

BURUNDI SITUATION

February 2018

428,247

Total refugees from Burundi in the four main hosting countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda), as of 28 February 2018.

2,821

Burundian refugees assisted to return from Tanzania in February 2018, totalling 3,587 assisted to return to date in 2018.

1,841

Burundian refugee arrivals plus new registrations recorded in February 2018.

16,689

Number of Burundian refugees assisted to return from Tanzania since September 2017 (as of 28 February 2018).

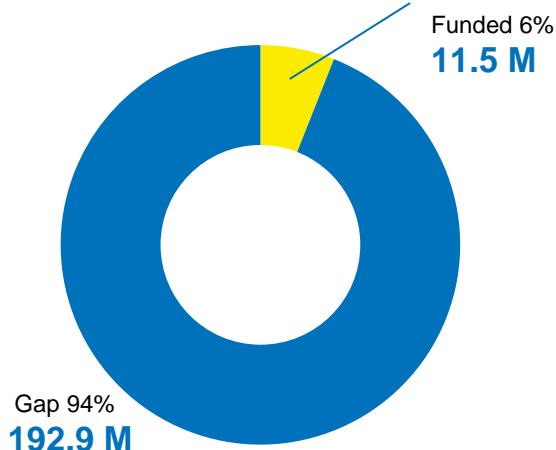
173,218

IDPs in Burundi according to IOM, where 30% of IDPs are linked to the current political crisis, and 70% are linked to natural disasters, as of February 2018.

FUNDING (AS OF FEBRUARY 2018)

USD 204.4 M

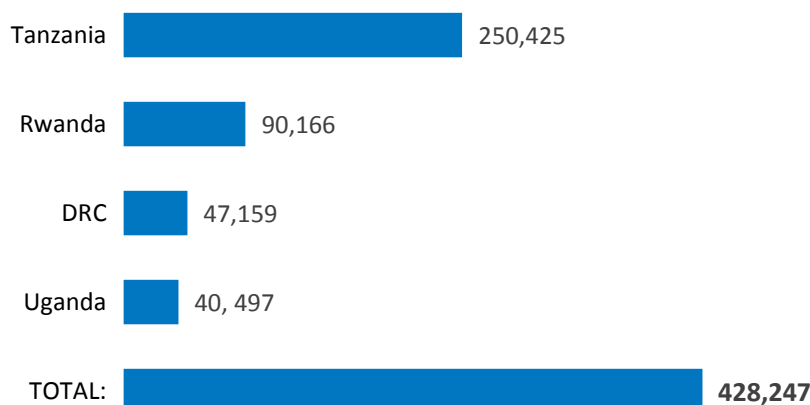
requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries

Note: Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2018 Burundi RRRP



*The total above is in line with the 2018 Burundi RRRP regional coverage, and does not include some 12,828 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programs, as well as a further 23,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

Highlights and Operational Context

- **The Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2018 was launched on 6 February in Geneva by the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, who was joined by the Deputy Emergency Response Coordinator, Ursula Muller,** and called upon donors to address the most forgotten refugee crisis, and to continue supporting the host countries. The shortfall of funding to the Burundi Regional RRP, which has been nearly always funded at less than 30%, has multiple and severe adverse impacts on refugees, influencing also the quality of response and support provided. The 2018 Burundi Regional RRP appeals for US\$391 million to support Burundian refugees in the region.
- **The Government of Tanzania continued to limit access to its territory for asylum seekers. Since January 2018 all border entry points and transit centers in the Kigoma Region except Kibirizi, are officially closed,** affecting asylum seekers from Burundi as well as from other neighbouring countries. These restrictions on access for asylum-seekers undermine the principle of non-refoulement and the government and UNHCR's protection mandates.
- **Rwanda signed on to be an official Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) country:** On 14 February 2018, the Government of Rwanda announced that it would officially apply the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which provides for a more comprehensive, predictable and sustainable response that benefits both refugees and the host community. The decision to become an official CRRF country should bring Rwanda regional and global recognition and could be the basis for mobilizing additional resources to support new approaches.

Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian Refugees from Tanzania

Background

- With the completion of Phase I and II of the voluntary repatriation, Phase III is being carried out by UNHCR, the governments of Tanzania and Burundi, and partners from 25 January to 12 April 2018, with a planning figure of 9,984 individuals.

Update

- The number of Burundian refugees repatriated stands at 16,689 people as of 28 February 2018, with 9,538 (57 per cent) being children. The highest number of

returnees have been to Makamba, Muyinga, and Ruyiga provinces, leaving mainly from Nduta camp in Tanzania (11,924).

