

BURUNDI - Regional Refugee Response Plan 2021 Year End Report



Burundian refugee and her nine children wait for the results of their COVID-19 test results In Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Uganda. ©DRC/Yonna Tukundane

REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

The 2021 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) included an appeal for US\$ 222.6 million for 36 partners to meet the critical needs of Burundian refugees in the four main countries of asylum and it outlined the response in Burundi for returning refugees, as articulated in the 2021 Burundi Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP).

The relative stabilization in Burundi since the 2015 crisis and the mostly peaceful political transition in May 2020 offered new perspectives for solutions to this protracted refugee situation and triggered increased interest of Burundian refugees to return home. In 2021, a total of 63,573 Burundian refugees were assisted to voluntarily return to Burundi. This included 7,329 Burundian returnees from the DRC, 21,877 Burundians from Rwanda, 30,061 from Tanzania, and 4,306 from Uganda. In addition, hundreds of Burundian refugees, mainly from Uganda, undertook self-organized returns.

In 2021, Burundian refugees continued to face multiple protection risks, in particular gender-based violence (GBV) including survival sex and early marriages as a result of limited access to livelihoods, school closures, overcrowded shelters, lack of domestic energy supply and reduced humanitarian assistance. Refugee children (over 50 per cent of the refugee population) were exposed to particular risks. The situation of unaccompanied and separated children was particularly concerning, as many suffered neglect and adolescents have increasingly resorted to negative coping mechanisms.

The fact that the RRRP remained severely underfunded, with only 34 per cent of the required resources received, led to acute gaps in various sectors including food, shelter, health, WASH and Livelihoods. The majority of refugees relied on

2021 RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

265,000
BURUNDIAN REFUGEES AS
OF 31 DECEMBER 2021



USD 74.6M

FUNDING RECEIVED BY DEC 2021,
REPRESENTING 34% OF REQUIREMENTS

595
NEW BURUNDIAN REFUGEE
ARRIVALS IN 2021

63,573
BURUNDIAN REFUGEES ASSISTED TO
VOLUNTARILY RETURN IN 2021

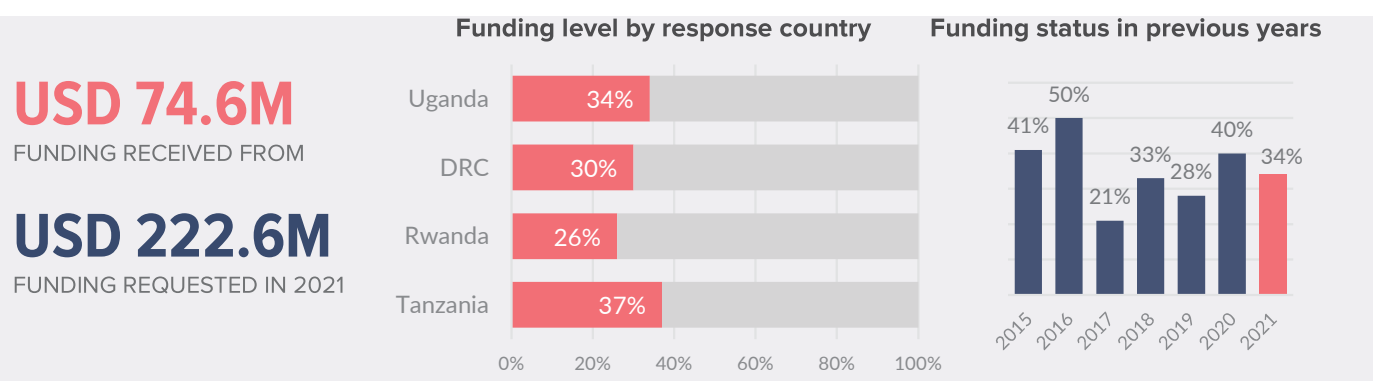
36
UN, INTERNATIONAL NGO AND
NATIONAL NGO PARTNERS INVOLVED

REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW CONTINUED

humanitarian assistance for survival. The COVID-19 pandemic further compounded the situation. In Tanzania, the lack of nationwide measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the health and safety of refugees during repatriations.

RRP partners also faced enormous challenges in stabilizing existing programmes and in meeting the minimum standards of service provision, let alone investing in long-term and more sustainable interventions. Notably, serious underfunding compromised the quality of child protection and education, and the capacity to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and ensure an effective GBV prevention and response.

