of asylum, he is likely to leave his former wife without any allowance or other commitment. In accordance to the Burundian law, there is a need to support authorities for the treatment of such cases to regularize, with the primary objective of protecting women and their families.

“  
**24%** of refugee returnees do not have access to land upon return<sup>1</sup>  
 ”

### Land access to limited number of refugee returnees:

The state of being landless with no tenancy rights leaves refugee returnees with very little reintegration prospects. According to protection monitoring data, 14 per cent of refugee returnees do not

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR return Protection Monitoring December 2018

have land and did not have land prior to seeking asylum, and another 10 per cent do not have access to land upon return despite having had access to land before fleeing Burundi, resulting in a total of 24 per cent of returnees without land following repatriation. Refugee returnees who come from provinces located close to the Tanzanian border such as Ruyigi frequently reported landlessness. Returnees are often compelled to rent property because they opt to return to areas from which they do not originate. They also live in the hope of buying land, which their economic condition does not allow them in the absence of income generating activities for their economic empowerment. The fact that they return to other areas creates obstacles with the administrative authorities who at times advise them to return to their communes of origin.

### Child Protection:

Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC): The 1,059 UASC identified require special attention, including family tracing, reunification or alternative care arrangement for children whose families have not been identified.

“  
57% of refugee returnees are children  
1,059 Unaccompanied and Separated  
children (UASC) identified require special  
attention<sup>1</sup>  
”

“  
73% of the refugee returnee children  
reportedly have no birth certificate<sup>1</sup>  
”

### Civil documentation, in particular birth certificates:

Refugee returnee children in their thousands are not issued with legal birth certificates upon their return from Tanzania and other countries. They hold a notification of birth issued by health partners in Tanzania. This birth notification does not have the same legal standing as a birth certificate under either Tanzanian or Burundian law. The absence of a recognized birth certificate may create risks of statelessness, particularly when returnee children are born out of wedlock or to parents of different nationalities. In addition, children who do not have birth certificate will face problems in accessing social services including enrolment in school and access to health services.

“  
42% of refugee returnees do not have  
access to primary school and  
72% do not have access to secondary  
school<sup>1</sup>  
”

## Education

The lack of school supplies compounded by insufficient classrooms was highlighted as a major problem by refugee returnees in their areas of return. Refugee returnee children reported that they found it particularly difficult to join part way through the academic school year, which starts in September. Returnee children often 1) have been out of school for long periods of time and return to Burundi after the academic year has commenced, 2) have insufficient French language skills to be reintegrated in the formal education system, and 3) are often required to contribute to the family's livelihood and are therefore not enrolled or able to attend school.

In addition, refugee returnee children during the most recent inter agency needs assessments reported that they were facing difficulties in accessing drinking water and facilities. Since there is little to no water in the schools,

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR return Protection Monitoring December 2018

returnees find themselves obliged to go to neighbouring households to fetch water. Teachers also mentioned that many children need special remedial courses in French before they can attain the level to resume school in Burundi. The children who did their entire prior schooling in English in Tanzania were adversely impacted. The intervention of the Ministry of Education is pivotal to overcome these important challenges to reintegration. Some schools have also expressed difficulty in assessing the equivalency proficiency attained by refugee returnee pupils during their period of exile.

“  
17% of the Burundian population are facing acute food insecurity<sup>2</sup>  
”

## Food Security & Nutrition

The recent WFP's Post Distribution Monitoring combined with UNHCR returnees monitoring has shown that the assistance provided to each household, by way of three months ration as part of the refugee returnee kit, has proven to be insufficient. The rations are often shared with family and friends in communities of return, are rapidly depleted and do not last for the intended period of three months.

<sup>2</sup> FEWS NET December 2018





This is compounded by the fact that 17 per cent of the Burundian population are facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) and need immediate assistance, as indicated by the July/September 2018 Integrated food security phase classification.

