

Burundi

July-August 2019

2,851

New DRC refugees crossed into Burundi from the south Kivu, DRC.

2,565

refugees (mainly DRC nationals) were resettled in third countries since January 2019,

75,557

Burundian refugees were returned to Burundi from the region (mainly from Tanzania) from September 2017 to end of August 2019.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum seekers: 82,319



*Others: Angola, CAR, Ethiopia, India, Mali, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Turkey and Zambia

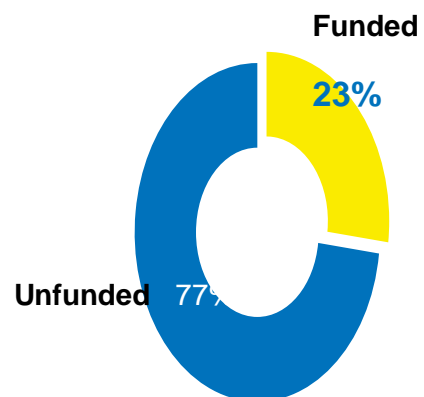
IDPs: 24,986 (linked with socio-political situation) i.e. 23 % of 109,372, the total number of IDPs in Burundi according to OIM Data Tracking Matrix, dated July 2019

Persons at risk of statelessness: 974

FUNDING AS OF 03 SEPTEMBER 2019

USD 50.9 M

requested for Burundi



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

126 National Staff

37 International Staff

Offices:

Branch Office in
Bujumbura

02 Field Offices in Muyinga
and Makamba

01 Sub Office in Ruyigi



A refugee woman and her children washing clothes at Cishemere Transit Center.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works with governmental partners (Ministry of Interior, Patriotic training and Local Development, Ministry of Public Security and collaborates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). UNHCR works as well with NGOs and UN sister agencies, including WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, WHO, UNAIDs, IOM and regional organizations such as ICGLR and AU. UNHCR works closely with its implementing partners, including the *Office National et de Protection des Réfugiés Apatrides (ONPRA)*, *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*, *the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*, *Refugee Education Trust (RET)*, *Caritas*, *Burundi Red Cross* and *the Gruppo di Volontariato Civile*.
- UNHCR is leading the protection and NFIs sectors of the humanitarian coordination and co-leads the shelter sector with IOM.

Main Activities

Operational context & Coordination

- On 3 and 4 July 2019, a joint mission CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), IOM and BPRM visited Musasa and Kinama refugee camps. The aim of the mission was to visit health facilities in both camps as well as the isolation facilities for suspected cases of Ebola. The mission also monitored the medical examinations protocol for refugees in the resettlement process.
- A Rapid Protection Assessment was jointly organized by WFP and UNHCR in refugee camps through focus groups from 18 to 19 July. The objective of the exercise was to better understand the links between the potential protection risks and the assistance provided by WFP in the camps for further improvement.
- A multifunctional team (MFT) carried out field missions to Ruyigi, Makamba and Muyinga to evaluate UNHCR partners' activities covering the first semester of 2019, focusing on achievements and challenges for the same period. The mission recommended several activities to be re-prioritized for the second half of the year. The MFT also recommended updating SGBV SOPs and mobilizing more funds.

Protection

- In August 2019, **82,319** refugees and asylum seekers were assisted and protected by UNHCR in camps and urban centers;
- There was a sudden influx of DRC refugees that started in June with the arrival of 468 refugees and peaked in August with the arrival of 1,253 newly

DRC in Cishemere transit centre. Following this sudden increase, coordination meetings with GoB and other partners were held in Cishemere transit center to discuss how to better organize their protection and assistance;

- They were transferred later to Nyankanda refugee camp in the eastern province of Ruyigi. 09 convoys of 1891 individuals were organized from Cishemere to Nyankanda refugee camp;
- During July and August, Refugee status was granted to **1,920** DRC asylum seekers;
- In July and August, UNHCR organized eight convoys of 1,709 Congolese refugees from Cishemere transit Center and Bujumbura urban communities to Nyankanda refugee camp in eastern province of Ruyigi;
- Monthly monitoring of prisons and detention centres, as well as the follow-up of refugee cases were carried out in the provinces where refugees are living and in Bujumbura to ensure refugees in detention are well treated and fed. 09 detained refugees in Cankuzo and Ruyigi were visited by protection staff.
- Follow up of protection cases in individual case management continued as usual;
- BIAs and BIDs were conducted according to the prioritization of cases identified;
- Updating documents database (progress) continued.
- UNHCR has been preparing for a refugee verification but so far only part of the needed budget for this exercise is available;

