

# BURUNDI SITUATION

September 2017

In September, **close to 3,000 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers** were newly recorded in the region. The largest number was recorded in Uganda with **1,154** newly registered Burundian refugees.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, growing insecurity and fighting in the territories of Fizi and Uvira, has led to a suspension on works on the new site of Mulongwe, which aims to decongest Lusenda camp.

In **Tanzania**, the number of Burundian asylum seeker arrivals dropped to lowest since April 2015, as admission through border entry points in Kigoma region remained a challenge.

## KEY INDICATORS

**422,387**

Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who fled since 1 April 2015

*Note: decrease from August 2017 update figure of 423,056 due to updating and verification of figures in Southern Africa region*

**534,000**

Projection of Burundian refugees by the of end 2017, while the total returns figure is expected to rise to 50,000 (Revised 2017 RRRP Planning Figures)

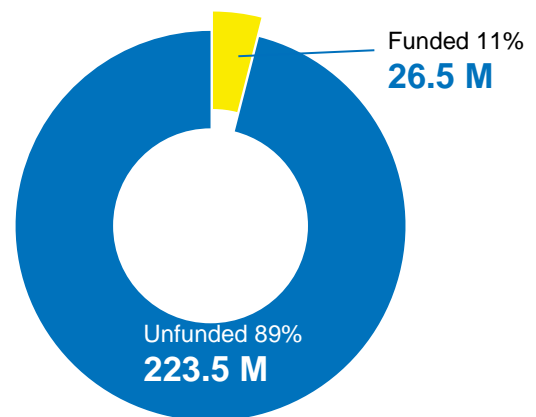
**191,806**

IDPs according to IOM where 34% of IDPs are linked to the current crisis, and 66% are linked to natural disasters, as of August 2017

## FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPT 2017)

**USD 250 M**

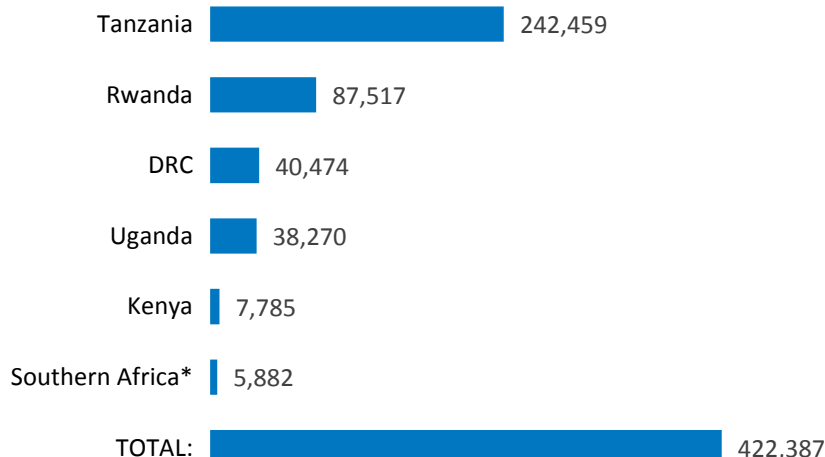
requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Host Countries

Note: Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum seekers since 1 April 2015



\*Southern Africa: this includes Botswana, Swaziland, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe

## Operational Context

- **UNHCR Seeks Support for Burundian Refugees, revises 2017 Burundi Regional Refugee Response (RRRP) Plan to reflect funding needs:** On 29 September 2017, UNHCR called for stronger international support for Burundian refugees and their host communities, as underfunding is hampering the humanitarian response in countries of asylum. Reception capacities are limited, asylum space strained, and the quality of protection available in host countries is compromised. Refugees continue to live in overcrowded camps, facing insecurity, deterioration of emergency shelters, shortages of water and food, and oversubscribed health and education services. Provision of protection and assistance for Burundian refugees has not yet reached acceptable standards, despite efforts by the host government, UNHCR and partners.
- **The UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi stated, on 4 September 2017, there are reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed since April 2015 and called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate these crimes.** These crimes are taking place in a context of serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and enforced disappearances, according to the Commission.
- **DRC/Kamonyola, South Kivu:** On 15 September, 39 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers living in the locality of Kamanyola were shot and killed by Congolese soldiers (FARDC) during a demonstration, while a further 94 Burundians were wounded and referred to hospitals. Following the incident, 2,485 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers were initially camped outside of the MONUSCO base, and thereafter moved to a temporary site behind the base where they continue to reside. Please refer to the DRC section below for further details.

## Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian Refugees

### Background:

- A relatively small number of Burundian refugees have already undertaken to return spontaneously, predominantly from Tanzania. Smaller numbers from the DRC and Tanzania have indicated a provisional desire to return contingent upon receiving assistance to do.
- On 31 August 2017, at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the Tripartite Commission (United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR) issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a two-phased voluntary repatriation work

plan from 7 September to 31 December 2017 for some 12,000 Burundian refugees who have expressed their wish to return to Burundi.

- It was acknowledged that, while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not seeking to return at present and will continue to be in need of international protection. While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, it is supporting the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.
- UNHCR coordinates and assists the repatriation process between Tanzania and Burundi, provides a return package and has established protection monitoring systems in Burundi to monitor return conditions for refugees who have voluntarily decided to return to Burundi.

#### **Update:**

- Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees started on 7 September 2017. As of 30 September 2017, a **total of 2,343 Burundian refugees**, including 240 persons with specific needs (PSNs), were facilitated to return to Burundi. The highest number of returns have taken place to Makamba Province.

#### **Partners**

- In Tanzania, UNHCR is closely collaborating with the following partners: Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and HelpAge International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) /Tanzanian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (TRCS), 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, WFP, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

## **Achievements during the Reporting Period**

### **TANZANIA**

#### **Latest developments**

- **The number of Burundian arrivals in September 2017 stood at 46, the lowest recorded since April 2015.** This number has fallen by 75 per cent since August. Women and children combined make up slightly more than three quarters of the total population arriving since April 2015. The current Burundian population

residing in the camps who arrived/were born in Tanzania since April 2015 stands at 242,459 and are housed across three camps: Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyagurusu.

### **Achievements and challenges**

- **Since the revocation of *prima facie* recognition for Burundian refugees in January 2017, admission of asylum-seekers** through the border entry points in the Kigoma region has continued to be challenging despite UNHCR's efforts to mitigate the situation.
- **The monthly general food distribution for Burundian refugees across the three camps stands at 60 per cent of the full food basket.** Supplementary feeding activities were conducted in the three camps to address stunting, malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency among children. Wet feeding and supplementary feeding programs continued at full ration in all refugee camps.
- **More than 60 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers continue to reside in dilapidated emergency shelters and tents.** There is an urgent need for additional funding to provide transitional shelters to those who have resided for a protracted emergency shelters. Nduta camp continues to receive asylum-seekers and the population stood at 125,546 refugees at the end of September 2017, while the camp has a maximum capacity of 132,000 refugees.
- **Scarcity of firewood and other alternative energy sources remain a key challenge across all camps, placing considerable strain on hosting areas.** A four month pilot extension to the Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) Pilot in Nyarugusu camp commenced in September 2017, which aims to test a new distribution mechanism and provide additional gas to the 3,100 households who took part in the previous pilot. This extension will target in particular larger families. In Mtendeli camp, a smaller LPG Pilot commenced, which aims to reward those making a positive contribution towards the environment and refugee community.

## **RWANDA**

### **Latest developments**

- **There are now 87,517 Burundian refugees registered in Rwanda. Some 456 new arrivals were received in September, which is representing a gradual decline since February where arrivals stood at 791.** The average number of new arrivals was 15 individuals per day during September, and an average of 20 daily arrivals in 2017.

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **The transition from emergency shelters to semi-permanent structures in Mahama Camp continues.** To date, a total of 5,896 semi-permanent shelters are hosting 75.5 per cent of the population in Mahama camp (41,539 individuals) while

the remaining 24.5 per cent of the population (13,478 individuals) are living in communal plastic shelters. As an extension of 24 hectares to Mahama camp has been granted by authorities, 678 additional shelters are under construction on this new site. In Gatore Reception centre, communal hangars are deteriorating and require urgent restoration while 1,717 semi-permanent shelters require plastering.