In the **DRC**, as a result of the underfunding of the RRP, refugees faced food ration cuts, inadequate shelters, lack of medicines, deficient WASH infrastructure and inadequate livelihoods. RRP partners nevertheless made efforts to safeguard the well-being of Burundian refugees in South Kivu and continued to advocate for the improvement of the protection environment in the country.



In **Rwanda**, regular coordination meetings with partners were held through online platforms. Processing and provision of civil documentation continued well despite low funding. In Mahama refugee camp, local authorities issued 5,653 new refugee identity cards and 2,393 birth certificates.

In **Uganda**, the serious funding constraints threatened to undermine the inclusive approach towards refugees. Tensions between refugee and host communities were reported to be on the rise because in the resource-constrained context, life-saving activities had been prioritized over conflict prevention. Some roads were not repaired or maintained impacting access to the settlements and livelihood activities.

Despite these challenges, RRP partners promoted inclusive protection and solutions approaches by advocating for refugee integration into national systems. The DRC, Rwanda and Uganda made progress in implementing the Global Compact on Refugees. Rwanda developed a road map for the implementation of 17 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges. Uganda continued to implement progressive refugee policies, including freedom of movement, right to work and establish a business, and access Government services such as education and healthcare, in addition to land for housing and cultivation. In line with GCR/CRRF objectives, RRP partners supported Government policies to protect the asylum space; promoted refugee inclusion, resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities; and expanded solutions. Refugees were integrated in Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) III (2020/21-2024/25). A sectoral response plan for jobs and livelihood was launched and RRP partners supported the Government of Uganda to develop a Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP).

In **Tanzania**, however, the protection environment remained restrictive, with denial of access of Burundian asylum-seekers to the asylum system, multiple reports of refoulement, strict enforcement of the encampment policy and very limited livelihood and self-reliance initiatives. RRP partner's access to border areas continued to be restricted which led to difficulty in verifying available reception systems for new asylum-seekers.

BURUNDIAN REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

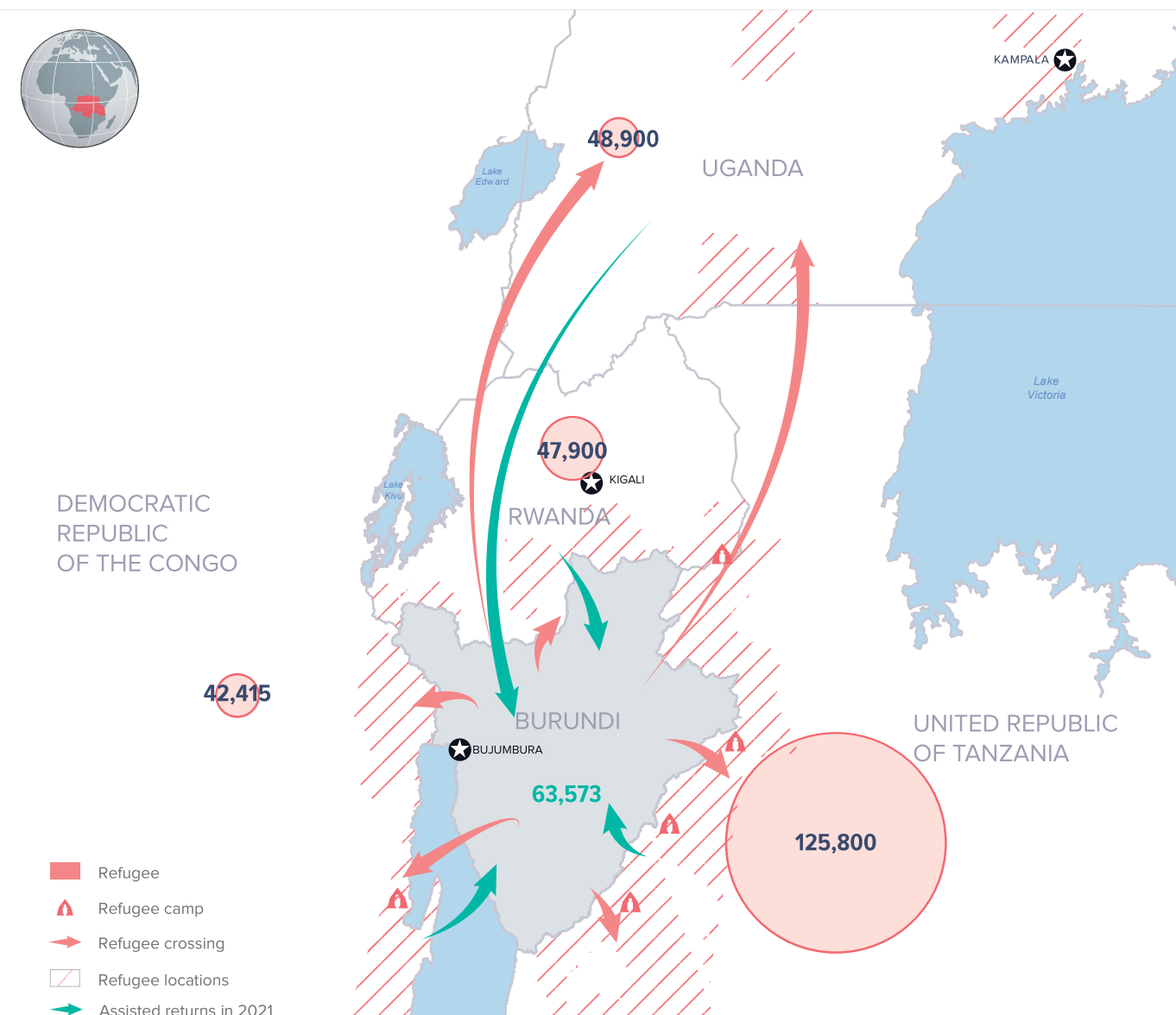
Despite heightened tensions in Burundi during the May 2020 elections, there was no major forced displacement inside **Burundi** or across borders. The new Government of Burundi urged refugees who had fled the country, including government critics and human rights activists, to return home. As of 31 December 2021, some 265,000 Burundian refugees remained in the four main asylum countries, with 42,145 refugees in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, some 47,900 in **Rwanda**, 125,800 in **Tanzania** and 48,900 in **Uganda**.

