

# BURUNDI SITUATION

1-30 SEPTEMBER 2018

**378,231**

Total refugees from Burundi in the four main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

**6,648**

Burundian refugees assisted to return from the United Republic of Tanzania in September 2018, totalling 39,156 assisted in 2018.

**242**

Burundian refugee arrivals /registrations recorded in September 2018, totalling 6,449 arrivals in the region.

**52,260**

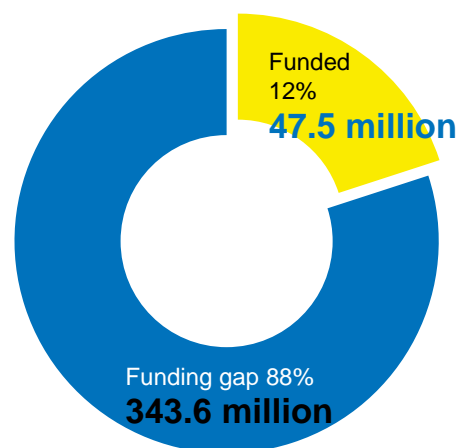
Burundian refugees assisted to return from the United Republic of Tanzania since September 2017.

**151,520**

Number of IDPs in Burundi, according to IOM, 75 per cent of whom are linked to natural disasters and 25 per cent of whom are linked to the socio political situation as of September 2018.

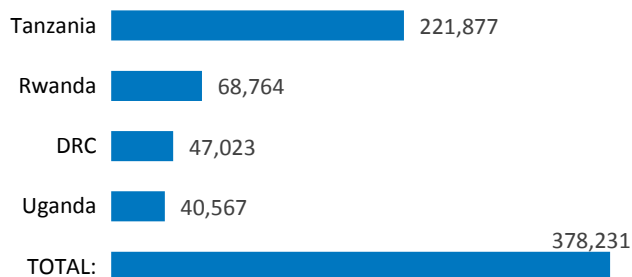
## BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING (AS OF END OF SEPTEMBER 2018)

**USD 391.1 million**



## 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 2018 Burundi RRRP.

\*\* The total above is in line with the 2018 Burundi RRRP regional coverage, and does not include some 23,700 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 23,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

## New Arrivals

	In 2017 (Jan to Dec)	In 2018 (as of 30 September)
DRC	8,575	<b>1,996</b>
Rwanda	7,683	<b>2,437</b>
Tanzania	40,287	<b>1</b>
Uganda	5,312	<b>2,015</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,857</b>	<b>6,449</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- **The mid-year report for the Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), including a regional overview and country level updates, was published by the Regional Refugee Coordination office.** Although facing severe resource constraints, the reports reflect overall progress throughout the region, including in the provision of sexual and gender based violence interventions, education, water and sanitation, and shelter. However, due to underfunding, schools and health centres remained overcrowded, food rations were reduced in 3 of the 4 asylum countries during the first half of the year, only 50% of refugees were living in semi-permanent shelters, 64% were still accessing communal latrines, and investments in livelihoods and environmental protection remained limited. The reports are available [here](#).
- **The Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Burundi Situation and CRRF Champion jointly hosted with the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the South Sudan Situation an event in Nairobi, Kenya on 25 September 2018 to mark the two year anniversary of the New York Declaration and correspond with a high level event on the Global Compact on Refugees hosted by the High Commissioner for Refugees the same week at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.** The event highlighted the role of different stakeholders – UN and NGO partners, World Bank, donors, and private sector – in the application of the **CRRF** in the region.
- **The Commission of Inquiry on Burundi released their report on the human rights situation on 5 September 2018.** In its report, the Commission of Inquiry noted with alarm the persistence of serious human rights violations, some of which constitute crimes against humanity. The Commission called upon the Government of Burundi to make a firm and unequivocal commitment to put an immediate end to the human rights violations committed in the country. On 28 September 2018 the UN Human Rights Council voted to extend the Commission’s mandate for another year.
- **Over 52,000 refugees across the region have been assisted to return to Burundi since September 2017 – the vast majority from Tanzania, with smaller numbers returning from Rwanda, DRC, and Kenya.** The 2018 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan, funded at only 12 per cent as of end of September, continues catering for the over 370,000 Burundian refugees that remain in serious need of assistance and international protection.
- **Following the recent Ebola outbreak in the DRC, partners are working to ensure that refugees are included in national prevention and mitigation measures in the DRC and neighbouring countries.**

## 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.

### Update

- The voluntary repatriation exercise has been halted due to the suspension of activities of some key partners. On 28 September, the Burundi National Council of Security announced the suspension of operations of all non-governmental organizations till their compliance to the national legal system.