- **Due to funding shortfalls during 2017, WFP will implement progressive food cuts starting in November 2017 and will start targeting food assistance.** The exact modalities for the way forward are still being negotiated.
- **Secondary movement of 42 Burundian refugees from DRC and Tanzania has been received in Rwanda.** The reasons provided for onward movement to Rwanda are family reunification and the declining protection environment in the region.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 40,474 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who arrived since April 2015.** During the month, 427 refugees were registered. Some 511 new arrivals were admitted in transit centres and were waiting to be registered. 30,432 refugees live in Lusenda camp while some 9,000 live outside the camp, mainly with host families in South Kivu.
- **In the territories of Fizi and Uvira, the security situation has deteriorated during the month of September, due to escalation of conflicts involving armed groups and the Congolese army (FARDC).** On 23 September, the locality of Mboko (where a UNHCR office is located) and the zone of Lusenda were particularly affected by this fighting. However, refugees and partners in the camp, UNHCR halted activities south of Uvira and refugees have expressed concern regarding the fighting between the armed groups and the military.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **In Lusenda camp,** the reception centre (Katungulu I) was rehabilitated to host an additional 157 refugees (34 households). However, the camp remains overcrowded, hosting more than 30,000 people against an estimated capacity of 25,000.
- **UNHCR suspended works on the new site in Mulongwe** (near Baraka, Fizi territory), due to insecurity south of Baraka. Site development began on 19 July with the support of two operational partners (MEDEOR and CARITAS). To date, three blocks (out of 13 planned) have been cleared, and four communal dormitories have been fully constructed. Dormitories, kitchens, and WASH

structures are in the process of being constructed. The host community contributed to the works through a “cash for work” approach.

- **Monthly food distributions and school attendance were disrupted due to the escalating insecurity following heightened insecurity in Mboko.** Some 1,357 individuals (334 households) were not able to receive the monthly food ration that was planned for distribution on 26 September. Supply trucks will deliver the food as soon as the security situation improves. Schools attended by refugee children were shut down, and will reopen once the security situation allows.
- **A mass vaccination campaign against the measles epidemic (declared since June) was completed** in 12 health zones surrounding Lusenda Camp which host a large number of Burundian refugees. 55,671 children aged between 0 and 15 years were vaccinated, which included a large proportion of Burundian refugee children. Awareness campaigns against cholera were reinforced in Lusenda and in the Transit Centres in South Kivu, following the epidemic which erupted in August in Uvira and in the health zone of Nundu surrounding the camp.

#### **Kamanyola (Uvira territory, South Kivu):**

- On 15 September, 39 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers living in the locality of Kamanyola were shot and killed by FARDC soldiers during a demonstration, while 94 Burundians were wounded and referred to hospitals.
- Following the incident, **2,485** Burundian refugees and asylum seekers were initially camped outside of the MONUSCO Base, and thereafter moved to a temporary site behind the base where they continue to reside. UNHCR has completed the first level of registration for the group and will conduct a more detailed registration in the following weeks.
- **UNHCR has sent a multi-sectorial team** on the ground to assess the most urgent needs and coordinate a response, while a longer term relocation solution is sought. Since then, the site was connected to the local water structure, MONUSCO is providing water for washing, and a waste collection system has been set up.
- **Some 600 plastic tarpaulins, 1,250 blankets, 1,250 mats and 260kg of soap have been distributed to this group.** UNHCR with the support of its partner ADES has set up a tent for medical consultations and referrals to hospital.
- **Water is currently one of the main points of concern in Kamanyola site.** UNHCR is working with partners to ensure the arrival of additional bladders and tanks for the provision of drinking water at the site. UNHCR is also in discussions with various humanitarian actors to cover the gap in mental health which persists after such traumatic events.