DRC: By the end of 2021, a total of 41,031 Burundian refugees and 1,114 asylum-seekers were hosted in the country. About 96% of them were residing in the province of South Kivu, where the Lusenda and Mulongwe settlements are located. Access to these settlements remained extremely challenging due to bad road conditions. This affected the socio-economic wellbeing of refugees and their host communities.

Rwanda: As of 31 December 2021, Rwanda hosted some 47,500 Burundian refugees with 37,536 living in Mahama camp and the remaining in urban areas including Kigali, Bugesera and Huye Districts.

Tanzania: As of 31 December 2021, Tanzania hosted 125,800 Burundian refugees in the two camps – Nduta and Nyarugusu following a camp consolidation exercise and the closure of Mtendeli camp in December 2021. There remained an accumulated backlog of over 12,000 applications from Burundian asylum-seekers pending refugee status determination by the National Eligibility Committee.

2021 Monthly Arrival and Return Trends





99.9%

Burundian refugees **individually registered** in the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda



2,708

identified **GBV survivors assisted with appropriate support** (99.9% against a target of 100%)



1,877

Burundian refugee children with specific needs received **individual case management** (68%, against a target of 70%)



22,161

refugee children enrolled in **Early Childhood Development programmes** in the DRC, Rwanda & Tanzania (76%, against a target of 60%), however the enrolment remains below the target in Uganda (39%)



59,940

refugee children enrolled in **primary school** (gross enrolment of 100% up from 97% in 2020)



11,738

refugee children enrolled in **secondary school** (gross enrolment of 47%, against a target of 38%), however the enrolment remains below the target in Uganda (17%)



236,900

Burundian refugees received **food assistance** in 2021 (99% of those in need of food assistance) though only 27% received full recommended rations



16,501

refugee women **delivered babies with assistance** from qualified health personnel (97%, against a target of 94%)

Uganda: As of 31 December 2021, Uganda hosted some 48,000 Burundian refugees. Most of them lived in settlements in South-Western Uganda, mainly in the districts of Isingiro and in Kampala. New Burundian asylum-seekers arrived and were given access to RSD procedures.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

PROTECTION

Despite the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian actors throughout the region continued to provide protection and assistance to Burundian refugees. Advocacy efforts with multiple stakeholders were scaled up in some countries with the aim of improving refugee protection spaces.

In the **DRC**, a total of 40,762 Burundian refugees, 114 asylum-seekers and 3,107 newborns were biometrically registered in 2021. Provision of materials to civil registration services in Uvira and Fizi facilitated the issuance of 1,134 birth certificates, 176 death certificates and 72 marriage certificates to Burundian refugees. A total of 7,296 Burundian refugees residing in South Kivu voluntarily repatriated to Burundi by the end of 2021. RRP partners recorded 146 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) at the Lusenda camp, Mulongwe settlement, Mongemonge transit centre and Kavimvira transit centre. All GBV survivors received psychosocial support, 38 of them were provided with medical treatment and 84 GBV survivors were referred to legal advice and support services. RRP partners also enhanced the protection of refugee children in refugee settlements and transit centres through individual case management, best interest determination and family tracing. 140 children with specific protection risks were identified and offered specific assistance.

