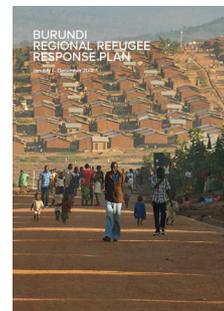


BURUNDI - Regional Refugee Response Plan

2018 End of Year Report

January - December 2018



2018 RESPONSE

347,155

BURUNDIAN REFUGEES AS OF
31 DEC 2018

US\$ 391M

REQUIREMENTS IN 2018

33%

FUNDING RECEIVED IN 2018

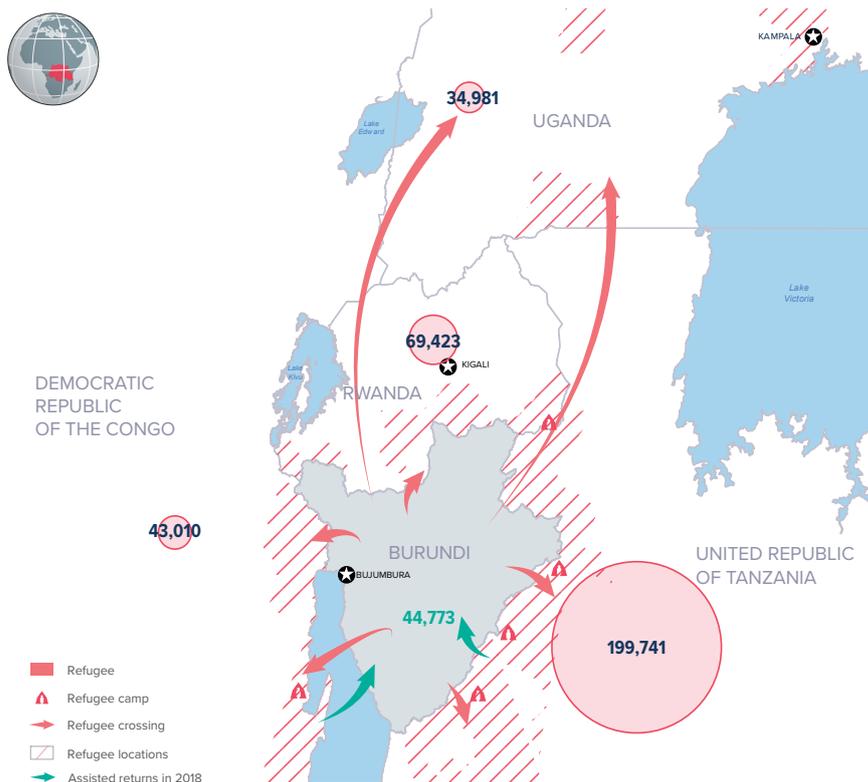
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RRRP PARTNERS INVOLVED

REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

By 31 December 2018, there were 347,155 Burundian refugees in the four main refugee hosting countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. More than half of the refugees are children. A total of 7,959 new arrivals sought asylum in 2018. During the same timeframe, over 44,000 Burundian refugees were assisted to voluntarily repatriate. The 2018 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) requested USD 391 million for 27 partners to meet the life-saving and resilience needs of Burundian refugees across the four host countries. By the end of 2018, the Regional RRP was 33 per cent funded.