The presence of refugee returnees in provinces already affected by food insecurity has put additional pressure on available resources, which could increase risk of tension between communities if no intervention is implemented to promote reintegration by ensuring community cohesion. In addition to the fragile food security situation in the main areas of returns, the shrinking economy followed by worsening unemployment of youth and cuts in basic services are tearing down the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households in the six (6) targeted provinces (Kirundo, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Makamba, Cankuzo and Rutana). These are also provinces targeted by the 2019 HRP, for humanitarian support in 2019.

Consequently, there is a need to provide additional assistance beyond the three-months food assistance especially for refugee returnees who have no easy access to land or who arrived in the agricultural off-season. It is expected that the additional livelihood assistance may facilitate the reintegration of returnees by mitigating multiple challenges they face, especially during the lean season.



Access to water and sanitation in areas of return is also a significant challenge, especially in areas at higher risk of water borne diseases including cholera.

## Health

While most refugee returnees have reported access to health services, in some communes of return this access is constrained by a lack of medical personnel and long distances that returnees have to travel in order to reach the nearest health centre. Access to health care services is rendered at a cost for returnees and the previous social safety net for the most economically impoverished households does no longer exist.

72% of refugee returnees monitored have access to health care<sup>1</sup>

## Livelihoods

Refugee returnee households are often compelled to monetize their rations to address unmet needs such as shelter, and other expenses linked to health, education, wellbeing, or day-to-day survival. A main gap is the need of agricultural inputs and training to resume agriculture activities and to start the production of food for families' consumption needs and for the market.

The limited access to land weakens the returnee households' income generation. There is a need of diversifying sources of incomes for those households who are depending on substantial agriculture productions for survival. In addition, the provinces of return provide limited opportunities to engage in economic activities outside the agriculture sector.

93% of refugee returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers<sup>1</sup>

## Shelter

Protection monitoring in the predominant areas of return has shown that an overwhelming majority of refugee returnees found their property (land, housing etc.) either occupied, destroyed or no longer in a habitable condition. These reports have also shown that a large segment of returnees were compelled to reside with family or friends upon their return.

Particularly, refugee returnees with special needs (especially the elderly, and children) are identified at reception and transferred to return areas where they face problems accessing shelter, lack of land for cultivation, and livelihood. There is no national project to assist elderly refugee returnees and they therefore fall within the category of people most at risk of becoming homeless. In addition to the elderly and children, attention must be paid to women, especially female heads of households, unmarried, divorced or separated women, and to their specific challenges in accessing shelter and land.

49% of refugee returnees have reported that they do not have access to their old homes<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR return Protection Monitoring December 2018

# Strategy and Planned Response

## Overall strategy

This 2019 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan is an integrated inter agency response plan with both a humanitarian and development-oriented component designed to ensure a safe and dignified repatriation of Burundian refugee returnees and to promote their resilience and sustainable reintegration. The reintegration component of the 2019 JRRRP is aligned with the Burundi UNDAF 2019-2023, which aims to contribute to the strengthening of resilience and early recovery capacities of the country through the implementation of the Socio-Economic Reintegration Strategy of the Government including the promotion of durable solutions for the reintegration of returnees. In addition, within the UN-wide Resilience Framework for Burundi, it is expected that forced displacement will be minimized as social networks are strengthened and resilience capacities are enhanced through asset accumulation and risk mitigation. Therefore, the Plan operationalises both the UN-Wide Resilience Framework for Burundi and the 'New Way of Working', bridging the humanitarian-development-peace divide.