In **Rwanda**, two accommodation centres were used for Burundian refugees: one as a departure centre as part of the voluntary return programme, and Gatore Reception Centre as a transit site for refugees transiting spontaneously from Uganda before departing to Burundi. To a large extent, refugees' rights were respected across the country. RRP partners continued their advocacy to enhance refugees' access to legal assistance. In the area of child protection, caseworkers responded to 64 child protection cases and provided children with adequate support. 16 different community structures and committees contributed to prevent and respond to child protection issues. RRP partners conducted trainings for 84 partners and government staff on child protection and children rights. 280 best interest determination (BIA/BID) were completed, and 14 Child Friendly and Youth Friendly spaces were opened for children/youth to use and play. As regards GBV prevention, RRP partners used digital platforms to disseminate awareness messages.

In **Tanzania**, training activities targeting government officials were conducted in areas hosting large refugee populations to strengthen officials' understanding of refugee issues and enhance the protection space. RRP partners also conducted targeted advocacy campaigns by involving stakeholders in the judiciary, diverse government entities, human rights organizations, and the academia. The deployment of an entirely new police contingent in the camps in August 2021 improved the security situation for refugees. This also significantly reduced the number of refugees disappearing from the camps as had been the case in 2019 and 2020. Following the resumption of birth registration in September 2021, a total of 22,349 birth certificates were issued to Burundian refugee children. Between July and December 2021, 23,494 Burundian refugees from Mtendeli camp were relocated to Nduta as part of camp consolidation efforts for more efficient response as voluntary repatriation has reduced overall numbers.

In **Uganda**, despite border closures in the context of COVID-19 restrictions, 606 Burundian newly arrived asylum-seekers were able to access RSD procedures in 2021. Dwindling humanitarian funding, food ration cuts and limited livelihood opportunities exacerbated inequalities and heightened protection risks. During the extensive school closures due to the pandemic, GBV cases increased to 31.4% boys were reported to have been engaged in child labour exposing them to risky practices including sexual exploitation, whereas girls faced increased risks such as child marriage and teenage pregnancy. By the end of 2021, a total of 28,665 refugees in the country including 11,255 females (39.26%) were involved in various Community Based Protection (CBP) structures across the operation. This helped to foster inclusion of refugees into national social services. In addition, a network of over 1,700 community members were trained and enrolled into Child Protection Committees (CPCs) which were used to identify child protection cases, provide basic psychosocial support, and address negative cultural practices within the community. As a result, 138,131 children between 4 and 17 years old and 69,409 adolescents benefitted from community-based child protection interventions including mobile psycho-social support and outdoor recreational activities.

EDUCATION

Despite COVID-19 restrictions during the year, partners worked towards increasing school enrolment and sustaining school attendance among Burundian refugees. Although all operations faced funding constrains, RRP partners ensured that school enrolment and school attendance were prioritised in all locations.

In the **DRC**, a total of 10,419 refugee children attended public primary and secondary schools, and 1,823 children were enrolled in pre-school education in Lusenda camp



22,265

refugees received **productive assets, training** and / or **business support** in the DRC, Rwanda & Tanzania (20% of refugees 18 - 59 years, against a target of 15%), however the training access remains below the target in Tanzania (8%)



2,987

refugees **employed or self-employed** in the DRC, Rwanda & Tanzania (2.65% of refugees 18 - 59 years, against a target of 18%)



39,638

refugee households live in **semi-permanent shelter** in Rwanda, Tanzania & DRC (65% of total refugees households, against a target of 98%)



36,959

refugee households have a **household latrine** (Rwanda excluded) (58%, against a target of 75%), however the household latrine access remains below the target in the DRC (41%)



25 L

regional average **litres of water per person per day** (against a target and standard of 20 L), however water access remains below the target in the DRC (12.8 L) and Uganda (17.3 L)



14,786

refugee households in Rwanda & Uganda have **energy saving stoves** (42% against a target of 52%), however the access remains below the target in Uganda (22%)



Staff conduct biometric verification on Burundian refugees being moved from Mtendeli camp to Nduta camp during a camp consolidation exercise by UNHCR and the Tanzanian government. © Magdalena Kasubi

and Mulongwe settlement. RRP partners supported 7,867 primary school children with cash assistance that covered fees, exams, school kits and uniforms. However, 2558 school-aged Burundian refugees (19 per cent of school-aged children), mainly those living in the transit centers, were not able to attend primary and secondary education. RRP partners supported teachers and education activities in 8 schools in Lusenda and Mulongwe permanent settlements.

