

# BURUNDI SITUATION

October 2017

In October, **some 2,300 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers** were newly recorded in the region.

In **Tanzania**, no Burundian asylum-seekers were recorded in October 2017.

In **Rwanda**, the number of Burundian refugee arrivals has more than doubled from previous months (**1,150** arrivals registered). This includes 42 Burundian refugees who have passed through DRC and Tanzania.

In **DRC**, works have resumed at the new Mulongwe site which aims at decongesting Lusenda camp following previous suspension of works due to the volatile security situation. South Kivu continues to be challenged by a precarious security situation.

## KEY INDICATORS

**427,784**

Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in four main hosting countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda)

**6,988**

Number of Burundian refugee returnees assisted to return from Tanzania since September 2017.

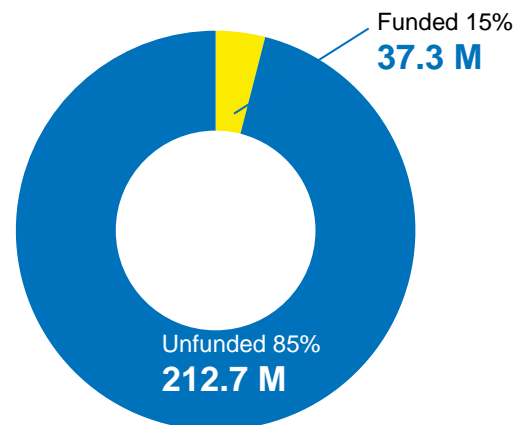
**191,806**

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 31 OCT 2017)

**USD 250 M**

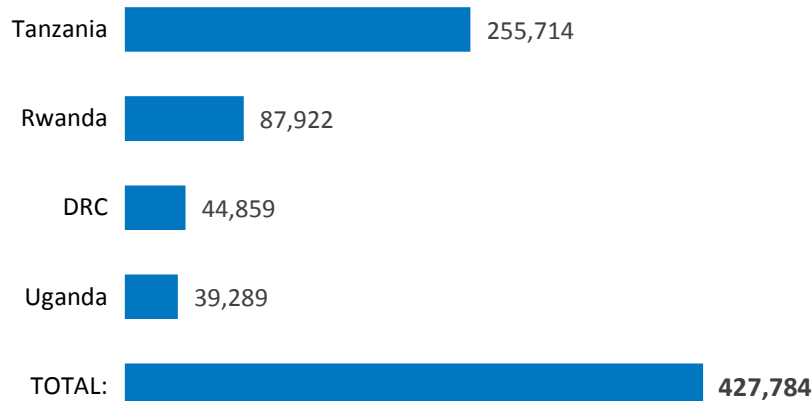
requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Host Countries

Note: Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2017 Burundi RRRP



\*The total above is in line with the 2017 Burundi RRRP regional coverage, and does not include some 13,000 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programs, as well as a further 23,000 Burundian refugees, who have lived for decades in Tanzania, and no longer receive assistance.

## Operational Context

- **The Regional Mediation of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue** has announced that the next session of the dialogue is to take part in Arusha from 27 November to 8 December, 2017. However, the *Coalition of the opposition parties attached to the Arusha Peace Agreement* (CNARED), with the exception of the *Front for Democracy* (FRODEBU), has already refused to join the session.
- **Following the UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi's call on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate what they believe to be potentially crimes against humanity, Burundi has formally announced on 27 October its removal from the Rome Treaty.** The ICC decided to open an investigation on the crimes against humanity perpetrated in Burundi between 26 April 2015 and 26 October 2017.
- **DRC/Kamanyola, South Kivu update:** 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. Some 2,499 asylum seekers and refugees continue to be sheltered near a MONUSCO base in Kamanyola. All basic services are in place, mostly provided by UNHCR and partners, with ICRC leading the WASH sector. However, the need for a long-term solution remains urgent. The relocation of this group could not yet be undertaken, due to the fact that no appropriate location has been identified. UNHCR is preparing to assist the group in case they must remain in Kamanyola over the next few months.

## Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian Refugees from Tanzania

### Background:

- While UNHCR is not promoting returns, since September 2017 we are assisting Burundian refugees who are voluntarily choosing to go home to do so in safety and dignity. A meeting of the Tripartite Commission consisting of the governments of Burundi and Tanzania with UNHCR agreed at the end of August 2017 to support the voluntary repatriation of 12,000 Burundian refugees in 2017.
- 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.

### Update:

- Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees started on 7 September 2017. As of 31 October 2017, as part of the first phase of the exercise, **6,988 refugees** were facilitated to return to Burundi. Some 12% are Persons with Specific Needs. Highest number of returns have been to Makamba and Muyinga provinces (1,453 and 1,378 returnees respectively).
- The second phase of this exercise will take place during November and December 2017.

### 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

- **No Burundian asylum-seekers have been able to enter Tanzanian territory in October 2017.** This is the first time since the influx started in April 2015 that no new arrivals have been recorded. Admission of asylum-seekers through the border entry points in Kigoma and Kagera regions remains a challenge despite UNHCR's continued efforts to address the situation with the government of Tanzania. 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 **243,110** and are housed across three camps: Mtendeli (47,296), Nduta (120,043) and Nyagurusu (69,065).

