

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

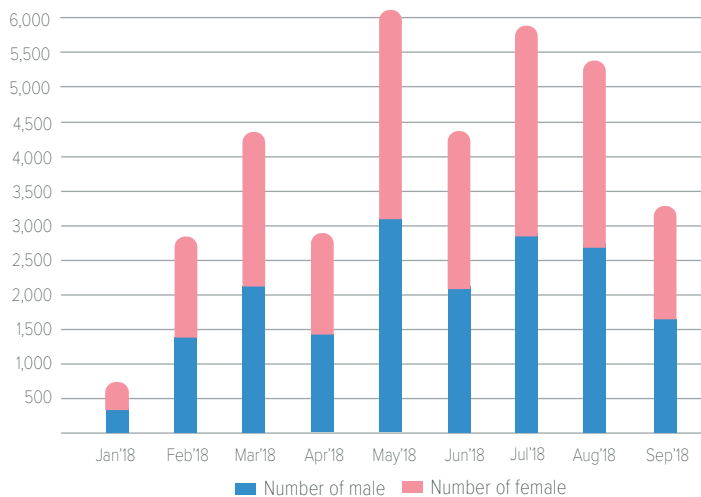


from Tanzania to Burundi - 20 Sept 2018

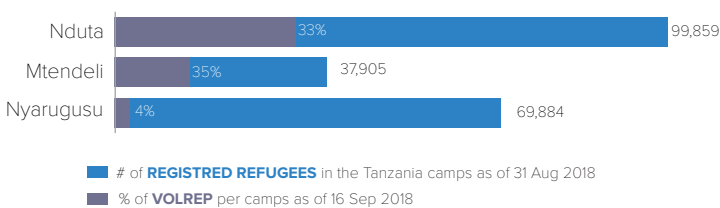
At a Tripartite Commission meeting in August 2017, the governments of Tanzania, Burundi, and UNHCR agreed to assist refugees who wish to voluntarily repatriate from Tanzania to Burundi. The August 2017 meeting and a subsequent meeting in March 2018 reaffirmed the commitment of both governments and UNHCR to uphold the principle of voluntariness, and noted that while some refugees may opt to return, others will continue to be in need of international protection. While the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania have undertaken to promote refugee returns, UNHCR has reiterated its position not to promote returns at this time, and of the importance of all refugees having the opportunity to make a free and informed choice without undue pressure. The March 2018 Tripartite meeting produced a work plan entailing the repatriation of approximately 2,000 refugees per week from 5 April to 31 December 2018. However, additional funding is needed to increase the capacity of transit centres, hire safe transportation, address critical staffing shortages, continue to provide modest return packages, and improve the returnee monitoring framework in Burundi. More support is also needed for sustainable reintegration of returnees at the community level. UNHCR will be developing municipal profiles to provide information to refugees on the situation in areas of return and to guide the development of reintegration programs. As of 31 August 2018 there were approximately 27,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania registered for, verified, and awaiting voluntary repatriation.

OVERALL RETURN FIGURES AND TRENDS

From January to 16 September 2018 a total of **35,826** refugees were assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi from Tanzania in **84 convoys** (bringing the total from September 2017 to **48,930**).



RETURNS OVER TOTAL REFUGEES BY CAMPS IN TANZANIA



CHILD PROTECTION

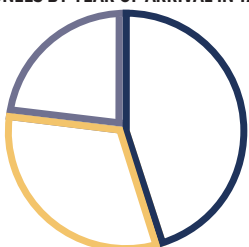


58% are children



665 returnees are unaccompanied and separated children

RETUNEES BY YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN TANZANIA



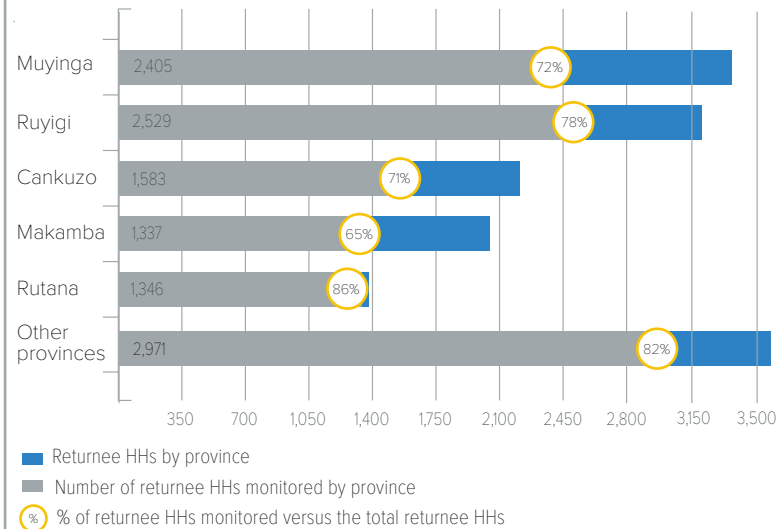
23% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2015

45% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2016

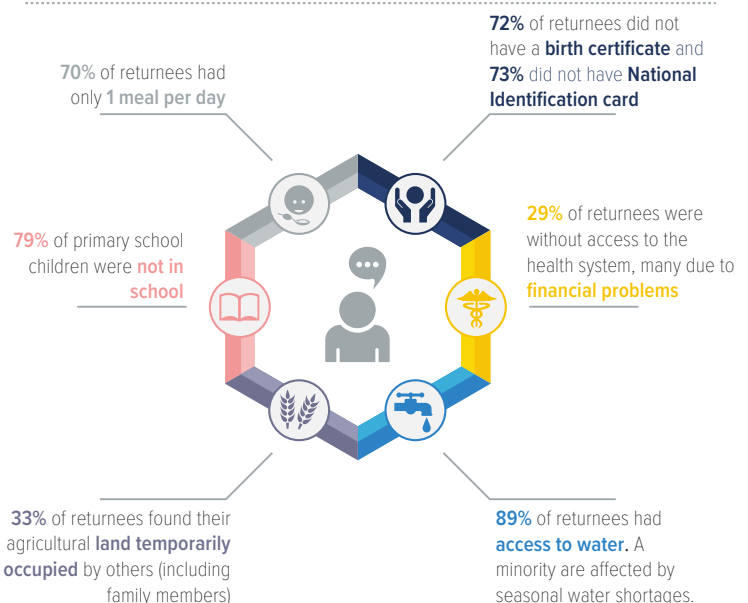
32% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2017

MONITORING OF RETUNEES IN BURUNDI

UNHCR and Caritas set up a monitoring system with **129 monitors** covering all areas of return. By **20 September 2018**, **12,171** families have been monitored (out of 16,032), which represents **76%** of those assisted to return.



■ Returnee HHs by province
 ■ Number of returnee HHs monitored by province
 ○ % of returnee HHs monitored versus the total returnee HHs



🌾 **91%** of returnees are subsistence farmers 👤 **18%** of returnee HHs have vulnerabilities 🏠 **75%** of children are vaccinated for measles

For more information please contact:

UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordination Office - Catherine Wiesner RRC/CRRF Champion for the Burundi Situation wiesner@unhcr.org; Anna Minuto Snr. IMO minuto@unhcr.org
 UNHCR Tanzania - Chansa Kapaya UNHCR Representative kapaya@unhcr.org; Joan Allison Deputy Representative allison@unhcr.org
 UNCR Burundi - Gogo Hukportie UNHCR Representative hukportie@unhcr.org; Soufiane Adjali Deputy Representative adjali@unhcr.org; Roland Triande Snr Repatriation Officer triande@unhcr.org