In **Rwanda**, all refugee children were enrolled in national schooling systems in line with the Government's CRRF commitments. 3,477 children were enrolled for Early Childhood Education (69 per cent of pre-school aged children), 8,571 attended primary schools (95 per cent of all primary school aged children) and 2,995 children (36 per cent of secondary school aged children) went to secondary schools. Resource constraints limited possibilities to fully address educational needs of refugees and host communities.

Many of the refugee hosting secondary schools lack the required infrastructure such as science and ICT laboratories. Opportunities to pursue higher learning through distance, online and part-time modalities are limited due to shortage of ICT facilities in the camp. With the pledge of "better quality education" that Rwanda made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), it is expected that some of the challenges will be addressed in the coming years.

In **Tanzania**, 61,027 Burundian refugee children were enrolled in schools: 15,347 children (85 per cent) for early childhood learning, 38,558 children (93 per cent) for primary education and 7,122 children (60 per cent) in secondary schools. Moreover, RRP partners supported 102 Burundian refugees to pursue studies at universities and TVET centres through diverse scholarships. RRP partners also distributed 12,199 radios among students and teachers in refugee households for distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. 710 teaching and non-teaching staff were trained in child protection, PSEA and prevention of GBV. RRP partners continued to coordinate with the National Examination Council to administer special equivalence exams for Burundian refugees.



A 16 years old Burundian refugee in DR-Congo, received a scholarship thanks to UNHCR and its banking partners, which allowed her to resume her life and her dreams following her flight. © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

In **Uganda**, the education sector focused on the vaccination of all teachers, recruitment of more teachers to implement a double shift school system and construction of temporary semi-permanent structures. 91 per cent of teachers were vaccinated. Efforts were made to provide hygiene materials and orient teachers in a health surveillance system for the reopening of schools. Primary and secondary schools across the country were only open from January to April 2021. No data on enrolment was collected, as only those who had national exams resumed classes. Across all population groups, 9 per cent of female learners were enrolled in secondary schools compared to 85 per cent enrolled in primary schools. About 21 per cent male learners were enrolled in primary schools compared to 82 per cent of male learners. This was attributed to limited availability of secondary schools within the settlements. By the end of the year, 57 per cent of the needed 787 classrooms were made ready to welcome children back to school after prolonged stay at home. A total of 190,238 learners were reached through remote learning approaches during the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures. RRP partners creatively engaged teachers during school closures and supported them in setting up cooperative learning groups for safe learning in small groups. Teachers also served on the frontline delivering classes, providing psycho-social support to 36,476 children, engaging communities, and following up on the well-being of learners. 4,907 teachers received continued payment of their salaries, effectively motivating them. The Education sector strategy of 2019-2021 was aligned to the aspirations of Education Response Plan (ERP) to ensure equitable access to quality education for 567,500 children and youth in refugee-hosting districts.

FOOD

Reduction of food rations was a major concern to all countries hosting Burundi refugees. This effectively exposed refugees to arbitrary detention, physical harm, child labour and exploitation. Poor school attendance and dropping-out were also linked to reduced food rations.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners provided cash for food assistance to 33,088 refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement. Warm meals were provided to 3,381 refugees and asylum-seekers living in the transit centres. However, the rise of the level of waters in Lake Tanganyika, as well as intercommunal tensions coupled with bad road conditions between Uvira and Baraka affected the delivery and caused delays in the assistance offered by RRP partners.

In **Rwanda**, 35,283 Burundian refugees in Mahama camp received rations through cash transfer or in-kind in Mahama camp, representing 94 per cent of the refugee population. 2021 was characterised by food cuts, affecting refugees' well-being. To mitigate the impact, much effort was put in advocacy for refugees' inclusion in different programmes and mobilization for refugee self-reliance. Targeting exercises were carried out to categorize refugees based of their vulnerability status.