#### Achievements and challenges

- **Food assistance through the general food distribution was provided to refugees at 72% of the full basket.** To continue assisting the vulnerable segment of the population, the supplementary feeding programme continues to be delivered

at 100% to pregnant and lactating women. Inadequate food supply due to reduced rations is resulting in negative coping mechanisms.

- **There is an inadequate quantity of water supply** at Mtendeli camp where refugees receive an average of 13 litres per person per day – 7 litres less than the standard of 20 per person per day - due to an erratic water supply pumped up from six available boreholes.
- **An additional Reproductive Health facility was opened in Nyarugusu camp** to provide maternal and child health services, including antenatal care, delivery, post-partum and family planning services. The maternity centre in Mtendeli camp has also been expanded to a capacity of approximately 60 beds for antenatal admission, delivery, post-partum and new-born care. Both facilities were constructed and operated by the IRC. However, the number of health care facilities in all refugee camps still remain below the minimal required level.
- **New schools built in refugee camps, but gaps remain.** Two new primary schools were opened during the reporting period. In Mtendenli camp, one school was opened, bringing the number of primary schools to four, thereby improving current classroom to pupil ratio to 1:140 from 1:170. In Nduta, one new primary school was opened improving the ratio from 1:463 to 1:140. Despite the improvement in learning conditions, at least 533 classrooms using the double shift strategy (or 1,066 classrooms overall) to accommodate all the learners currently enrolled among the Burundian refugee population.
- **Malnutrition rates increase.** The camp specific Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates have doubled from 1% in 2016 to 2.2% for Nyarugusu, from 2.4% in 2016 to 6.1% in 2017 for Nduta and from 3.5% to 4.4% in 2017 for Mtendeli camp respectively. The prevalence of stunting remains a challenge and ranges between 40% to 55% across the three camps, which is above the emergency threshold of less than 40%.

## RWANDA

### Latest developments

- **Increase in number of Burundian refugees arriving in Rwanda:** In October, the number of Burundian refugees crossing into Rwanda has more than doubled from previous months, with **over 1,150 new arrivals** received. Most of the new arrivals are from Bugabira of Kirundo Province. Refugees are reporting to UNHCR that pressures to join the ruling political party and Imbonerakure militia have grown in Bugabira. Most of the new arrivals are women and children. This brings the total number of Burundian refugees in Rwanda to 87,889 individuals (which includes 429 refugees who have arrived pre-April 2015).
- **Secondary movement of Burundian refugees from DRC and Tanzania:** Rwanda has received 42 Burundian refugees from DRC and Tanzania. Amongst

some of the reasons given for onward movement to Rwanda are family reunification, protection concerns in DRC and Tanzania, and fear of general insecurity.

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **Progressive food cuts began will begin in November 2017.** Due to funding shortfalls during 2017 for WFP, progressive food cuts will begin to be implemented in November with rations to be cut by 10%.
- **Several advances have been made in the area of Education.** Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre enrolment increased from 4,869 children to 5,126 due to sensitization sessions. Some 404 children were enrolled in literacy and numerous program and 3,295 youth attended an “English club” in village in different villages.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **Latest developments**

- **During the month of October, 732 Burundian refugees were biometrically registered** in the different transit centres and gathering points (including new arrivals, newborn babies and family reunifications). Some 1,222 refugees were transferred to Lusenda camp from the transit centres in South Kivu.
- Overall, the precarious security situation in the area restrain the movements of UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, especially south of Baraka where UNHCR road movements require military escorts.
- Despite the clashes between armed groups and the Congolese army in the territories of Fizi and Uvira, and during the occupation of Mboko area by armed groups, the civilian and humanitarian character of the Lusenda Refugee Camp was respected. The presence of armed groups remain an important source of concern for the refugees.

### **Achievements and Challenges**

- **Works resume at the new Mulongwe site.** UNHCR suspended works on the new site in Mulongwe (near Baraka, Fizi territory), due to insecurity south of Baraka. Advances in the area of WASH installations will allow for the relocation of the first refugees during the month of November if the security situation allows.
- **Cash based transfer for food began at Lusenda camp.** WFP initiated the Cash Based Transfers (CBT) at Lusenda camp through the SCOPE card system, enabling beneficiaries to buy the food of their choice using their SCOPE card in 17 different shops installed inside the camp.
- **More shelters for refugees in Lusenda camp.** In Lusenda, three dormitories in the reception centre of Katungulu III and two dormitories in the Lusenda reception

centre have been rehabilitated. A survey was started to identify damaged shelters in the camp.

- **Prevention measures against malaria and epidemic** diseases such as cholera were reinforced in Lusenda camp and transit centers to ensure better health and sanitation. Mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant women and children.
- **Kamanyola update:** with the help of the MONUSCO and partner ADES, the water supply system is functional and approximately 37,000 litres of water are brought to the site each day (15 l/p/d on average). ICRC started works to reinforce the WASH sector on site. Burundian refugees and asylum seekers continue to refuse external intervention on health and nutrition issues. Food remains an important problem and the current purchase and distribution system is costly and it is not easy to find the products that the refugees accept to eat.

