

BURUNDI SITUATION

MARCH & APRIL 2019

348,383

Total Burundian refugees residing in the main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

8,253

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 1,801 assisted in March and 2,975 assisted in April.

2,569

Total Burundian refugee arrivals recorded so far in 2019. In March, 625 new arrivals were reported and 487 new arrivals in April.

66,118

Total Burundian refugees assisted to return as of 30 April 2019, since 2017, mainly from Tanzania.

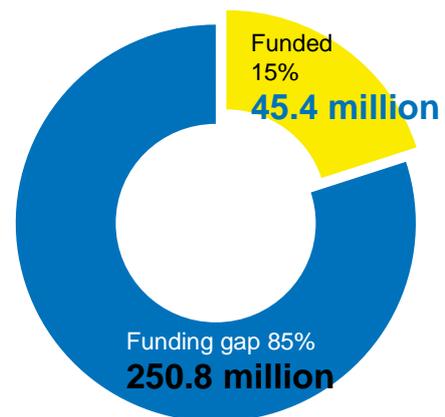
124,578

Number of IDPs in Burundi as of March 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, 75 per cent of the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, 25 per cent are linked to the socio political situation.

BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of April 2019)

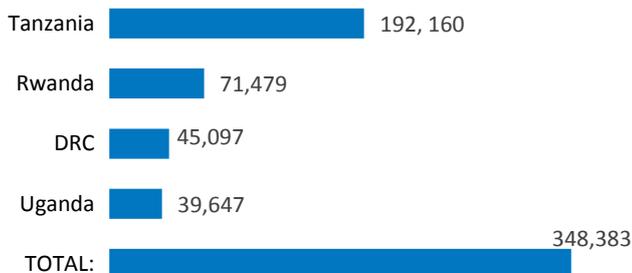
USD 296.4 million



*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Response Financial Tracking

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 42,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of April)
DRC	2,141	0
Rwanda	2,966	1,050
Tanzania	1	0
Uganda	2,851	1,519
TOTAL	7,959	2,569

Highlights and Operational Context

- **UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) for the Burundi situation, Ms. Catherine Wiesner carried out a mission to Burundi, on 24-26 April, 2019.** The mission aimed at taking stock of the current situation of Burundian refugee returns. The RRC spoke with returnees that arrived at the newly opened Kinazi Transit Center in Muyinga. During her visit, the RRC highlighted the need for more support to strengthen the reintegration programming to create sustainable conditions for the returnees and communities in areas of return.
- **On 18 April 2019, UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinators (RRCs) for the Burundi and South Sudan situations convened a regional partners meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.** The meeting discussed the achievements and the operational constraints faced in realizing the strategic goals set by the Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRPs) for both the Burundi and South Sudan situations and identified joint advocacy priorities of partners and UNHCR to comprehensively address for each forced displacement situation.
- **A regional UNHCR and UNICEF meeting was held in Nairobi, on the 16-17 April 2019, to share experiences around the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Eastern and Southern Africa, identify ways and opportunities to enhance overall collaboration in advocating with governments and mobilizing resources for comprehensive responses and refugee inclusion in line with the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).** Participants widely recognized children's great potential to open avenues for effective advocacy towards refugee inclusion in national systems and that the application of CRRF has already yielded tangible results for refugee and host children, in particular in the sectors of health and nutrition, education, child protection and WASH. The [final report](#) comprises a set of agreed priorities and recommendations to strengthen the joint partnership under the GCR.
- **On 7 March 2019, a high-level meeting (HLM) of Ministers in charge of refugees in the Great Lakes region was held in Kampala, Uganda.** The meeting was hosted by President Museveni and co-organized by the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Adequate financing for voluntary repatriation and reintegration of returnees and support to economic inclusion of refugees and development of refugee-hosting areas were among the key [recommendations](#). Moreover, it was recommended that the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to develop a Regional Strategy for Durable Solutions for the Great Lakes region and an action plan to implement this strategy.

Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania

Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting return to Burundi, but are working with the governments involved to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.
- The current return operation is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite Agreement between the two governments and UNHCR in which all parties have acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons not to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.
- To ensure a sustainable reintegration in Burundi, support has been requested for both returnees and communities in areas of return in line with the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in particular objective four (4), which focuses on supporting conditions in countries of origin for return.

