

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

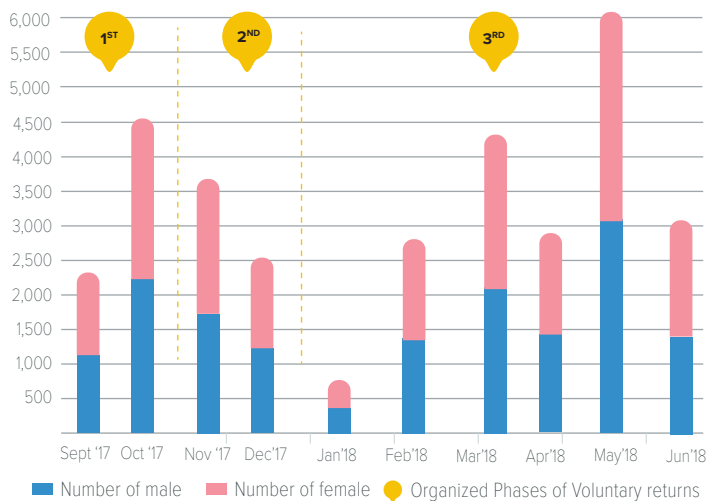


from Tanzania to Burundi - 27 June 2018

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 intend to move toward a phase of sensitisation and promotion of returns, UNHCR has reiterated its position not to promote returns at this time. 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. Road conditions in some parts of Burundi also need to be improved. More support is needed for sustainable reintegration of returnees at the community level. UNHCR will be developing municipal profiles to convey the current situation and guide the development of reintegration programs. As of June 2018 there were approximately 21,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania registered for, verified, and awaiting voluntary repatriation.

OVERALL RETURN FIGURES AND TRENDS

The **third phase** of the voluntary repatriation operation ran from **5 January to 24 June 2018** during which a total number of **20,050** refugees returned to Burundi in **30 convoys** (bringing the total from 7 September 2017 to **33,154**).



The demography of the returnee population generally **aligns** with the demographics of the Burundian refugee population hosted in Tanzania.



2 out of 3 families have a female head of household



453 returnees are unaccompanied and separated minors



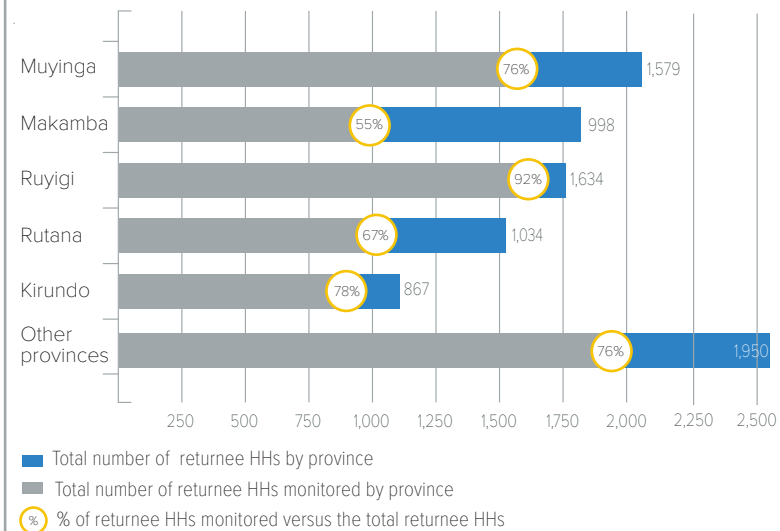
57% are minors



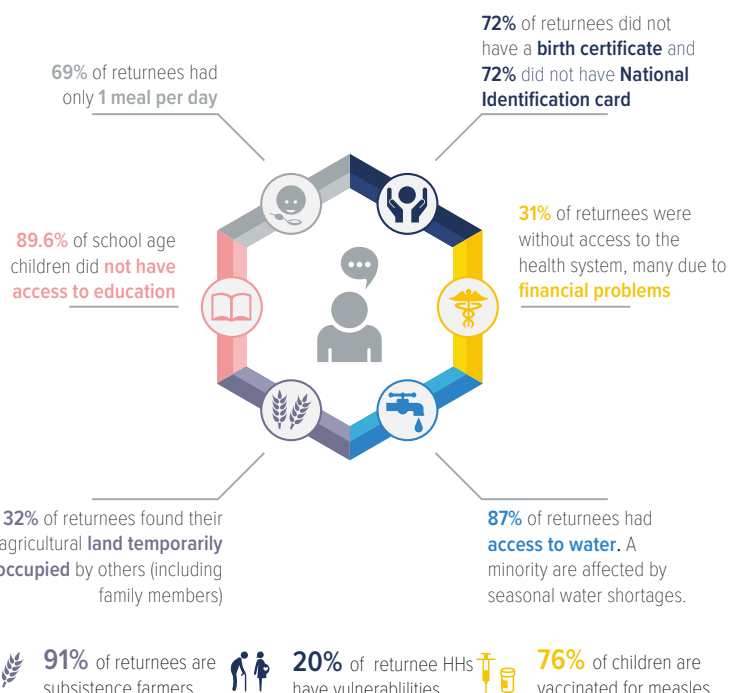
21% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2015
47% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2016
32% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2017

MONITORING OF RETURNEES IN BURUNDI

UNHCR and Caritas set up a monitoring system with **129 monitors** covering all areas of return. By **27 June 2018**, **8,062** families have been monitored (out of 10,889), which represents **74%** of those assisted to return.



■ Total number of returnee HHs by province
 ■ Total number of returnee HHs monitored by province
 ○ % of returnee HHs monitored versus the total returnee HHs



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