Child protection

- 1,960 Unaccompanied/separated children were identified in eastern refugee camps as having at least one specific need;
- Tracing was organized in refugee camps. As a result, three children were reunited with their biological mother in Kavumu refugee camp;
- Six new refugee children were reunited with their parents in different refugee camps.

Education

- Coaching and catchup classes were organized in refugee camps for students who needed some improvement. Adult literacy programs were carried out as well in refugee camps;
- Campaigns were organized in refugee camps against school dropouts.
- Recreational and follow-up activities were organized in refugee camps during the month of July (vacation) to avoid that young people indulge in wrong

activities: 1,104 students, including 801 boys and 303 girls participated in these activities;

- Enrolment of students for the forthcoming school year has begun in refugee camp schools.
- 50 Congolese refugees are currently enrolled in BAC I at Université Lumière in Bujumbura and at Université de Ngozi. All of them were granted DFI scholarships;
- The last school year (2018-2019) was successful: 85% of primary school refugee students from refugee camps passed the Congolese national examination (TENAFEP). A further 270 students passed the exam giving access to higher education institutions in the DRC;
- Refugee camps still lacks qualified teachers;
- Students whose files are at an advanced stage of resettlement do not want to continue attending camp schools despite counselling.

Health

- Prevention of Ebola virus disease in all refugee camps and transit centres continued. World Health Organization received about 3,000 doses of vaccines against Ebola for frontline health personnel in Burundi, including humanitarian workers. UNHCR is advocating for more to include its partners working in transit centres and refugee camps.
- More than 40,000 individuals living in refugee camps are supported by UNHCR with medical care;
- Campaigns on birth planning as well as medical consultations for pregnant and lactating women went on in refugee camps;
- Refugees children in refugee camps were vaccinated against the following illnesses: BCG, Polio 0, Polio I + PCV 13, Polio II+ PCV13, Polio II+ PCV13+ VPI and Measles in July 2019.
- Awareness campaigns on HIV and on good hygiene went on in the five refugee camps. Condoms were distributed and pregnant women encouraged to undertake HIV tests. Campaigns on the use of contraceptive methods went on as well;
- More training on Ebola prevention and vaccines are needed for the health personnel in refugee camps' health centers;
- Access to services and orthopaedic equipment is still challenging in refugee camps;
- Full integration of refugees into the national health system by the Ministry of Health in progress but need to be completed.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Food distributions took place in all five camps **with reduced rations**;
- Refugees with moderate acute malnutrition living in refugee camps, as well as Persons with Specific Needs were assisted.
- Nutrition support/supplementation assistance targets only pregnant women and lactating mothers and the persons living with the HIV chronic diseases. The diet of the persons with specific needs has yet to be improved;
- Nutritional assistance to refugees with severe acute malnutrition is provided by UNICEF through Government's health structures outside refugee camps;
- There is a lack of financial means to assist malnourished refugees in camps.

Water and Sanitation

- Sensitization sessions to good hygiene in refugee camps were undertaken;
- Water network and water points were maintained; defective parts replaced;
- Individual houses and latrines were disinfected;
- Water was chlorinated in refugee camps.
- In the framework of EBOLA prevention, 08 water tanks of 50 liters each containing water for washing hands were installed in Bwagiriza and Nyankanda
- In addition to WASH routine activities, rehabilitation of old latrines and bathrooms in refugee camps and transit centers in progress according to available budget;
- Budget constraints do not allow replacing old latrines with drainable ones in refugee camps;
- Water supply is still an issue in the newly constructed Makombe transit center in Rumonge and in Cishemere Transit Center in Cibitoke.