Update

- While returnees are welcomed back by the Government of Burundi, they face socio-economic challenges towards their effective reintegration, including a lack of livelihood opportunities.
- Funding is needed to address the reintegration needs of Burundian returnees, including improvements to the returnee monitoring framework and related services, addressing critical staffing shortages; increasing the capacity of transit centres and transportation to reach all areas of final return.

Partners

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania work in partnership with the 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, World Food Programme (WFP), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

Achievements during the Reporting Period

TANZANIA

Latest Developments

- In April, the common markets in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps remained closed following cessation of activities in February due to security reasons and because their locations outside the camps are deemed too close to the host community areas. The advocacy efforts on solutions to enable the markets to reopen, such as moving them within the boundaries of the camps with the Government of Tanzania is on-going.

Achievements and Challenges

- As of April, a total of 1,666 refugee housing units were installed in Nduta and Mtendeli camps out of a planned target of 3,000 for 2019. These durable and innovative shelter solutions not only offer refugees a dignified and safe way of living, but also provide protection against harsh weather conditions and an increased privacy.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- In March, the Peace Dialogue, a community group which includes both refugee and Rwandan community leaders, held meetings to discuss common issues related to addressing thefts and , the progress of the awareness raising campaign and reports on conflict cases received and handled. This is an initiative which aims at improving the social-cohesion and co-existence between host communities and refugees.

Achievements and Challenges

- Although sensitization is conducted in different villages due to lack of opportunities in the camp, some parents still leave their child unattended increasing the likelihood of protection risks including neglect, child defilement and other issues. Discussions are underway on ways to further engage community leaders and parents on child protection cases prevention.
- Burundian refugees continued to do business in the four markets in Mahama camp and Munini Market in the host community with savings being deposited in local financial institutions. Generally business has been improving with the support of the cash based intervention/ transfers (CBI) programme.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Achievements and Challenges

- In March, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) biometrically registered 250 Burundian refugees at Kavimvira transit center prior to their transfer to Mulongwe settlement. While awaiting for the outcome of their Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process,

22 individuals still remained at the transit center and about 16 have reportedly returned to Burundi spontaneously.

- **In a continuous effort to support access to education Action Aid distributed school uniforms to 7251 children both Burundian refugees and Congolese in Lusenda and Mulongwe, were provided with school uniforms.** A total of 6183 primary school children (5,471 refugees/712 Congolese) and 1068 secondary school children (831 refugees /237 Congolese) received the uniforms.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- **In April, most of the 487 new refugee arrivals from Burundi crossed via Mutukula entry point in Rakai district.** Refugees continue reporting violence and fear of forcible conscription into the Imbonerakure militia as the main reasons for fleeing their country of origin.

Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR supported the screening of 33 projects submitted to US Department of State - Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration (BPRM) for funding through the inter-agency process of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP).** This process involved all relevant sector co-leads and field offices to ensure the alignment with the 2019-2020 RRP and the needs required as well as that and that the donor funds are utilized efficiently.

2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 35 partners across the four main countries of asylum:

Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène | African Initiatives for Relief & Development | American Refugee Committee | Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants | CARE International | Caritas | Church World Service | Community Environmental Management and Development Organization | Danish Refugee Council | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation | Good Neighbours Tanzania | Handicap International | HelpAge International | Impact Initiatives | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee | Medical Teams International | Norwegian Refugee Council | Oxfam | Plan International | Relief to Development Society | Save the Children International | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Uganda Red Cross Society | United Nations Capital Development Fund | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Population Fund | UN Women | Water Mission | Women Legal Aid Center | World Food Programme | World Health Organisation

External / Donors Relations

CONTACTS

Daena Neto, Reporting Officer, Nairobi

neto@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2225, Cell +254 780 04 3430

Tina Ghelli, Senior External Relations Officer, Nairobi

ghelli@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2224, Cell : +254 078 488 0087

LINKS

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

UNHCR Burundi Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/burundi-situation.html>

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

Recent News Story: <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2019/5/5cd2b7887/burundian-refugees-returning-home-need-urgent-support.html>

RRRP Funding Tracking for 2019:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaM2M2NDMyZTgtZmQ4OC00ZDE1LWYyYWMtMTAxZDY2NzMyY2QxliwidCI6ImU1YzM3OTgxLTY2NjQ0tNDEzNC04YTBjLTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOjh9>