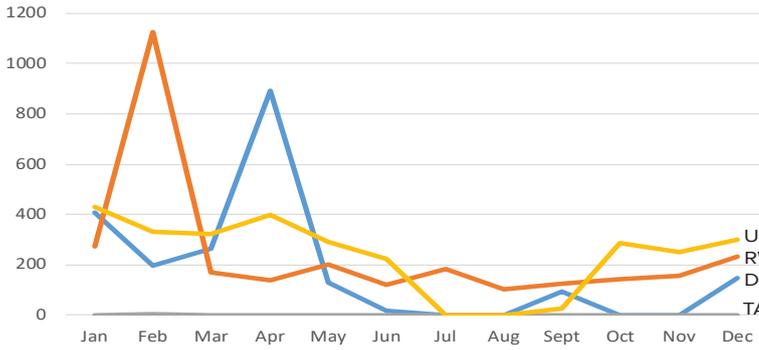
Despite considerable underfunding, RRRP partners were able to support Burundian refugees in a number of key areas. Achievements include access to primary schooling for 43,695 Burundian refugee children (69 per cent), assisted deliveries for 96 per cent of pregnant Burundian women, provision of food assistance to all refugees in need of food and relatively low rates of global acute malnutrition among children six months to five years across the region (3.3 per cent in Rwanda, 4 per cent in Uganda and 2.6 per cent in Tanzania, data unavailable in the DRC). The inclusion of Burundian refugees in national social service systems was prioritized in 2018, with RRRP partners and host governments also working to include refugees into national and district level development plans. In February 2018, the Rwandan government declared it would be formally adopting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) approach, with various efforts underway, while in Uganda, working to apply the CRRF since 2017, the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Water and Environment each initiated sector response plans to include refugees into national sector plans, with the Education and Health ones finalized.



Notwithstanding, many Burundian refugees felt the tangible impact of the USD 260 million funding gap in 2018. Only 20 per cent of refugees over 18 years old across the DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania (data unavailable for Uganda) had access to self-employment or facilitated business activities, leaving the vast majority dependent on humanitarian assistance. Every third Burundian refugee family in the region remains in emergency or communal shelter and the majority of households (62 per cent) still do not have access to a family latrine. Over 67 per cent of Burundian refugee families remain without adequate “non-food items” (NFIs), including basic household supplies like sleeping mats and buckets. While many refugee children have access to primary school, the provision of quality education remained a huge challenge, with teacher to student ratios as high as 1:200 in Tanzania. For Burundian youth, the opportunity to go to secondary school remains beyond reach for most, with a mere 17 per cent enrollment due to lack of funding, teachers and schools.

BURUNDIAN REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

2018 MONTHLY ARRIVAL TRENDS



The 2018 Burundi Regional RRP planned for an estimated 434,000 refugees by the end of 2018. As of 31 December, a total of 347,155 Burundian refugees remained in exile in the four main host countries, of which 54 per cent are children. Some 7,959 new refugees fled Burundi in 2018, compared to approximately 61,000 in 2017; the majority (74 per cent) arriving in the first half of the year. Rwanda received the most new arrivals (2,966) followed closely by Uganda (2,851), then the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2,141). Just a single new arrival was officially admitted in Tanzania, which has largely closed its borders to new asylum seekers.

At the same time, over 44,000 refugees, including over 25,000 children, were assisted to return to Burundi, the vast majority from Tanzania. UNHCR has not promoted or encouraged returns to Burundi, but assisted those refugees who have indicated they made a free and informed choice to return voluntarily. During the month of October, returns were temporarily paused due to the government suspension of all international NGOs in Burundi over the enforcement of the 2017 NGO law. Voluntary repatriation resumed in early November contingent upon the organisations involved complying with specific banking and labour regulations going forward.

THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

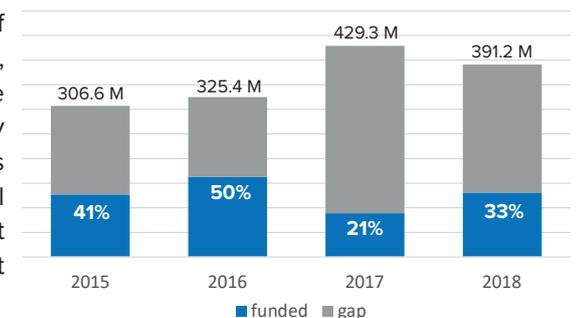
While the general security and overall humanitarian situation improved, Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world (ranked 185 out of 189 on the Human Development Index) and political tensions and human rights concerns persisted in 2018. In this context, refugee arrivals from Burundi continued, albeit at lower levels than in previous years, with new arrivals citing individualised violence, harassment and fear, as well as food insecurity and a desire for family reunification. At the same time, some refugees chose to return home, citing improved overall security, adverse conditions in countries of asylum, a desire to reoccupy their farmland, and family reunification.