Partners

- In Tanzania, UNHCR is collaborating closely with the following partners: Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HelpAge International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Plan International, and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- In Burundi, UNHCR is collaborating with the Department of Repatriation under the Government of Burundi, WFP, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

Achievements during the Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest developments

- **An action plan was jointly developed with partners on how to monitor and improve non-communicable diseases (NCD) services and care in camps** after the training held by UNHCR and Primary Care International (PCI). This training session was attended by twenty-four clinical staff from Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu.
- **General food distribution continued at a reduced ration for all commodities at 73% of the full basket.** Due to funding shortfalls, there were reduced portion sizes for maize meal, pulses, corn-soya blend, vegetable oil, and salt. Moreover, the significant influx of DRC refugees to Tanzania increased the likelihood of projected funds not being able to cover the requirements of all refugees.

Achievements and challenges

- **Nearly 19,301 transitional shelters have been constructed which equates to 42% of the need.** Construction is community-driven and refugee participation is maximised. In the past two years UNHCR moved to more durable shelters such as mud bricks and corrugated iron sheets. However, an additional 30,105 transitional shelters are still needed.

- **Nyarugusu, Nduta, and Mtendeli face severe pressure in terms of capacity and size, largely hosting refugees and asylum seekers from Burundi.** This overcrowding situation affects all facilities in the camps such as shelter, schools and water provision. In line with the extension of Nyarugusu camp, Migunga Hills has been identified and can accommodate up to 35,000 people, but its development requires financial resources in order to put in place all social services.
- **UNHCR is implementing a Comprehensive Energy and Environment Strategy,** which includes the provision of fuel efficient stoves, reforestation and improved environmental management in all three camps. Furthermore, the strategy also outlines the supply of alternative cooking fuels including Liquefied Petroleum Gas, charcoal briquettes and firewood from sustainable sources to prevent the use of natural resources, such as firewood for cooking which impacts the environment as well as increases the likelihood of serious protection risks and tension between refugee and host communities.
- **The Verification, Registration and Intention Survey (VRIS) exercise to register approximately 24,000 Burundian refugees who have been living out of camps in the Kigoma region for decades started in January 2018 and was suspended on 24 February 2018 due to lack of human and financial resources.** This exercise is meant to enable the Government to make an informed decision with regard to a durable solutions for the remaining 1972 Burundian refugee population. As of February 2018, 12,649 individuals have been already verified.
- **Access to updated reference materials and textbooks in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu remains a big challenge due to changes in the Burundi curriculum.** Grade Six to Nine still lack appropriate reference materials and textbooks to support the teaching efforts.

RWANDA

Latest developments

- **The Rwanda Chapter of the Burundi 2018 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) was launched on 21 February 2018:** UNHCR Rwanda and 9 humanitarian partners launched an inter-agency funding appeal for US\$74.3 million to protect and assist Burundian refugees in Rwanda. Refugee arrivals are expected to continue in 2018, although at lower levels than in previous years. UNHCR estimates a total of 102,000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda by the end of 2018.
- **A Joint UNHCR - Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) rapid assessment mission was carried out in all camps** to assess the situation of Shelter, WASH and Environment in camps, identify the needs/gaps, undertake a prioritization exercise and recommend the most appropriate approach

to be used in each sector. This mission also aimed to reach an agreement on priority interventions on 2019 planning considering the remaining needs.