### 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

- **There has been a relaxation of some of the restrictive economic measures put in place in all three refugee camps since late July** as a result of ongoing dialogue between the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNHCR and partners. However, the continued closure of the common markets in Nduta and Mtendeli, and the reduction of market days in Nyarugusu continue to have a negative impact on refugees who have lost access to essential food and non-food items as well as livelihoods opportunities.
- **UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework – Joint Monitoring Mission** was conducted to Burundi and Tanzania to assess the progress of the cross-border Peacebuilding Fund Project from 5-10 September and included site visits to Nyarugusu and Nduta camps. Mission members included staff from UNDG, UNDP, IOM and UNHCR in Burundi and Tanzania working on the coordination and implementation of the project. The mission observed voluntary repatriation procedures and visited vocational training facilities.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **In September, an inter-agency task force for Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) held a meeting to endorse the PSEA Protocol.** The task force members highlighted the need to establish a database to help keep track of refugee incentive workers accused of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as the disciplinary measures that have been taken.

### RWANDA

#### Latest Developments

- **The Ebola preparedness action plan in Rwanda faces some gaps, including infrared thermometers, personal protective equipment, trainings and materials to support education and communication activities.** Rwanda is a densely populated country and considered to be at risk of a possible Ebola outbreak from across the border in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **OXFAM has ensured the operational capacity of the water treatment plant as well as the distribution of safe drinking water with an average of 64m<sup>3</sup>/day** to the persons of concern in the Mahama camp and surrounding host communities.
- **76 per cent of the camp population in Mahama were reached during the hygiene promotion and community participation activities carried out to increase awareness on best hygiene**

**practices.** Conversely, there are still insufficient water points in the new areas of the camp. Additional 15 water points are required to meet minimum standards.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **Latest Developments**

- **The UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Burundi situation (RRC), visited Lusenda and Mulongwe sites in South Kivu Province.** The visit aimed at taking stock of the challenges and achievements of the operation as well as exploring ways to expand the partnerships for an enhanced humanitarian response. The RRC met with refugees, government officials, partners, and with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).
- **As of the end of September, some 310 refugees in the Lusenda site have requested assistance to return to Burundi.** Ten refugees have already been voluntarily repatriated to Burundi with UNHCR providing transport and repatriation kits.

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **UNHCR's partner ADES installed additional hand-washing stations in all Burundian refugee sites, with regular sensitization campaigns carried out as part of Ebola and cholera prevention measures.**
- **UNHCR resumed the relocation exercise and relocated 1,232 Burundian refugees from transit centres to the Mulongwe site, which had previously been on hold due to a serious underfunding situation.** The refugees will receive plots of land and be given cash assistance and shelter kits.

## **UGANDA**

### **Latest Developments**

- **UNHCR Uganda is further strengthening Ebola prevention and preparedness efforts through the use of infrared thermometers and a checklist during screening in all transit centres, collection points and reception centres.** No case has been identified so far.

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **In Kyaka II, a total of 22 semi-permanent shelters were officially handed over to persons with specific needs (PSNs).** A total of 48 shelters have been finished and occupied to date in 2018 by PSNs.

## 2018 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2018 RRP brings together the following 27 partners across the four countries of asylum:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency | African Initiatives for Relief & Development | American Refugee Committee | CARITAS The Catholic Diocese of Kigoma | Church World Service | Community Environmental Management and Development Organization | Danish Refugee Council | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Good Neighbours Tanzania | HelpAge International | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee IsraAID Uganda | Norwegian Refugee Council | OXFAM | Plan International | Relief to Development Society | Save the Children International | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Tanzania Red Cross Society | Tutapona | UN Women | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Population Fund | 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 +254 742 34 2380

### LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>  
UNHCR Burundi page: <http://www.unhcr.org/burundi.html>  
UNHCR Burundi Global Focus : <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>  
Recent News Story: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2018/9/5b96719e4/refugees-learn-code-new-future-malawi.html>