2018 RRRP FUNDING

RRRP partners received USD 131 million against the 2018 plan and would like to thank the many donors who contributed across the year. However, the funding equates to just 33 per cent of requirements, making the Burundi refugee situation the least-funded in 2018. The USD 260 million funding gap presented major challenges for Burundian refugees, with RRRP partners struggling to meet minimum standards of service provision in areas such as shelter, water and sanitation, and livelihoods.

In addition to the funding available against the RRRP appeal, agencies with a development mandate continued to increase their support to refugee hosting districts through regular development programmes, in recognition of the high levels of deprivation of these communities, and the need to prioritize these areas from the equity perspective. Where refugees have been included in national systems, these development investments benefit both host communities and refugees.

REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING TRENDS BY YEAR



2018 TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS IN BURUNDI AND COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

- January 2018:** All border entry points and transit centers (except Kibirizi) in the Kigoma Region, Tanzania, were officially closed.
- February 2018:** Rwanda signed on to be an official Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) country.
- February 2018:** The highest monthly arrivals of Burundian refugees recorded in 2018, with 1,654 fleeing to neighbouring countries.
- March 2018:** The 20th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania was held in Bujumbura, Burundi.
- March 2018:** The country-wide biometric verification of refugees was launched in Uganda, eventually resulting in a reduction of the Burundian caseload from 40,567 to 33,657 in October.
- April 2018:** Voluntary repatriation exercise halted for two weeks in Tanzania as result of a convoy accident from Nduta Refugee Camp to Songore Transit Centre in Tanzania en route to Burundi.
- May 2018:** The Constitutional Referendum took place in Burundi.
- June 2018:** Mid-year funding of the 2018 RRRP stood at 12 per cent.

PROTECTING, EDUCATING AND PROVIDING FOR BURUNDIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

Regionally, over 195,000 Burundian refugees are children, representing 54 per cent of the refugee population. Some 8,000 remain separated from their parents or usual caregivers. In 2018 in Rwanda and the DRC, RRRP partners were able to provide appropriate protection assistance to 31 per cent of children with specific needs and ensured 83 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children were in suitable interim or long-term alternative care (data unavailable for Tanzania and Uganda). Child protection activities were significantly hampered by caseworker shortages.

Over 17,800 Burundian refugee babies were delivered with assistance of qualified health personnel, improving the health outcomes of both the mother and the child. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition remained low among Burundian children six months to five years old: 3.3 per cent, in Rwanda, 2.6 per cent in Tanzania and 4 per cent in Uganda, while the prevalence of anaemia was high, ranging from 41 per cent in Tanzania to 62 per cent in Uganda.

Over 43,695 Burundian primary-aged refugee children (69 per cent) were enrolled in primary school by the end of 2018. However, access to secondary school remained a challenge for Burundian refugee children across the region, with 30 per cent enrolled in the DRC, 54 per cent in Rwanda, 14 per cent in Tanzania and just 8 per cent in Uganda.

Protection

RRRP partners delivered various forms of protection assistance to Burundian refugees across the region. A total of 99 per cent of Burundian refugees were registered at the individual level by the end of 2018. In the DRC, 41,055 Burundian refugees were verified through the biometric verification, 16,399 of whom received individual refugee ID cards, and 10,738 refugee households received household composition certificates.

100 per cent of identified survivors of sexual and gender-based violence received appropriate support. In Tanzania, legal aid was provided to 941 survivors and a total of 24 people were convicted of SGBV crimes, while the proportion of rape cases reported within 72 hours increased to 53 per cent, up from 41 per cent, demonstrating enhanced coordination and knowledge of referral pathways. However, in many locations across the region, reporting of SGBV cases remained low and SGBV prevention campaigns were limited by ongoing funding constraints.