Achievements and Challenges

- **A significant number of Burundian refugee children are enrolled in schools, currently 19,831 out of 23,151 (85.6 per cent).** The attendance for Early Childhood Development Programmes was 4,401 out of 5,150 (85.4 per cent); primary attendance was 11,839 out of 13,823 (86.5 per cent); and secondary attendance was 3,591 out of 4,198 (86 per cent).
- **15 Burundian students in urban areas were supported to pursue their academic studies in national universities.** Due to budget constraints, UNHCR and partners are unable to enroll all refugee student best performers in the Schools of Excellence.
- **The average monthly clean water supplied to beneficiaries in Mahama Camp was 21.8 liters/person/day which is above the UNHCR standard of 20.0 liters/person/day.** All bacteriological water tests conducted during January 2018 showed zero total Coliforms and E. Coli. To date, 115 water points (690 taps) are functional with an average of 83 users/tap in the camp.
- **In February 2018 a total of 3,288 latrine's drop holes were in use with 17.4 users/drop hole.** A gap of 55 blocks of dischargeable latrines (220 drop holes) was identified and it was observed that latrines are unevenly distributed in the camp.
- **Theft and vandalism has been reported in Mahama Camp** targeting doors for shelters and latrine hand washing facilities, increasing the likelihood of both protection risks and a sanitation gap in the camp.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **UNHCR's Protection team visited 12 refugees detained by the national police in a prison near Lusenda.** Following the visit, nine of them were released. The team also reported bad detention conditions, and plans to advocate with the police to improve the situation.
- The rehabilitation of the Katalukulu Health Center near Mulongwe site (South Kivu) was completed and medical staff was hired. The Center will benefit both Burundian refugees and host community.
- **The total number of refugees in Mulongwe stands at 2,668 including 11 newborn babies and 29 cases of family reunification as of end of February.** 966 refugees were transferred to the new Mulongwe site from transit centers in February.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Due to budget constraints, World Food Programme (WFP) announced that the amount of the monthly voucher will be reduced from 15\$ to 12\$ starting from March.** Moreover they have also informed that only one food fair will be organized for January and February. Refugees organized peaceful demonstrations against these reductions.
- **In Mulongwe site refugees and host community students, 477 students among them 427 refugees, have received school material** including notebooks, pens, crayons, etc. from Education Cluster contingency stock.. Partner ActionAid identified other 1,840 students who did not receive the kit yet and who will be served in the coming weeks.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **A total of 329 Burundian refugees arrived in Uganda during the month of February.** Within the new arrivals, five individuals came from Mahama camps as per the protection partner tracking information in February 2018. They reported having received Refugee Status Determination in Mahama Camp, but crossed over to Uganda due to the risks of segregation based on tribal lines by fellow refugees in the camp, inadequate food ration distributed and living conditions.

Achievements and Challenges

- **Water is delivered at the reception centers on a daily basis.** Treated water was delivered for bathing, washing, and cooking to support both refugees and asylum-seekers at the reception centers.
- **The recurrent breakdown of the aged trucks used for the transportation of water to the settlement have resulted in delay of water provision for refugees.** There is a need to increase the number of trucks and to diversify the network of partners in the WASH sector.
- **A backlog in the assessment interviews conducted by OPM and the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) to determine refugee status has created congestion in the Nakivale reception center.**

Financial Information

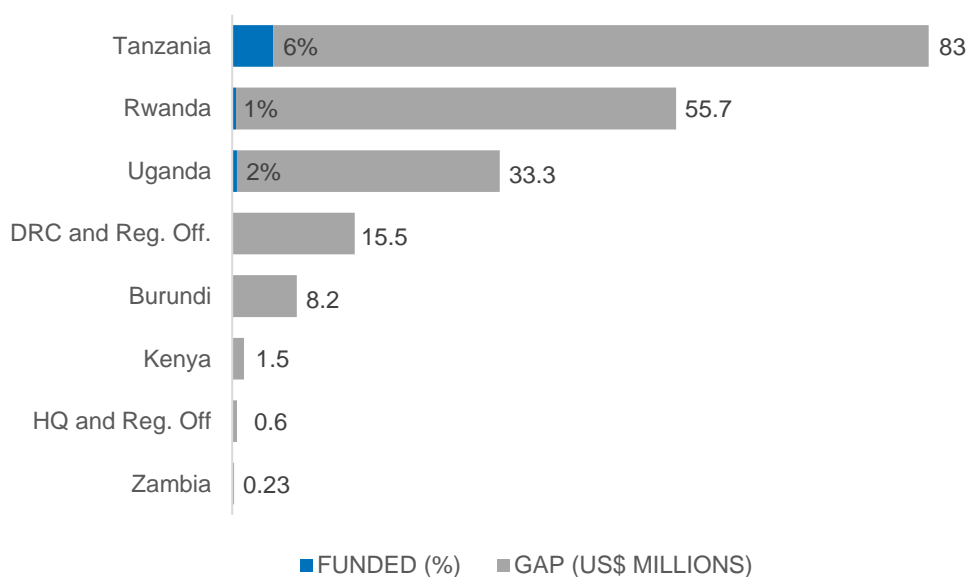
Funding (in million USD) as of end of February 2018

Out of the \$204.4 million required for 2018, a total of \$ **11.5 million** has been funded.

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

Donors who have contributed to the Burundi Situation in 2018:

- Germany
- Great Lakes Region Cross Border Fund
- International Olympic Committee
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- UN Peacebuilding Fund



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Private donors Spain (13 M) | Italy (11 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Algeria | Argentina | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

UNHCR Burundi page: <http://www.unhcr.org/burundi.html>

UNHCR Burundi Global Focus : <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>

Recent News Story: <http://www.unhcr.org/rw/13125-unhcr-partners-requesting-us74-3-million-burundian-refugees-rwanda.html>