## UGANDA

### Latest developments

- **In October, 418 Burundian refugees arrived, which is a drop compared to the previous month (1,154).** The refugees reported fleeing from militias abducting or attacking those alleged to be supporters of the opposition parties. Others claimed they were denied employment or business opportunities. Many of the new arrivals also reported violent extortion particularly at the Burundi-Tanzania crossing at Mutukula border.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **Education enrolment rate increases.** In Nakivale settlement, where the vast majority of new arrivals from Burundi are settled, enrolment rates increased from 72% to 75%. This is attributed to the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) sensitization, distribution of sanitary materials to girls and general distribution of scholastic materials.
- **Burundian refugees receive adequate water supply.** In the new villages where many Burundians are settled, average water supply indicator increased from 19.4 litres per day to 21.4 litres per day through supplementary water trucking. However, the average daily water supplied in Nakivale settlement decreased from 20.3 litres per day to 18.9 litres per day due to a breakdown of the old water pump system and the lack of electricity.
- **Efforts to increase livelihood opportunities continue.** In Nakivale, 60 families were supported with a half-acre of land to plant eggplants, collard greens, and onions. 950 beneficiaries were educated on how to identify and control worm infestation to enhance their agricultural production.
- **Average latrine coverage in Nakivale increased to 79.5%.** In specific areas where many of the Burundian new arrivals are settled, latrine coverage was between 81%

and 85%. With the support of hygiene promoters 1,019 sanitary facilities were constructed.

## Financial Information

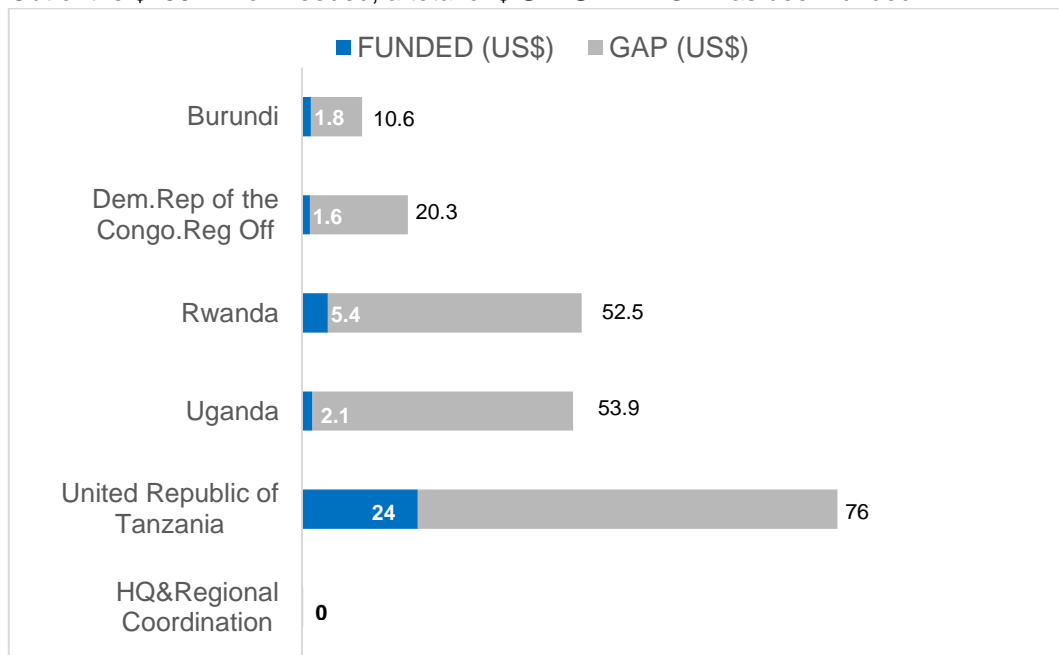
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

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

- African Union
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- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Norway
- Private Donors USA
- Sweden
- The Global Fund
- UNIGLO, Ltd.
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

### Funding (in million USD) (as of 31 October 2017)

Out of the \$250 million needed, a total of \$ **37.3 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) | Private Donors Spain (54 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | United Kingdom (45 M) | Norway (41 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (26 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Private Donors Italy (17 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Private Donors USA (14 M) | France (14 M) | Private Donors Japan (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Private Donors Sweden (11 M) | Italy (10 M)

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**CONTACTS**

**Elisa Furuta**, Associate External Relations Officer, Geneva  
furuta@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 78 97, Cell +41 (0) 79 453 3719

**Alan Mouton**, Associate External Relations Officer, Geneva  
mouton@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 (22) 739 8830, Cell +41 (0) 79 255 95 51

**Wendy Rappeport**, Snr. External Relations Officer, Geneva,  
rappepor@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 (0) 22 739 8993, Cell +41 (0) 79 881 91 83

**LINKS**

<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

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