

BURUNDI SITUATION

SEPTEMBER 2019

325,677

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

18,221

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019, with some 1,461 assisted in September.

7,628

Total Burundian arrivals recorded in 2019. In September, 993 new arrivals were reported in Rwanda and Uganda.

77,018

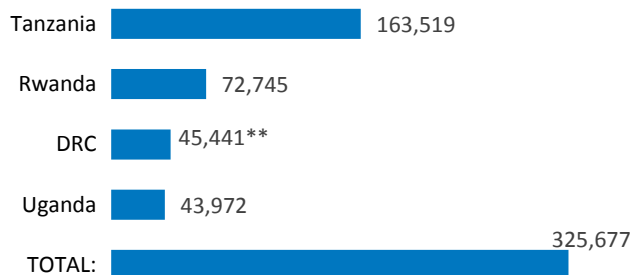
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between September 2017 and 30 September 2019, mainly from Tanzania. For more information, please check the [Voluntary Repatriation dashboard](#).

106,197

Number of IDPs in Burundi as of September 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, for 77 per cent the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, for 23 per cent they are linked to the socio political situation.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



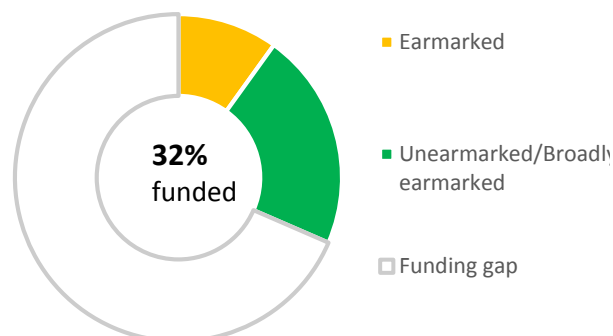
* Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective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

** The population of 45,441 in the DRC is as of 31 August 2019.

BURUNDI REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of 18 October 2019)

USD 292.9 million



*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Funding Tracker

New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of September)
DRC	2,141	1,170
Rwanda	2,966	1,922
Tanzania	1	0
Uganda	2,851	4,536
TOTAL	7,959	7,628

Highlights and Operational Context

- **On 30 September, Burundi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ezechiel Nibigira, during his address at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared that Burundi has increasingly a favourable climate for a free, transparent and calm election. Elections are scheduled to take place in May 2020.** In that vein he highlighted as positive signs the promotion of freedom of expression with the possibility for the formation of new political parties; the decision of Burundi's President, Pierre Nkurunziza, not to stand in the upcoming presidential elections; the reintegration of refugees and political exiles; and finally the release of more than 2,000 prisoners since the beginning of the year.
- **In September, the mid-year reports for the 2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), including a regional overview and country level updates (DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania), were released.** Although facing severe resource constraints, the reports reflect what RRP partners have achieved with the limited resources available to meet the life-saving and humanitarian needs of Burundian refugees throughout the region. However, with only 16 per cent of the required funding available by the end of June, the Burundi situation response continued facing serious challenges with serious gaps in the areas of health, education and livelihood support. In addition, most households lack adequate basic domestic items and sexual and gender based violence interventions remain critically hampered due to staff shortages.
- **On 13 September, the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP), an integrated inter-agency response plan aimed at the sustainable return and reintegration of Burundi refugees from the five main countries of asylum (Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Kenya) was launched in Burundi, with 19 partners calling for USD 77.9 million for 2019.** The plan includes humanitarian and development oriented community-based response activities for an estimated 74,000 refugees who already returned – both assisted and unassisted – in 2017 and 2018, as well new returnees in 2019, and some 82,000 community members in the six main provinces of return.

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

Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting returns 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

- The Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP), an integrated inter-agency response plan to ensure the sustainable return and reintegration of Burundi refugees from the five main countries of asylum (Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Kenya) is now available [online](#).
- 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.
- UNHCR continues to urge both governments to respect the Tripartite Agreement as well as the willingness of the refugees and will continue supporting returns of refugees as long as the decision is voluntary and returns can take place in safety and dignity.

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

- **The population validation exercise undertaken jointly by UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania continued in September in Nduta and Mtendeli camps between 12 and 25 September after the conclusion in Nyarugusu camp on 9 September.** The verification exercise ensures that refugees and asylum seekers are accurately reflected in the registration system and helps streamline the provision of resources and services to people of concern. While the exercise has been finalised, UNHCR and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) continue tackling issues such as the inactivation of asylum cases of people who failed to show up for the exercise.

Achievements and Challenges

- **In Tanzania camps, food was distributed at 100 per cent of the full basket.** Refugees received their full entitlements of pulses, super cereals, sugar, vegetable oil and salt, ensuring an adequate supply of micronutrients to the refugee population.
- **In September, 72 refugee housing units (RHUs) were installed in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps, reaching 81 per cent of the 2019 target.** In 2019, the operation plans to install a total of 3,000 RHU. With the newly installed RHUs the proportion of camp-based refugees living in adequate shelters was raised to 75 per cent.

RWANDA

Achievements and Challenges

- **Further to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda, 6,231 (51.7 per cent) urban refugees can now access the Rwandan National Community-Based Health Insurance.** However, out of the 12,045 urban refugees targeted in the MoU, there are 5,814 individuals that are not currently eligible due to issues related to lack of identity cards and other registration issues with the National Identification Agency (NIDA).
- **In Mahama camp, with about 8,841 children enrolled in primary school, there is a need for 96 additional classrooms to support the government mandated change from double shifts to a single program for primary education.** The aim is to reduce the ratio of 90 children per classroom to the minimum standard of 40 children per classroom (40:1), to ensure successful learning.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- **Some 7,601 refugee children were enrolled in primary school for 2019-2020 in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, while 1,754 refugee students were enrolled in secondary school.** However, the quality of the education system available for refugees is continuously challenged by overcrowded classrooms, lack of teachers and resources to rehabilitate school facilities.
- **UNHCR and partners biometrically registered 1,199 Burundian asylum-seekers at Kavimvira and Sange Transit Centres (TC) in September.** As of September, there have been 1,170 new arrivals in 2019. The transit centres are overwhelmed following new arrivals in 2019, therefore UNHCR began rehabilitating five dormitories at Kamvivira transit center, expanding its capacity to an additional 160 persons. Some asylum-seekers hosted at the transit center in Sange will be transferred to Kamvivira to decongest the former.

Achievements and Challenges

- **As malaria remains the main cause of mortality amongst the host and refugee population, Danish Refugee Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, distributed 16,563 long-lasting treated mosquito nets (LLINs) - 12,763 in Lusenda camp and 3,800 in Mulongwe settlement.**

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- **In Uganda, the 2019 RRRP Mid-year [report](#) revealed that while some progress was made towards supporting new refugee arrivals and vulnerable households, a gap remains in transitioning refugee households from emergency-focused livelihood interventions to more sustainable options.** More efforts and resources are needed to increase investment in income generating activities and livelihoods opportunities, in particular through strengthening engagement with local government and private sector in the delivery of services to refugees and host communities (e.g. agriculture extension and registration of small businesses).

Achievements and Challenges

- **Review of the first year of the Education Response Plan (ERP) and a financial tracking exercise has been concluded, demonstrating positive results and informing its revision. The ERP targets 567,500 learners per year, over a period of 3 - 5 years.** The district level consultations with Government counterparts, refugee representatives and education sector partner's consultations will lead to the development of District Education Response Plans to adapt the ERP to local contexts and ensure its implementation in refugee-hosting districts.

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

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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://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1048152>
RRRP and JRRRP Funding Tracker: [Refugee Funding Tracker \(RFT\)](#)