Through this plan, the humanitarian and development community, in collaboration with the Burundian authorities, will work to meet the following needs while building long-term resilience, with a particular focus given to women, children, young and marginalized people:

- Ensuring a dignified and efficient reception of refugee returnees including registration, profiling, support at the border and the transit centres, transport, as well as the provision of immediate assistance for the most vulnerable.
- Creating a safe environment and ensuring access to essential services including food, safe and adequate shelter, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education, and protection as well as critical infrastructure and income generating activities and self-reliance opportunities. This includes supporting service provision in the communities of return.
- Ensuring durable solutions for displacement-affected populations, including IDPs, in the areas of return.
- Supporting and reinforcing existing social capital assets that can facilitate mediation and conflict resolution efforts for the peaceful coexistence of communities.
- Strengthening Rule of Law and creating the conditions for safe access to justice and administrative and legal support services with a specific focus on the birth registration of children born during displacement.
- Attention to specific needs of children and adolescent girls and boys including their participation in community initiatives on peacebuilding and social cohesion.

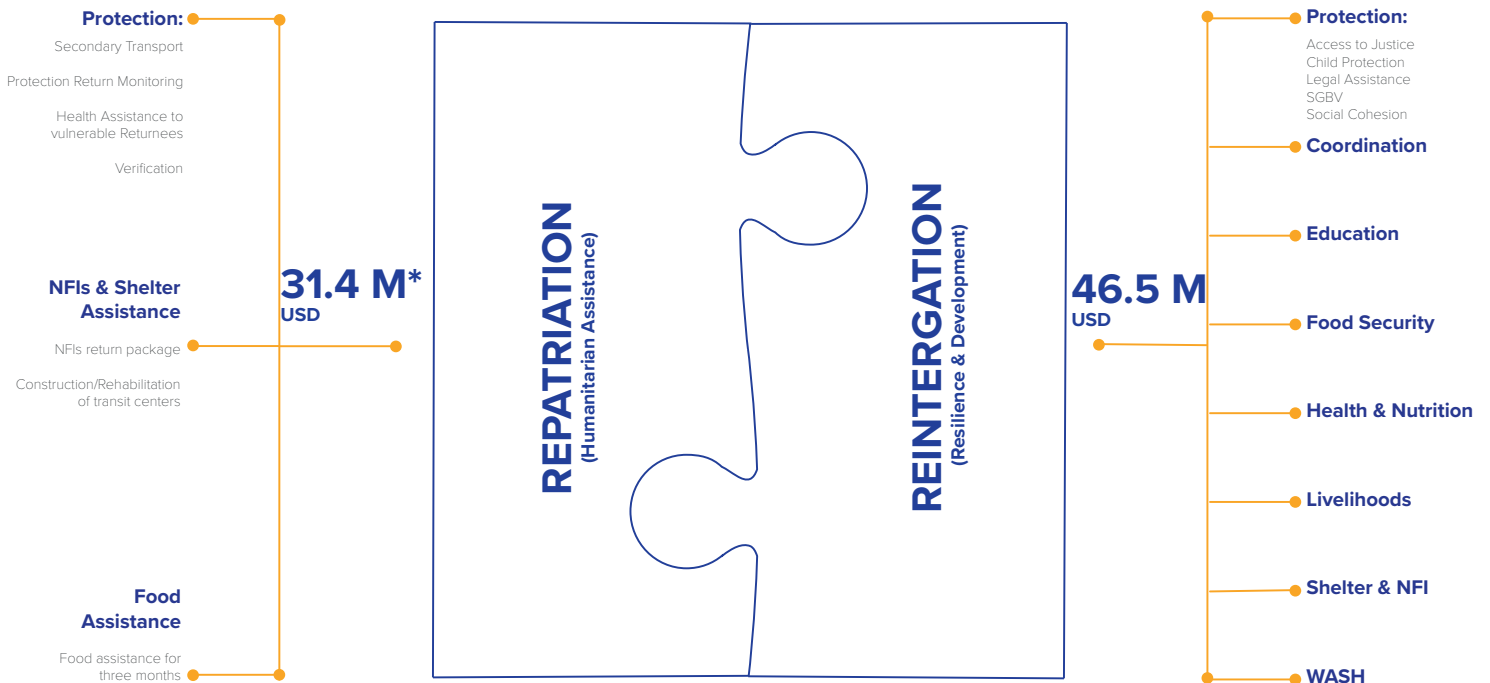
# Planned Response

The overarching objective of the JRRRP in 2019 and its budgetary requirements is to uphold the exercise of the right of return for all Burundian refugees and further their effective socio-economic reintegration and their access to basic services without facing any discrimination and in a protective environment. The planned response for 2019 will be anchored on targeted reintegration activities to be carried out in the areas of highest return.

