VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES from Tanzania to Burundi

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

On 31 August 2017 at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a work plan from 7 September to 31 December 2017, which entailed the voluntary repatriation of approximately 12,000 Burundian refugees who had by then registered their desire to return to Burundi.
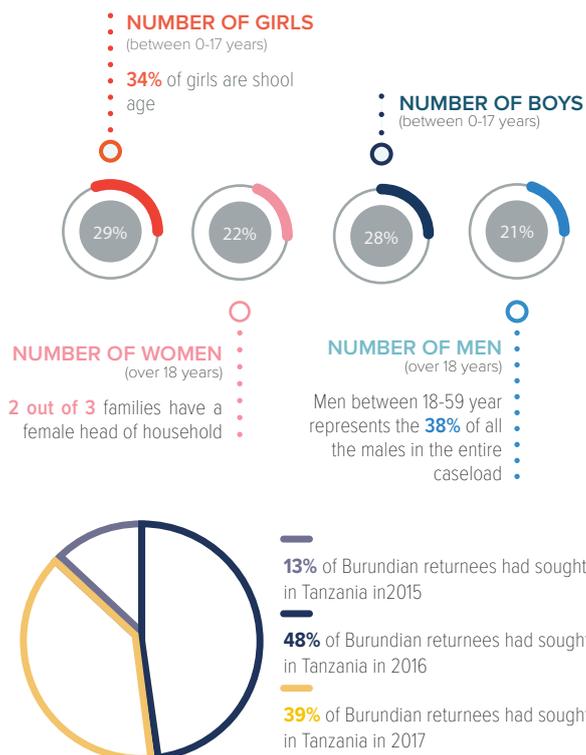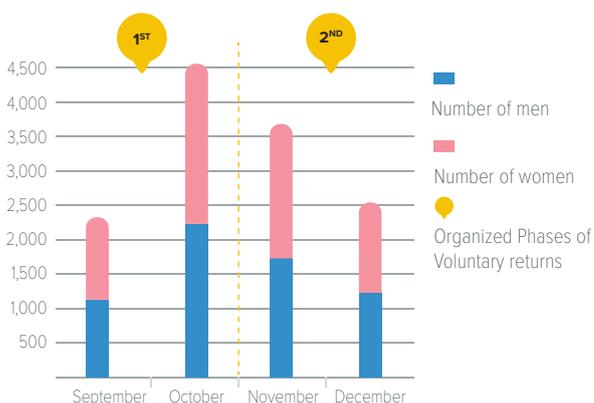
The Tripartite Commission also acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not seeking to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.

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.

In Burundi, UNHCR and partners set up a returnee monitoring framework that includes surveys with returnees as well as interviews with local authorities. In analysing the reintegration status of the returnees, the monitoring also serves as an on going needs assessment for further protection and reintegration needs.
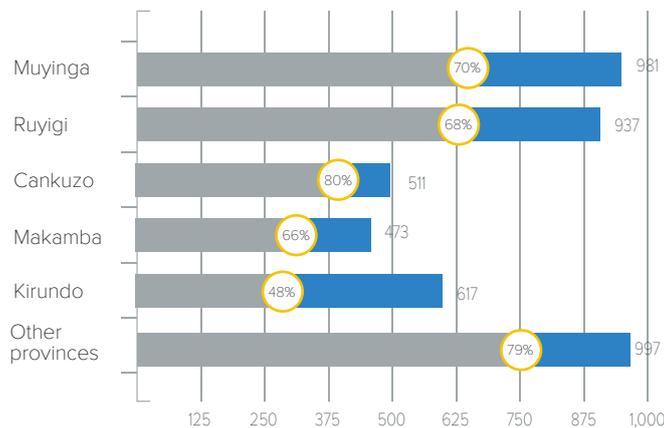
OVERALL RETURN FIGURES AND TRENDS

The voluntary repatriation operation took place in **two phases** between 7 September and 31 December 2017 and a total number of **13,104** refugees (109% of the original planning figure) returned to Burundi in **31 convoys**

1ST   **2ND**

- Number of men
- Number of women
- Organized Phases of Voluntary returns

4,500 / 4,000 / 3,500 / 3,000 / 2,500 / 2,000 / 1,500 / 1,000 / 500

September / October / November / December

NUMBER OF GIRLS
(between 0-17 years)
34% of girls are shool age

NUMBER OF BOYS
(between 0-17 years)

29%   22%   28%   21%

NUMBER OF WOMEN
(over 18 years)
2 out of 3 families have a female head of household

NUMBER OF MEN
(over 18 years)
Men between 18-59 year represents the **38%** of all the males in the entire caseload

- **13%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2015
- **48%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2016
- **39%** of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in Tanzania in 2017

MONITORING OF BURUNDIAN RETURNEES IN BURUNDI

UNHCR and Caritas set up a monitoring system with **139 monitors** covering all areas of returns. By the 14 January 2018, **3,131** families have been monitored (out of 4,516), which represent **69%** of those assisted to return.

Province	Value	%
Muyinga	981	70%
Ruyigi	937	68%
Cankuzo	511	80%
Makamba	473	66%
Kirundo	617	48%
Other provinces	997	79%

125 / 250 / 375 / 500 / 625 / 750 / 875 / 1,000

- ■ Total number of HH returnees by province
- ▨ Total number of monitored HH returnees by province
- % % of HH returnees monitored versus the total HH returnees

71% of returnees do not have a **birth certificate and National Identification card**

68% of returnees have only **1 meal per day**

34% of returnees are without access to the health system, many due to **financial problems**

70% of school age children do **not have access to education**

06   01   05   02   04   03

40% of returnees find their agricultural **land temporarily occupied** by others (including family members)

82% of returnees have **access to water**. A minority are affected by seasonal water shortages.