

BURUNDI SITUATION

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

347,155

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

44,773

Total Burundian refugees assisted to return from the United Republic of Tanzania in 2018, with some 3,789 assisted in November and 1,814 assisted in December 2018.

7,959

Total Burundian refugee arrivals recorded in 2018, with 408 new arrivals in November and 677 new arrivals in December 2018.

58,546

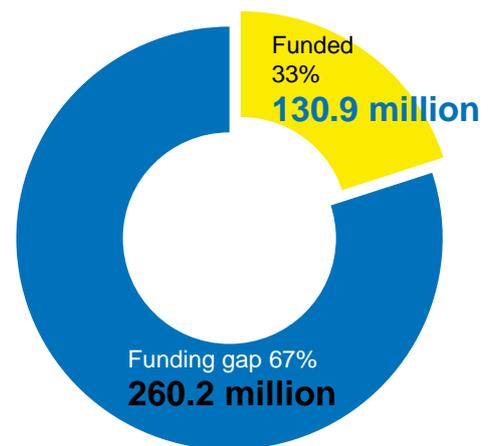
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return in 2017 and 2018 from Tanzania (57,867), Kenya (586), DRC (88), Uganda (2), Gabon (1), Cameroon (1) and Burkina Faso (1).

139,634

Number of IDPs in Burundi, according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, 77 per cent are linked to natural disasters, 23 per cent are linked to the socio political situation as of December 2018.

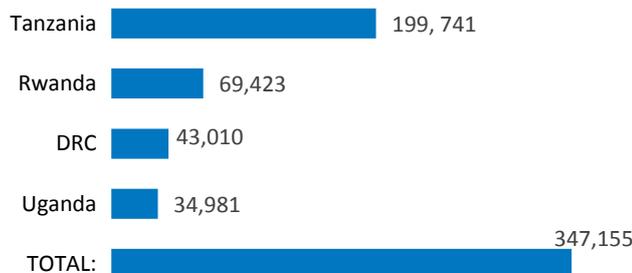
BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING (JANUARY- DECEMBER 2018)

USD 391.1 million



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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 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 2017 (Jan to Dec)	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)
DRC	8,575	2,141
Rwanda	7,683	2,966
Tanzania	40,287	1
Uganda	5,312	2,851
TOTAL	61,857	7,959

Highlights and Operational Context

- **The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), home to 43,010 Burundian refugees, remains dangerous and unpredictable with the community surveillance exercises being hampered by armed group activity in the North Kivu area.** A strong partnership between UN agencies, the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC, government authorities and other partners have so far prevented Ebola from spreading to other areas in the country, including refugee camps, as well as into neighbouring countries.
- **The Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2019-2020 was published in late December 2018, and calls upon donors to address the most underfunded refugee crisis in the world, and to continue supporting the host countries.** The Burundi Regional RRP appeals for US\$ 296 million in 2019 in a collective effort of 35 partner organizations supporting host governments to provide protection and assistance to Burundian refugees in the region.
- **The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Burundi, Michel Kafando, during his address to the Security Council on the 21st November, highlighted the need to strengthen “the trust and dialogue between the Government and the opposition parties, which is essential for the resolution of the ongoing crisis.”** Mr. Kafando also stated the pivotal role played by international and regional bodies such as United Nations, East African Community and African Union towards the re-evaluation of their commitments to support Burundi.
- **On 21st November 2018, the Regional Child Protection Network held an information sharing session on “The critical importance of child protection in refugee situations,” held as part of the International Day of the Child.** The session brought child protections partners together with donors to promote a regional overview of the protection situation of refugee children affected by the Burundi crisis as well as highlighted some of the responses, gaps and challenges faced.
- **The Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Burundi Situation undertook a joint mission with UNICEF to Rwanda from 19-22nd November 2018.** The mission included a review of the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Rwanda and explored areas for collaboration in supporting the Government to include refugees in national systems and services.
- **On 17-18th December 2018, the East African Community (EAC), Technical Working Group on Refugee Management held a meeting, jointly organized with UNHCR towards the development of the EAC Policy on Refugee Management.** A regional refugee policy would be a stepping stone towards the harmonization of national laws and policies on refugee matters and provide an opportunity to endorse the goals and principles of the new global Compact on Refugees at the regional level.