Following an evaluation conducted in 2018, the current amount of cash given per adult and child refugee returnee has been deemed insufficient given the reintegration needs. Certain aspects of the refugee returnee kits, including basic household items, will also be monetized. Intervention will be undertaken in two realms: Return package for the first three months upon return, and a long term resilience community based support focusing on the following key areas:

## JRRRP - JOINT REFUGEE RETURN & REINTEGRATION PLAN January - December - 2019

### Financial requirements: US\$77.9 M



\* A further USD 11.1 million is included in the 2019 HRP to support refugee returns through sectoral humanitarian interventions at the community level, complementing the immediate reception support for assisted refugee returnees.

## Repatriation - Immediate intervention to address humanitarian needs

The immediate needs upon return (first three months package) are integrated into the Burundi 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. Under the lead of UNHCR, all actors will contribute to the rehabilitation of transit centres including the construction of a new centre to increase the absorption capacity. JRRRP partners in charge of logistics will provide refugee returnees with secondary transport from the transit centres to their area of origin to ensure that they reach their home area safely, as well as provide a refugee returnee kit to each household, which includes three months ration, a cash grant and NFIs. Where needed, refugee returnees will be supported to access the necessary civil documentation that may have been destroyed or lost during flight and asylum. Partners will undertake protection monitoring for refugee returns, identifying vulnerable refugee returnees and providing relevant protection support and referrals for vulnerable children, SGBV survivors and other returnees with specific protection needs. Additional activities in the 2019 HRP totalling the amount of US\$ 11,113,1933 will be implemented through sectoral interventions at community level targeting vulnerabilities in the areas of return, complementing the immediate reception interventions for returnees upon arrival.

## Reintegration - Resilience and Development

In addition to responding to the refugee returnees' immediate humanitarian needs, JRRRP partners will also undertake activities to ensure the reintegration and resilience of refugee returnees and communities to which they return.

REPATRIATION - Humanitarian needs				
	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Ensure repatriation is carried out respecting the safety and dignity of the refugee returnees ensuring that basic needs				
1.	Reception of refugee returnees in transit centers	UNHCR	116,000 refugee returnees	500,000
2.	Secondary transportation	UNHCR		7,350,000
3.	Documentation and verification	UNHCR		768,000
4.	Immediate assistance to vulnerable people	UNHCR		290,000
5.	Return protection monitoring	UNHCR		1,318,656
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Ensure refugee returnees receive appropriate assistance at arrival and for the first three months				
1.	Food assistance for three months	WFP	116,000 refugee returnees	5,533,200
2.	Provision of protection package (NFI and cash support for three months)	UNHCR		15,648,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>31,407,856<sup>4</sup></b>

<sup>3</sup> The clusters response for refugee returnees is articulated as follows (US\$): Shelters/NFIs 972,789; Education 372,243; WASH 762,934; Protection 2, 725,344; Health 2,203,384 and Food Security 4, 076,502

\* A further USD 11.1 million is included in the 2019 HRP to support refugee returns through sectoral humanitarian interventions at the community level, complementing the immediate reception support for assisted refugee returnees.

Protection activities will include providing legal aid to refugee returnees, strengthening the paralegals network to enhance access to legal and administrative services, supporting existing community participation mechanisms and training police and other law enforcement officials to ensure protection-sensitive border management.

JRRRP partners will strengthen the quality and accessibility of services for sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) survivors, as well as undertake prevention campaigns. Child protection will be enhanced through community follow up and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children, reintegration support for vulnerable children and monitoring and reporting on violations against children. Partners will also continue social cohesion and peace building projects, including peace clubs, trainings and dialogue sessions.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, JRRRP partners will ensure the reintegration of refugee returnee children into primary, secondary and tertiary education through catch up sessions, the adequate provision of schools and school feeding programmes to encourage attendance.

