

# BURUNDI SITUATION

1-31 OCTOBER 2018

**367,463**

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

**0**

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return in October 2018 due to temporary suspension of international NGO activities in Burundi.

**425**

Burundian refugee arrivals /registrations recorded in October 2018, totalling 6,874 arrivals in the region in 2018.

**52,260**

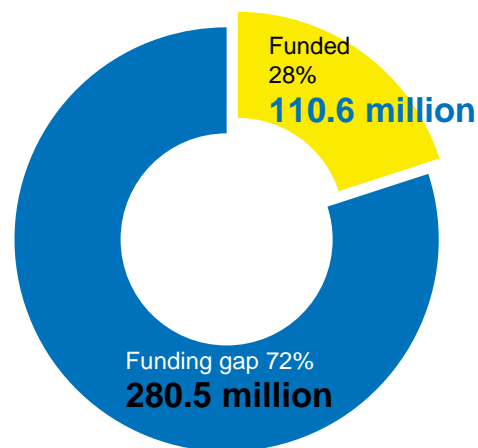
Burundian refugees assisted to return from the United Republic of Tanzania since September 2017.

**147,086**

Number of IDPs in Burundi, according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix, 75 per cent are linked to natural disasters, 24 per cent are linked to the socio political situation, and one per cent to other reasons, as of October 2018.

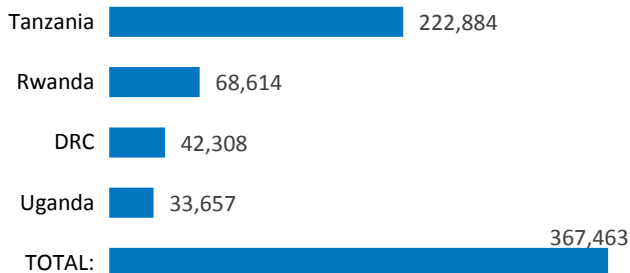
## BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING (AS OF 7 NOVEMBER 2018)

**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 31 October)
DRC	8,575	<b>1,996</b>
Rwanda	7,683	<b>2,577</b>
Tanzania	40,287	<b>1</b>
Uganda	5,312	<b>2,300</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,857</b>	<b>6,874</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- **The UNHCR Representation in Uganda and the Office of Prime Minister in Uganda (OPM) issued a joint press release on the completion of the biometric verification exercise which started in March 2018 and concluded on Wednesday, October 24th.** A total of 1.1 million refugees were verified and biometrically enrolled in Uganda, out of whom 33,657 were Burundian refugees.
- **The Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Burundi Situation carried out a joint mission with regional directors from the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration to Burundi on the 8-10 October.** The mission met with government officials, the Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team, NGO partners, and various Embassy and donor representatives to take stock of recent developments in the country, including the launch of Burundi's National Development Plan and progress made in the implementation of several multi-agency x-border and reintegration projects.
- **The 5th Inter-Burundian Dialogue meeting held 24th – 29th October in Arusha/Tanzania under the auspices of the Eastern African Community (EAC) reached an impasse due to the absence of the Government of Burundi.** The facilitation team headed by the appointed facilitator, former Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa, has submitted a report on outcomes and potential next steps for consideration by the Mediator, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and EAC Heads of State at a Summit (re)scheduled for 27 December 2018.
- **The Burundian refugee situation is at present the lowest funded of any situation globally. UNHCR's report on underfunded situation released on 9 October 2018** reveals that the multifaceted impact of underfunding is felt acutely in all areas of the Burundi response, but especially in cuts to food rations, the dilapidation of shelters, health centres struggling to cope with large numbers of patients, overcrowded classrooms, and limited capacity to provide services to unaccompanied children and survivors of sexual violence.
- **As of 7 November, UNHCR and partners have received only 28 per cent of the \$391 million appealed for in the 2018 Regional Refugee Response Plan.**

## 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 resumed on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2018, following a halt on September 28<sup>th</sup> due to suspension by the Burundian Government of activities of all international non-governmental organizations. The resumption of activities of suspended NGOs was made contingent by the Government of Burundi upon NGOs complying with specific banking and labour 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

- **On 11<sup>th</sup> October refugee response partners celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child in Nduta camp and took part in the inter-agency action 'Girls takeover.'** The latter is a global initiative seeking prominent leadership positions to be owned by girls in both private and public sectors. For instance, a multilingual Burundian refugee, Bernice Uwimana, was invited to take on the role of UNHCR Representative in Nduta Camp for the day.
- **On 1-2 October UNHCR office in Tanzania held a 2019 Strategic Planning Meeting.** The meeting aimed at taking stock of 2018 operations achievements and main challenges in an increasingly complex and unpredictable protection environment, to further inform strategic discussions on the operational priorities for 2019.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **In October, a special examination for Burundian refugees enrolled in the secondary school has been administered by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) in all three refugee camps of Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu.** Out of 959 registered Burundian students, 921 (96 per cent) attended the examination, which provides a recognized certificate by countries in the region and ensures continuity of education beyond secondary school in Tanzania.

### RWANDA

#### Latest Developments

- **Some 411 Burundians registered for training on business skills and access to finance launched by INKOMOKO Business Development for the 2019 cohort programme.** The programme aims at bolstering the capacities of refugees to run businesses and contribute economically to the communities where they are integrated.

#### Achievements and Challenges

- **The construction of durable structures for communal hangar, kitchen and multipurpose hall are in progress in Mahama camp and Gatore reception centre.** While facing funding constraints, there is a continuous effort to ensure the transition from temporary structures to semi-permanent shelters.
- **A brick wall was constructed around the perimeter of the permanent water treatment plant in Mahama camp.** This permanent structure will increase the security of the infrastructure against theft and vandalism.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Latest Developments

- **Amid the ongoing verification exercise to facilitate the issuance of identification documents, 3,729 Burundian refugees residing in host families in South Kivu were verified as of October 31st.** There has been a reduction of 986 refugees, which can be explained by continuous movements, likely including spontaneous returns to Burundi as well as deaths.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **In Lusenda and Mulongwe settlements the stocks of essential medicine remains severely depleted due to the underfunding for the Burundian situation.** As result, refugees have experienced a reduction in the quality of care and there have been more frequent referrals to secondary health structures.
- **To bolster the self-reliance of refugees, response partners have provided agricultural technical support in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement.** As a result, refugees were able to sell 210 kilos of tomatoes and 250 kilos of cabbage as part of their production. 210 young refugees also received diplomas after completing vocational trainings in soap-making, sewing, hairdressing and baking.

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- **The joint inter-agency [Multi-Sector Needs Assessment \(MSNA\)](#) of refugee and host communities carried out in 12 refugee hosting districts and 30 refugee settlements across Uganda was released.** The MSNA was carried out between March and August 2018 and was designed to inform the development of the 2019-2020 Refugee Response Plan (RRP).

### Achievements and Challenges

- **As of October 2018, UNHCR and partners established 110 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in the mid-west with total savings of about USD 53,500 and 159 VSLAs in the south-west with total savings of USD 67,000.** Despite the establishment of VSLAs and Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), access to capital for business start-up and expansion remains a challenge.
- **A new communication system for refugees and asylum-seekers known as the inter-agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) was launched in Uganda on October 10th.** The system will provide refugees a centralized call centre with an inter-agency toll-free countrywide helpline and email address in addition to the existing community-based mechanisms.

## 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: <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>