## UGANDA

### Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 38,752 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, with 38,270 who arrived since April 2015.** In September, 1,154 Burundian asylum seekers were registered in Uganda at an average daily arrival rate of 38 individuals, which is an increase from 806 new arrivals last month.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **To strengthen SGBV prevention,** UNHCR and protection actors rolled out a campaign to sensitize over 6,000 individuals on the issue of SGBV prevention.
- **In Nakivale settlement, a total of 356 children were vaccinated against polio and 381 vaccinated against measles.** Some 356 children below five years were screened for malnutrition; five cases were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and five with moderate acute malnutrition.
- **Large gaps remain in the area of child protection and education.** There is a need to establish child friendly spaces, construct more classrooms and teacher accommodation and recruit more teachers in primary schools as the current teacher to pupil ratio is 1:90. This has hindered effective teaching and learning, resulting in poor academic performance.
- **Household latrine coverage in Nakivale decreased from 78 to 76 per cent.** Household hygiene and sanitation monitoring revealed that 216 latrines had collapsed as a result of heavy rains and termite infestation.
- **To enhance livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups, a total of 110 refugees were supported.** This includes 80 Persons with Specific Needs and new arrivals who were supported with crop seeds under the 'pay-back system' and 30 refugees who received US\$100 cash grants to start income generating activities. In addition, seven community vegetable nursery beds were established in Burundian villages, three groups with 25 members each were supported with fish cages and fingerlings, and 36 farmers were trained on agronomic practices.

## Financial Information

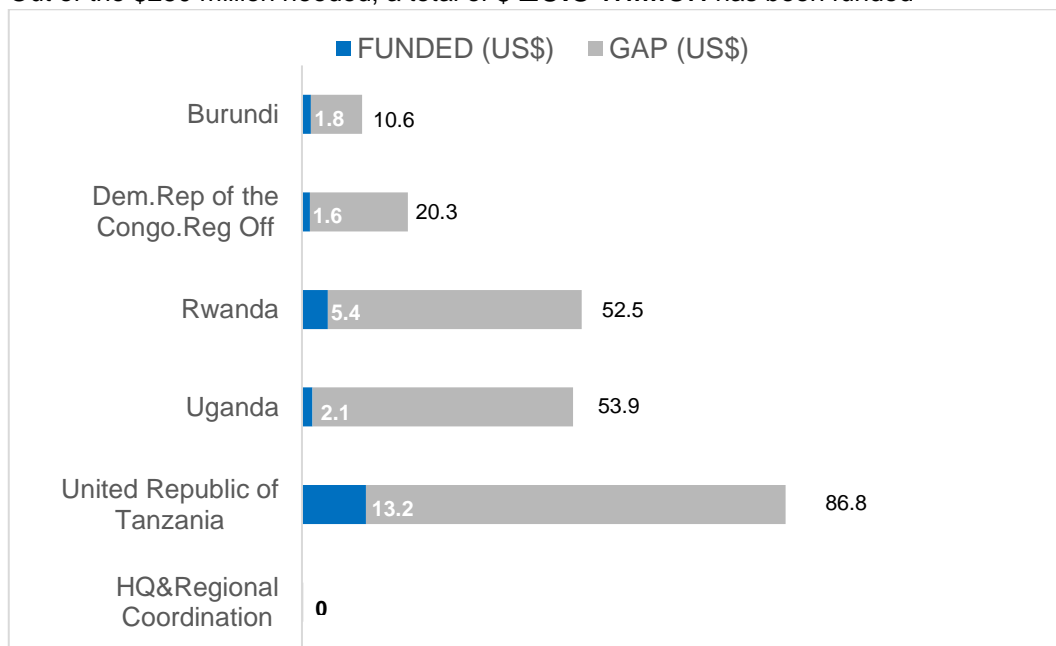
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

### Donors who have contributed to the Burundi Situation:

- African Union
- Belgium
- Denmark
- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Norway
- Private Donors USA
- Sweden
- The Global Fund
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

### Funding (in million USD) (as of 26 September 2017)

Out of the \$250 million needed, a total of \$ **26.5 million** has been funded





**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017**

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Private Donors Spain (41M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23 M)| Priv Donors Republic of Korea (20M)| Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Private Donors United States of America (14M) ) | France (14M) | Private Donors Italy (13M) | Germany (12M) |Private Donors Japan (12M) | Italy (10M)  
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**LINKS**

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<http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>