Food security, health and nutrition interventions will focus on the needs in areas of return both refugee returnees and the receiving communities. JRRRP partners will provide health and nutrition support in areas of return, including immunisation and screening, nutrition education campaigns, school meals programmes, expansion of malnutrition treatment programmes and Blanket Supplementary Feeding for children under two years old, pregnant women and lactating mothers for undernutrition prevention for around 200,000 individuals.

Livelihoods programming is key to reintegration and resilience building and will include micro-finance schemes and income-generating projects, including food-for-work, cash-for-work programmes, and small-business schemes; community driven development through empowerment projects aimed at strengthening capacity, assets and technical services that are sustainable without external assistance.

Vocational/business training for employment, agricultural production and animal husbandry, and social and environmental impact mitigation, including the inclusion of the reintegration response into local risk prevention and disaster preparedness strategies and contingency plans. Given not all returnees have access to land, the response will include non-farm income generating activities outside the agricultural structure.

JRRRP partners will provide dignified shelter and housing assistance and ensure environment protection, land and natural resource management and the provision of water and sanitation in areas of return.

**REINTEGRATION- Resilience & Development****Education**

	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Ensure access to quality education				
1.	Construction/rehabilitation of schools and classrooms	UNICEF, JRS	22,000 refugee returnee; 40,700 host community	1,100,000
2.	Provision of training and school materials	UNICEF, JRS		1,300,000
3.	Support school feeding	WFP, JRS		3,780,000
4.	Establish learning programs for out of school children	UNICEF, JRS		400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>6,580,000</b>

**Food Security**

	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Facilitate agricultural inputs and trainings to improve food security				
1.	Provision of agricultural kits and tools	FAO, JRS	90,100 refugee returnees, 86,000 host community	1,450,000
2.	Support Income Generating Activities (IGAs)	FAO		650,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,100,000</b>

**Livelihoods**

	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Strengthen household livelihood strategies to support household self-reliance				
1.	Support households through Quick Impact Project, cash assistance and IGAs	CARE Burundi, DRC, IOM, IRC, JRS, UNDP, WFP	116,000 refugee returnees, 86,000 host community	14,522,300
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>14,522,300</b>

**Health & Nutrition**

	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Improve access to quality health and nutrition services				
1.	Ensure availability of medical staff, supplies and case management	WHO, UNICEF	116,000 refugee returnees, 86,000 host community	2,930,000
2.	Strengthen surveillance and referral systems	WHO		820,000
3.	Establish blanket and supplementary feeding programmes in targeted areas	UN Women, UNICEF, WFP		1,539,000
4.	Ensure screening and follow up of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)	WFP, UNICEF, WHO		2,174,000
5.	Ensure availability of screening, counselling and treatment of HIV/AIDS	UNAIDS		200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>7,663,000</b>

Protection				
	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Ensure population in target areas has access to justice and legal support				
1.	Reinforce the capacity, accountability and knowledge of justice actors	UN Women, UNDP	About 550 magistrates, lawyers and paralegals	680,000
2.	Ensure availability of lawyers, legal aid support and paralegal systems	UNDP,	about 2,000 individuals among refugee returnees and host community members	1,204,000
3.	Support refugee returnees to obtain documentation on land and/or house property titles	IOM, UNDP	about 2,600 refugee returnees	340,000
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Strengthen the existing referral pathways for SGBV with the aim of ensuring their full enjoyment of rights, reduction of risks and reinforced multi-sectoral response				
1.	Support to health center and SGBV services including through specialized organization	UNFPA, UN Women	14 among health centers and organizations	700,000
2.	Distribution of dignity kits	UNFPA, UN Women	7,000 refugee returnees and host community members	200,000
3.	Conduct raising awareness, prevention campaigns and training on SGBV	JRS, UN Women		1,630,000
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Provide children with adequate child protection services, including documentation and family reunification				
1.	Provision of birth certificates and other legal documents	IRC, JRS, UNICEF	200,000 children	2,350,000
2.	Provision of adequate child protection services, including family reunification	IRC, JRS	7,000 children	750,000
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Reinforce social cohesion, peaceful cohabitation, gender and human rights relations, and participatory community development				
1.	Promote dialogue, peace and social cohesion	IOM, UN Women, UNDP	20,000 among refugee returnees and host community	675,000
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Improve border monitoring				
1.	Border Monitoring	IOM	1,000 beneficiaries	90,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>8,619,000</b>
Shelter				
	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Ensure vulnerable populations have dignified shelters				
1.	Provision of emergency shelter and rental support	IOM	about 21,000 beneficiaries	4,203,727
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>4,203,727</b>