Shelter and NFIs

- Twenty-four (24) individual houses for people with special needs have were built at Nyankanda refugee camp;
- 50 brooms were distributed to newly arrived refugees in Nyankanda,
- Nyankanda refugee camp premises were protected from bushfires by clearing around tree seedlings and with fire breaks;
- Three reception hangars and temporary showers were built in Nyankanda refugee camp.
- Cooking briquettes were distributed in refugee camps;

- Production of biomass briquettes in Nyankanda refugee camp is still in its experimental phase. A small quantity of briquettes was produced but its quality needs to be tested soon.
- **Insufficient quantities of biomass briquettes distributed in refugee camps have an impact on food security and protection in refugee camps.** Refugees resort to the use of charcoal and fire woods. Collection of firewood is prohibited in Ruvubu National park near Kavumu refugee camp. The military authorities in Cankuzo warned against any intrusion of refugees in that national park which constitutes a military domain.
- Access roads to Kavumu and Bwagiriza camps still need repairs.
- There is lack of enough budget to protect camps from erosion and budget for additional street lights in refugee camps.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In the framework of the implementation of the Youth Initiative Fund (YIF), identification of 50 trainees in the eastern refugee camps. The posts for trainers in hotel management and dressmaking were advertised.
- Follow-up of income generating activities and of the VSLAs (village Service Loan Associations) was conducted in refugee camps and in urban communities.
- Campaigns aiming at promoting self-reliance activities were organized in refugee camps. Training sessions on community leadership and on the management of income generating activities were also organized.
- Self-reliance activities remain limited comparing to the needs of the increasing number of refugee population.

Durable Solutions

Voluntary repatriation and reintegration

- Since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation operation on 07 September 2017 to 30 August 2019, UNHCR has facilitated the return of 75,557 Burundian refugees in the region, including 74,627 from Tanzania, 736 from Kenya, (01) from Burkina Faso, (02) from Uganda, (01) from Zambia, (01) from Cameroon and (01) from Gabon;
- In August, the Tanzanian Home Affairs Minister and the Burundian Interior Minister signed a GoT/GoB bilateral agreement to repatriate all Burundian refugees in Tanzania with convoys of 2,000 returnees per week starting on 1st of October 2019, with or without the involvement of UNHCR.

- During the reporting period, UNDP/UNHCR presented a Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP). The required budget to implement the plan is \$ 77,863,883.
- Protection monitoring was undertaken in communes where access is possible. Protection monitoring products, including Voluntary repatriation statistics and a Monitoring Newsletter are now available on [UNHCR Burundi Situation Data Portal](#) and on [Humanitarian Data Exchange - UNHCR Burundi](#) ;
- Access to returnees in some return areas remains challenging for UNHCR monitoring staff.
- Focus groups were conducted in some return areas in northern and eastern provinces to assess the access of returnees and the host to basic services, available resources, as well as the existing coping mechanisms of both communities to meet their needs. Focus groups complement the protection monitoring to better help returnees reintegrate in their communities.
- Border monitoring was conducted along the borders with Rwanda, Tanzania and the DR Congo. Very few self-organized returnees were registered by the Immigration services. It was however found out that many Burundi nationals were expelled from Rwanda and from Burundi.

Resettlement

- In July and August 2019, a total of 455 Refugees were resettled and 190 cases of 826 individuals were submitted.
- Since January 2019, 2,565 refugees (mainly DRC nationals) were resettled, were resettled in third countries.

Logistics

- Two convoys a week were organized from Tanzania to transit centres in Burundi. Returnees are then transported the following day from transit centres to their communes of return.
- Refugee transfer convoys were also organized from Bujumbura and Cishemere transit center to Nyankanda refugee camp in Ruyigi.
- Transport of the returnees and their belongings were organized from transit centres to their communes of origin.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 54.3 million | Private donors Australia 8.1 million | Canada 4.6 million | Germany 4 million | Azerbaijan | Luxembourg | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 47.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 24.1 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors Japan 14.2 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 11.1 million | Ireland 10.2 million

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LINKS

Regional portals - Congolese refugees: <http://data.unhcr.org/drc/regional.php>
Burundi situation : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>