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

- After being halted throughout October 2018 due to the suspension of international NGO activities, assisted voluntary repatriation restarted at the beginning of November 2018 when several UNHCR partners received the go ahead to resume their operations. As of 31st December 2018, 84 foreign NGOs have been authorized to resume operations in Burundi after indicating adherence to the 2017 regulations governing NGOs presence and work in the country. This authorization ended the 3 month notice period for foreign NGO to comply with the new regulations.

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

- **To ensure consistent and effective dissemination of information to refugees, a number of inter-agency communications and information needs assessments were conducted in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps.** The findings enabled the identification of refugees' preferred communication channels and trusted sources of information, as well as existing communication gaps, and will be used to inform efforts to empower refugees to make decisions at all levels.
- **On 4th and 7th December, respectively, the common markets in Nduta and Mtendeli that had been closed down as part of a series of restrictive economic measures put in place in late July were re-opened,** following sustained advocacy by UNHCR, partners and local communities. The common markets will be open once a week for the time being, although it is hoped the frequency will increase.

Achievements and Challenges

- **A total of 14 Burundian students who passed the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship selection process have enrolled at the University of Dodoma, in Tanzania.**
- **General food distribution (GFD) was maintained at 100% of the full basket in December.** Refugees received 100% of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, corn-soya blend and salt entitlements for the second month in a row.

RWANDA

Latest Developments

- **UNHCR high profile supporter, model and photographer Helena Christensen carried out a visit to Rwanda in November and called for support to the world's most underfunded refugee crisis, the Burundian crisis.** Rwanda hosts some 149,520 refugees and asylum seekers, including 69,423 refugees from Burundi which represents 46 per cent of the total refugee population in the country.

Achievements and Challenges

- **While 6,907 constructed semi-permanent shelters are hosting 100 per cent of the camp population, 1,717 semi-permanent shelters still require plastering works/mudding to enhance their durability.** Meanwhile, 21 semi-permanent shelters had their doors and roofs repaired and maintained through community participation.

- **Daily hygiene promotion activities and community participation were conducted in all communities reaching 57 per cent of camp population** (33,383 individuals) to increase awareness of best hygiene practices.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- **On 30th December 2018, elections were held in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).** No major population movement has been reported into countries neighboring DRC.

Achievements and Challenges

- **In Lusenda camp, the cholera treatment units at the health centre were rehabilitated by UNHCR and its partner ADES, and in Mulongwe settlement a rehydration point was built as part of cholera prevention measures.** They benefit both refugees and the Congolese host population.
- **12 hectares of land were allocated to 192 refugee households in Mulongwe settlement by the local community in support to agricultural activities and to foster both peaceful co-existence and self-reliance.** Refugees were also given agricultural tools and seeds to facilitate their farming activities.
- **In November, 26,567 Burundian refugees received biomass briquettes in Lusenda camp, and 4,356 received firewood in Mulongwe settlement** as part of the efforts to ensure Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) to refugees and address environmental concerns.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- **A task force was established by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group and Sector Co-leads, to prepare the deployment of *Activity Info* in the first quarter of 2019.** *Activity Info* is an online information management system, conceived to monitor the implementation of the 2019-2020 Refugee Response Plan through partners' activity mapping.
- **As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), UNHCR handed over the data of Persons of Concern (PoCs) verified in Uganda to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).** The data collected entailed significant joint efforts to ensure the standardization and harmonization of the registration processes in Uganda.

Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR, academia, and partners supported Ministry of Health to review the 2016 protocol for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM).** The review paved way for the new 2019 national IMAM guidelines, taking into account the Uganda refugee context, which will strengthen the existing practice in the management of acute malnutrition nation-wide.

2018 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2018 RRP brings together the following 27 partners across the four main 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

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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://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p06rtj8l>