Food

A total of 314,047 Burundian refugees received food assistance in 2018, though only in Uganda did refugees receive the full ration across the year. In DRC, food vouchers were reduced from USD 15 to USD 12 in March. In Rwanda, rations were cut to 75 per cent in January – April and 85 per cent in May and June before being restored to 100 per cent. In Tanzania, refugees experienced ration cuts to varying levels

across the year, before the rations were restored to 100 per cent in November. Programmes aimed at ensuring sustainable self-reliance and food security among refugees remained underfunded across the region and the majority of Burundian refugees continued to depend on food assistance to meet their food and nutrition needs. In Uganda, new food assistance collection procedures were developed, based on newly gathered refugee biometric data, to improve accountability and service delivery to refugees.

Health and Nutrition

Across the region, 17,852 Burundian women gave birth with assistance from qualified health personnel, including 100 per cent in DRC, 97 per cent in Rwanda, 96 per cent in Tanzania and 94 per cent in Uganda. Burundian refugees’ access to health services increased in Tanzania, with a total of seven health facilities now operational in *(continued on next page)*

July 2018: Implementation of restrictive economic measures (including closure of markets) in refugee camps in Tanzania.	September 2018: The highest monthly assisted returns of Burundian refugees recorded in 2018, with over 6,600 returning to Burundi.	October 2018: The 5th and final Inter-Burundian Dialogue meeting was held in Arusha, Tanzania under the auspices of the Eastern African Community (EAC), without the participation of the Burundian government.	December 2018: The Secretariat of the EAC convenes a two-day workshop of the Chiefs of Refugee Management (CRM) in order to advance the development of an EAC refugee policy in line with the Global Compact on Refugees & the regional context.
August 2018: The lowest monthly arrivals recorded in 2018, with 103 fleeing into neighbouring countries.	September 2018: Over 1,200 Burundian refugees, who had remained in reception and transit centres in the DRC were relocated to the Mulongwe site, easing overcrowding.	October 2018: Assisted voluntary repatriation stopped following the suspension of international NGOs in Burundi by the government.	November 2018: Assisted voluntary repatriation resumes following the resumption of activities by international NGOs.
			December 2018: Year-end funding of the 2018 RRRP reached 33 per cent.

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

(continued from previous page) Nduta and Mtendeli camp and access to mental health specialists who conducted monthly visits. In Rwanda, all Burundian refugees had access to free primary health care and vaccination coverage reached 100 per cent for children two years and under. In Uganda, six health facilities received assistance from RRRP partners and efforts continued to improve the integration of humanitarian health services into the government health care system. In the DRC, in response to the Ebola outbreak affecting North Kivu, RRRP partners advocated for refugee inclusion in local health preparedness plans, conducted infection prevention and control through handwashing stations and thermometers, and distributed health information materials at all refugee sites.

However, Burundian refugees continued to face a number of unmet health needs across the region in 2018. Over 16,000 refugee families were in need of new mosquito nets in Rwanda. In Tanzania, many refugees in need of tertiary health care were unable to access district and regional hospitals due to limited funding for referrals. Health facilities were severely overcrowded in the DRC and ran out of key drugs on several occasions.

Livelihood and Environment

Burundian refugees participated in a number of RRRP-supported livelihoods activities in 2018. In Tanzania, over 10,000 Burundian refugees received livelihoods support, including the establishment of new savings groups and support to existing ones. In Uganda, over 2,000 Burundian refugees received start up assistance for business development. In the DRC, almost 1,900 refugees received inputs for agriculture, livestock or fishery activities and 350 young Burundian refugees were provided with training and business starter kits.

However, for many Burundian refugees in the region, there were few opportunities to sustainably support themselves and their families. Livelihoods activities were chronically underfunded and often further hampered by redirection of funds to immediate needs. In Tanzania, the temporary closure of the common markets in Nduta and Mtendeli (reopened in December) and the reduced number of market days in Nyarugusu cut the income of refugees by 75 per cent and host communities by 50 per cent.