In **Tanzania**, all 125,775 camp-based Burundian refugees received monthly food rations. The reduction of food rations to 68 per cent due to funding shortages caused serious concerns, as Burundian refugees did not have access to alternative sources of food, since livelihood activities in the camps had been severely restricted. Many Burundian



Burundian refugees work in a community field in Kahengele, a village 18 km north of Kalémie, Tanganyika province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. © UNHCR /Gwenn Dubourthoumieu

refugees sought employment outside the camps to supplement the food basket, which exposed them to risks of detention, physical harm, confiscation of properties, child labour and exploitation. Some children were reported to have dropped out of school, as they were looking for jobs and for supplementary food. Refugees' requests to the authorities to address the critical food gaps were often responded to negatively. 4,668 refugees with special nutrition needs including children, pregnant and lactating women were supported under the supplementary feeding program in the three camps.

In **Uganda**, a total of 43,128 Burundian refugees received food assistance. This includes some 39,119 who received cash assistance and 4,009 who received in-kind food assistance. Due to funding shortfalls, food rations were cut to 60 per cent for all refugees from February to October 2021 and a geographic prioritization scheme was implemented in November 2021. The 13 settlements were grouped into three categories based on the proportion of households with high economic vulnerability. Refugees living in settlements in southwest (where most Burundian refugees are located) started received a 40 per cent ration. This was on an interim basis, pending a planned household profiling that would determine prioritization of food at the household level. 59 per cent of Burundian refugee households had a poor or borderline food consumption score with a coping strategy score of 18.7 (above the target of 18). This means that more Burundian households became exposed to harmful coping strategies by not being able to access enough food.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In the **DRC**, two COVID-19 preparedness and response plans for Lusenda and Mulongwe settlements were put in place. A total of 14 quarantine sites, 3 isolation sites and 4 ambulances were functional during the year. There was sufficient capacity for PCR tests across the operation. 120 community agents who had been trained to respond to COVID-19 in 2020 were re-engaged throughout 2021. Community communication was put at the center of response activities, with 2 radio stations supported by RRP partners to broadcast spots and other response programs. RRP partners also provided access to primary and secondary health care to 3,897 Burundian refugees living in Lusenda camp, Mulongwe settlement, as well as those in the transit centres, and trained 34 doctors, 60 nurses and 90 community volunteers on HIV, COVID-19, reproductive health and nutrition. Through the nutrition community management program, 2,977 cases of acute malnutrition were identified and received treatment. 1,266 pregnant and lactating women were supported with complementary nutrition. A total of 27,845 people in the Burundi refugee community were reached with awareness sessions on the importance of nutrition during the first 1,000 days of child-life.

In **Rwanda**, all refugees have free access to primary health care. A total of 147,008 medical consultations were conducted in Mahama camp, and 5,314 individuals were admitted and cared for by two health centres in the camp. Host community members were also attended to. Referral to secondary and tertiary hospitals was done for 3,803



A health worker with UNHCR partner Africa Humanitarian Action, sits with Burundian refugee in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, during a home-visit. © UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane

refugees who needed medical care that was not available in the camp. 91 per cent of the 8,891 Burundian refugees living in urban areas in Rwanda were enrolled in the Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) plan (8,084 persons), which is in conformity with the commitment made by the Government at the Leaders' Summit in 2016. RRP partners engaged the Ministry of Health (MoH) in a campaign to eradicate malaria in Mahama camp. A Nutrition Survey (SENS) conducted in 2021 showed an acute malnutrition rate of 2.8 per cent. The UNHCR standard is < 10% global acute malnutrition (GAM). Anaemia and stunting prevalence stood at 22.8 per cent and 24.4 per cent respectively, which were both below the UNHCR critical threshold of 40%.

In **Tanzania**, all refugees had free access to comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC) and medical referral care services. COVID-19 preventive measures continued to be applied. Compared to 2020, there was a slight increase of mortality indicators amongst Burundian refugees in all camps. Neonatal complications were the leading cause of mortality followed by Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI). Harsh living conditions, as well as infectious diseases contributed to these morbidity and mortality patterns. Reproductive health services, as well as emergency obstetric and neonatal care services were provided in all seven health facilities. The coverage of complete antenatal care was at 86 per cent, which represents an increase by 6.6 per cent compared to 2020. 7,562 new births were registered in 2021, with a hospital delivery rate of 96 per cent. Blanket as well as targeted supplementary feeding was provided for children under two years, pregnant and lactating women, as well as HIV patients. Supplementary feeding was also provided to 1,820 Burundian children to treat moderate acute malnutrition.

In **Uganda**, the Health and Nutrition sector aimed at ensuring full integration of comprehensive primary healthcare services for refugees into government systems, in line with the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (2019-2024). The under 5 mortality rate was low at 0.21 for Burundian refugees thanks to the strengthened community health interventions using Village Health Teams to carry out disease surveillance. These teams also tested and treated children who were found suffering from diarrhea, malaria, and respiratory tract infections. The major cause of deaths among children under 5 years in the settlements was high rates of anaemia. The health facility delivery rate stood at 95 per cent. This was the result of sensitization at health facilities and integrated outreach to the communities with maternal child health services.

