2019 Planning summary
15/4/2019

Operation: Burundi
People of Concern

DECREASE IN

6% 2017

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Refugees 62,361
Asylum-seekers 3,550
IDPs 57,258
Returned refugees 70,612
Stateless 974
Others of concern 775
Budgets and Expenditure for Burundi

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**Plan Overview**

**Working Environment**

UNHCR operates in the context of an ongoing volatile political, socio-economic and humanitarian situation. Movements of Burundians due to political repression, dire socio-economic conditions and threats to livelihoods are likely to continue in 2019. Simultaneously, returns continue at increasing rates against the backdrop of the challenging conditions in Burundi.

Despite the economic hardship, the Government maintains its open-door policy and provides protection to refugees and asylum-seekers. However, the effective access of people of concern to basic social services such as health or education, as well as to the labour market remains limited throughout the country.

In 2019, UNHCR will reinforce its advocacy with the Government and UN partners in Burundi to include not only the refugee populations but also Burundian returnees into relevant reintegration initiatives. It will also build strong coordination mechanisms with its implementing partners on the ground to enhance advocacy for an improved nexus between humanitarian and development aid. UNHCR works in the framework of the Regional Refugee Response Plans including the plan for the Congolese situation. While the situation of Congolese refugees remains dire, UNHCR will increase its efforts to ensure that Congolese refugees gain effective access to basic social services in Burundi, are considered in empowerment and resilience building initiatives, and that durable solutions will be found for them.

Despite continuous fundraising efforts, the UNHCR’s operation in Burundi remains underfunded. This has a negative impact on the overall capacity of UNHCR to provide assistance to refugees and returnees.

**Key priorities**

In 2019, UNHCR will prioritize the provision of protection and assistance to the populations of concern in Burundi, including durable solutions to refugees in the five camps across the country, as well as the continuation of a voluntary repatriation programme for Burundian returnees. Although UNHCR is currently not promoting returns to Burundi, it supports those who have expressed the desire to return in safety and dignity. In this regards, UNHCR runs the voluntary repatriation operation allowing Burundian refugees in the sub-region to return in a way which lays the best possible foundation for their durable reintegration.

UNHCR will focus its strategy on the preservation of the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, ensuring respect for the principle of non-refoulement; the delivery of protection and the provision of assistance (essential basic services) to refugees and people seeking asylum, both in camps and urban areas of Burundi; and the inclusion of returnees into sustainable reintegration initiatives.
The following table presents the revised budget for this operation broken down at the objective level. Resource allocation at the objective level is subject to change during the course of the year as the operational situation evolves and priorities shift. The current budget by pillar, reflected in the bottom line of this table, is updated on a monthly basis and is replaced by the final budget at year-end.

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<th>Favourable Protection Environment</th>
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<th>Pillar 2 Stateless programme</th>
<th>Pillar 3 Reintegration projects</th>
<th>Pillar 4 IDP projects</th>
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