RRRP partners continued to support efforts to restore and maintain the environment, a major concern shared by hosting communities and governments. Some 96 per cent of refugee households in Tanzania now own an energy saving stove, while in the DRC, 77 per cent of households received biomass briquettes as a sustainable source of energy for cooking. RRRP partners supported environmental awareness campaigns, tree-marking for protection and tree planting in efforts to address environmental restoration in Uganda, while 10,000 seedlings were planted in Rwanda.

Shelter and NFIs

The proportion of Burundian refugee families living in adequate shelter increased in 2018. In Tanzania, RRRP partners constructed 4,470 new shelters, bringing the total percentage of households living in adequate shelter from 42 per cent in 2017 to 60 per cent by the end of 2018. In Rwanda, a full 100 per cent of refugee households live in semi-permanent shelter, compared to 84 per cent at the end of 2017. However critical gaps remained; for example, in Uganda, as a result of limited funding and human resource capacity, only 4 per cent of the 570 Burundian refugee households with specific needs received shelter support in 2018, and just 1 per cent of the wider refugee population live in semi-permanent shelter.

Burundian refugees' access to non-food items (NFIs) varied across the region. In the DRC, almost 1,800 households received NFI items in Mulongwe. Notably, RRRP partners rolled out cash transfers for non-food items in Rwanda, with the first round of transfers completed in December. However plans to replenish NFIs distributed in Rwanda during the beginning of the emergency in 2015 were hampered by underfunding, with just 40 per cent of eligible households supported. Likewise, refugees in Tanzania have not received replenished NFIs since the original distribution in 2015 and in Uganda, just 20 per cent of the Burundian refugee population had access to adequate NFIs.

WASH

Against a target of 20 litres of water per person per day, the average was 17 L in DRC, 20 L in Rwanda, 25 L in Tanzania and 18.1 L in Uganda. A total of 37,550 Burundian refugee households gained access to family latrines in 2018. Family latrine coverage varies from 93 per cent in Uganda (highest) to 43 per cent in Tanzania (lowest), with regional coverage at 48 per cent.

RRRP partners continued distributing soap to refugees, with 23 per cent of Burundian refugees in the region receiving an acceptable 450 grams per month. Due to financial constraints in Tanzania, refugees received just 250 grams per month.

Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

RRRP partners, government, development actors and others worked to plan and implement the 2018 RRRP response in line with the CRRF approach in the region. Two out of four governments in the region have formally rolled out CRRF: Uganda in March 2017 and Rwanda in February 2018, while the DRC applies the principle of socio-economic inclusion for refugees.

RRRP partners worked with the host governments to promote the inclusion of refugees in national systems and ensure access basic services alongside host communities. Partnerships with local authorities, civil society and private sector were further developed in 2018 to bridge the gap between the humanitarian response and development, with a particular focus on building the self-reliance and resilience of both refugee and host communities.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

In 2018, the Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC)/CRRF Champion for the Burundi Situation introduced measures to improve regional reporting and enhance visibility and communication, including with member States, the East Africa Community, and donors. A series of regional meetings were convened in 2018 with partner agencies and donor representatives around various themes - including the application of the CRRF, protection challenges, voluntary repatriation, and RRRP implementation - with the dual purpose to share programmatic and advocacy perspectives while enhancing resource mobilization. Support was given to the East African Community (EAC) to convene a meeting of Chiefs of Refugee management to share good practices and support the development of an EAC Policy on Refugee Management.

Donor briefings were undertaken in Geneva and in capitals through the region as part of efforts to address underfunding of the Burundi refugee response. In Nairobi the RRC established a regular series of briefings for Ambassadors, to inform and engage the support of the diplomatic corps.

REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Burundi Data Portal - <https://data.unhcr.org/burundi>

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