LIVELIHOODS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In all host countries, there were several energy and environment interventions including planting of trees in refugee settlements as well as in host communities. The sector however faced challenges in meeting targets because of insufficient funding. As a result, many refugees did not have access to energy.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners promoted the self-reliance of Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement by supporting 12,378 refugees in agricultural, fishing and livestock farming, supplying them with toolkits, seeds and technical support in breeding and fishing. A total of 200 young people benefitted from vocational training, including masonry, electronics and embroidery and starter kits, enabling them to start a business and enroll in professional associations.

In **Rwanda**, RRP partners provided productive assets, trainings and /or business support in cash or in-kind to some 19 per cent of the refugees. 2,123 bank accounts were opened by refugees for business purposes. 989 refugees received training in financial education, while 52 received loans from Umutanguha microfinance to expand or start businesses. 569 individuals (269 refugees and 200 nationals) received entrepreneurship trainings from Inkomoko. 85 households were targeted with social economic support in terms of grants to help them generate income. 3,698 individuals were engaged in functional saving groups from which they obtained small loans to start or expand income generating activities. Women Artisans in Mahama were assisted in selling their crafts in 51



A 33-year-old refugee from Burundi, poses with bars of soap produced at her shop in Mahama camp. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

local markets. Three agriculture cooperatives made up of 175 refugees and 185 nationals were provided with 12 hectares of land for cultivation in partnership with Rwanda Red Cross. The Commitment made by the Government in 2016 to graduate refugees out of assistance towards self-reliance, remains a work in progress. RRP partners provided gas-powered clean cooking for all refugees and provided electricity access to the water treatment plant, businesses, and community centers, including offices. These efforts significantly reduced the use of diesel and lowered greenhouse gas emissions. The Refugee Nursery Cooperative raised over 70,000 tree seedlings of different species, out of which 30,000 tree seedlings were planted by RRP partners in the camp.



In **Tanzania**, energy related activities included provision of cooking energy in the form of firewood and biomass charcoal briquettes. A total of 1,948,149 kilograms of firewood were distributed to 3,831 persons with

specific needs. To minimize the use of firewood, biomass charcoal briquettes were produced under centralized and community-based initiatives. 1,007 persons with specific needs were supplied with biomass charcoal briquettes, while 500 refugees benefitted from community-based initiatives. In 2021, a total of 7,679 fuel efficient stoves, covering 88 per cent of the population, were fabricated in 2021. In refugee camps, 460,919 trees were planted covering a total area of 339 hectares, while 428,408 trees were planted within host communities in an area covering 315 hectares.

In **Uganda**, there was notable growth in training for business management and support to Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) across most settlements. Capacity-building for local governments to promote integration of refugees into district development plans were limited due to insufficient funding. Coordination between district level and national level was vibrant with consultative meetings to harmonize approaches, integrate coordination at all levels and document good practices. RRP partners agreed to focus on research and learning to inform key decisions while engaging donors to increase the support to resilience related activities. By the end of 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development finalized the development of the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) for refugees and host communities. The environment and energy sector prioritized the procurement of planting materials solarization of schools and provision of fuel for cooking to refugees with specific needs. Partners also made efforts in constructing improved cookstoves and monitoring of environmental interventions. Intermittent rains resulted in slow uptake of tree seedlings. Logistical challenges in transportation of seedlings to beneficiaries living deep within settlements and prolonged school closures affected construction of energy saving institutional cookstoves among schools.

SHELTER AND NFIs

In all asylum countries, sector partners focused on maintaining or upgrading existing transitional shelters and improving the living conditions of persons of concern. Refugees were also equipped with core relief items including blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and solar lamps.

In the **DRC**, 230 families with specific needs were supported to rehabilitate their shelters and latrines. In Mulongwe settlement, 219 newly relocated refugees were prioritised for technical and cash-based assistance to build their houses. In Mulongwe settlement, some 660 households were supported to complete their shelters and latrines. 234 family shelters along with some common infrastructure for persons with specific needs were rehabilitated. Partners also distributed dignity kits to 9,186 women in Lusenda camp, Mulongwe and transit centres.

