



United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: March 2019

Background

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

On 28 March 2018, a follow up Tripartite Commission Meeting was held in Bujumbura, Burundi. While UNHCR continued to maintain that it will assist and not promote voluntary returns to Burundi due to the unresolved political situation, both governments reaffirmed their commitment to promoting return and upholding the principle of voluntariness. With the completion of Phases I, II and III, the two Governments, UNHCR and key partners agreed to implement a new work plan to return 72,000 individuals from 5 April to 31 December 2018. The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees will continue as planned until a new Tripartite Commission Meeting addressing arising needs is called. While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, it is supporting the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.

The Tripartite Commission also acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not returning at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.

Return Figures and Trends from the Reporting Period

- 1,801 individuals assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in March;
- 898 females (49.9%) and 903 (50.1%) males;
- 175 returnees were persons with specific needs;
- 8 return convoys.

Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 31 March 2019, 63,143 individuals have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 31,988 (50.7%) females & 31,155 (49.3%) males;
- 36,165 (57.3%) children;
- 5,959 and 9.4% persons with specific needs; and
- The highest number of returns were to Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Makamba provinces (14,204, 12,853 and 9,876 returnees respectively).

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

Table 1: Number of Returns per Phase

Phase	Phase I (Sep & Oct 2017)	Phase II (Nov & Dec 2017)	Phase III (Jan – March 2018)	Current Phase (as at 31 March 2019)	Total
Number of returns	6,887	6,216	8,347	41,693	63,143

Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	7,654	6,864	3,584	12,956	930	31,988	50.7%

Male	7,861	6,855	3,347	12,248	844	31,155	49.3%
Total	15,515	13,719	6,931	25,204	1,774	63,143	100%
%	24.6%	21.8%	10.9%	39.9%	2.8%	100%	

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
120	314	1,491	18,721	42,497	63,143
0.2%	0.5%	2.4%	29.6%	67.3%	100%

Table 5: Total Departures per Camp

Camps in Tanzania	Individuals	%
Nduta	42,603	67.5%
Mtendeli	15,460	24.5%
Nyarugusu	5,080	8%
Total	63,143	100%

Table 4: Provinces of Return

Return Provinces	Individuals
Ruyigi	14,204
Muyinga	12,853
Makamba	9,876
Cankuzo	7,529
Kirundo	6,392
Rutana	4,382
Karuzi	1,701
Gitega	1,286
Rumonge	1,214
Ngozi	975
Mwaro	898
Mururi	759
Bujumbura	623
Kayanza	139
Muramvya	131
Citiboke	103
Bubanza	78
Total	63,143

Table 6: Registered & Processed vs. Returned

Pending Travel Arrangements	Returned (as of 31 March)	Withdrawals and Departure No Shows	Pending Departure
5,510	63,143	12,799	2,003

Table 7: Key Partners and Activities

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