WASH				
	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	POPULATION TARGET	BUDGET (\$USD)
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Ensure population of concern has access to clean and potable water and adequate sanitation facilities				
1.	Provision of potable water and hygiene promotion	IRC, UNICEF	200,000	2,200,000
2.	Construction and rehabilitation of latrines	IOM	60 Households per month	568,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,768,000</b>

## Partnership and Coordination

The 2019 JRRRP brings together 19 partners in Burundi and includes Government ministries, UN agencies and NGOs, notably the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Youth, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, UN Women, WFP, WHO, UNAIDS, IOM, CARE, DRC, IRC and JRS. The General Director for the Repatriation, Reintegration and Reinstallation of the Ministry of Interior manages the coordination of refugee returns with the support of UNDP (as the lead for reintegration) and UNHCR (as the lead for repatriation) and the remaining JRRRP partners.

As highlighted in the 'Linking Humanitarian and Resilience Frameworks' section earlier, the 2019 JRRRP is closely linked to existing humanitarian and development plans, including the National Development Plan, the UNDAF, the HRP and the Burundi Regional RRP, and capitalises on existing coordination mechanisms and monitoring systems to ensure an integrated and comprehensive reintegration response.

The integrated nature of the Plan and the complexities of the proposed actions require a strong coordination mechanism. Partners engaged in the same sectors are expected to develop joint programming and planning, coordinate activities within the same sectors and eventually – though not mandatory - develop joint programmes.



# Financial Requirements

## By Organization

ORGANIZATION	HUMANITARIAN NEEDS	REINTEGRATION NEEDS	TOTAL
CARE Burundi		300,000	300,000
DRC		540,000	540,000
FAO		1,800,000	1,800,000
IOM		7,181,727	7,181,727
IRC		5,860,000	5,860,000
JRS		4,520,000	4,520,000
UN Women		1,105,000	1,105,000
UNAIDS		200,000	200,000
UNDP		5,191,300	5,191,300
UNFPA		1,000,000	1,000,000
UNHCR	25,874,656		25,874,656
UNICEF		7,208,000	7,208,000
WFP	5,533,200	7,480,000	13,013,200
WHO		4,070,000	4,070,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,407,856<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>46,456,027</b>	<b>77,863,883</b>

## By Sectors

SECTOR	HUMANITARIAN NEEDS	REINTEGRATION NEEDS	TOTAL
PROTECTION	9,726,656	8,619,000	18,345,656
EDUCATION		6,580,000	6,580,000
FOOD SECURITY	5,533,200	2,100,000	7,633,200
HEALTH & NUTRITION		7,663,000	7,663,000
LIVELIHOODS		14,522,300	14,522,300
SHELTER & NFIs	16,148,000	4,203,727	20,351,727
WASH		2,768,000	2,768,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,407,856<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>46,456,027</b>	<b>77,863,883</b>

\* A further USD 11.1 million is included in the 2019 HRP to support refugee returns through sectoral humanitarian interventions at the community level, complementing the immediate reception support for assisted refugee returnees.

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