In **Rwanda**, a total of 2,194 family shelters were repaired to improve the conditions for the shelters with reeds/ poles. During the year, RRP partners undertook various infrastructure development projects, including construction of communal facilities such as classrooms, playgrounds, waiting areas structures, offices, and drainage systems. Necessary measures were put in place to ensure ease of access to communal structures by persons with disabilities.

In **Tanzania**, 72.7 per cent of Burundian refugee households across the two camps lived in adequate shelters. No transitional shelters were provided to refugees following government directives to halt construction of such shelters in all camps. The focus was therefore on maintaining and upgrading existing transitional shelters to improve living

conditions. However, in Nduta camp, a total of 5,671 upgradable emergency shelters were constructed to accommodate refugees relocated from Mtendeli camp during the camp consolidation exercise. A total of 23,854 Burundian households received core relief items. Soap distribution was maintained at 500 grams/person/month.

In **Uganda**, construction of roads, renovation of reception facilities, development of comprehensive physical plans and demarcation of land for shelter, livelihoods, institutional use, common spaces, and buffer zones contributed to a conducive environment for socio-economic transformation and resilience in all refugee settlements and host communities. A total of 149 refugee families were provided with shelter kits to enable them to construct their emergency shelter, and semi-permanent structures were constructed for 726 extremely vulnerable households using community-based approaches for construction. Due to limited funding in the sector, a big gap has remained in the provision of shelter for persons with specific needs across the operation. Across the operation, 877 households of newly arrived refugees received NFIs. In all refugee settlements, 135 km of roads were rehabilitated.

WASH

In the context of the COVID-19 response, RRP partners support reinforced WASH interventions. WASH activities focused on augmenting latrine coverage as well as improving water infrastructure and access. Against a target of 20 liters of water per person per day, the average was 12.8 L in DRC, 21.2 L in Rwanda, 33.1 L in Tanzania and 17.3 L in Uganda.

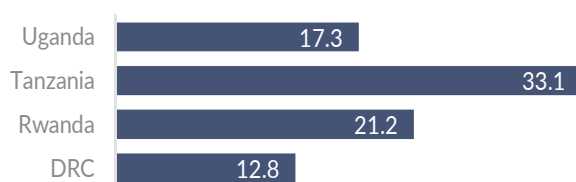
In the **DRC**, regular health campaigns were organized to promote good hygiene practices and prevent the spread of COVID-19. 16 hygiene committees made up of 5 people each were set up and utilized to offer training on COVID-19 prevention in schools attended by Burundian refugees. 31,234 Burundian refugees in Lusenda and Mulongwe benefited from access to drinking water. Five boreholes constructed in 2020 were made operational in 2021.

In **Rwanda**, water supply to the camps was uninterrupted throughout the year. 108 operational refuse collection sites were emptied regularly across all camps. About 1,850 m of drainage channel system was constructed for hygiene improvement and environment protection. Hygiene promotion activities were conducted by disseminating awareness messages on proper sanitation and good hygiene practices. To fight against the spread of COVID 19, persons of concern were regularly mobilized for proper frequent handwashing exercises. About 800 hand-washing stands were installed near latrine blocks and in public places.

In **Tanzania**, household latrine coverage amounted to 73 per cent. 8,766 new household latrines were constructed, including the 5,678 latrines constructed during camp consolidation. This also included 319 latrines for persons with specific needs. COVID-19 preventive measures were applied, including the provision of 83,681.25 kilograms of powder soap and 20,209 liters of liquid soap in high traffic areas. All school were equipped with handwashing devices at an average ratio of 100 pupils per one handwashing device.

In **Uganda**, latrine household coverage for Burundian refugees' population reached 85 per cent at the end of 2021, which was achieved through community initiatives to improve sanitation for the Burundi refugee population. However, due to insufficient funding, targets for constructing and maintaining sanitation facilities in schools and health centres were not met. Operation and maintenance of existing water facilities remained a key priority, with inclusion into national systems through the utility approach to ensure sustainability.

Water litre (L) received per person per day



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- Africa Humanitarian Action
- ALIGHT
- Association Des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Developpement Endogene
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants
- Danish Refugee Council
- Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Finn Church Aid
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Handicap International
- HelpAge International UK
- International Aid Services
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Medical Teams International
- Mercy Corps Uganda
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Oxfam
- Plan International
- Prison Fellowship Rwanda
- Relief to Development Society
- Save the Children International
- Tanzania Red Cross Sociaty
- The Legal Aid Forum
- United Nations Childrens Fund
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- UNWOMEN
- War Child Canada
- Women's Legal Aid Centre
- World Food Programme
- World Health Oganization
- World Vision International