

# Burundi

December 2018

155

138

45,349

New DRC nationals arrived in Burundi in December 2018 to seek asylum.

Congolese refugees departed for resettlement countries. In all, 2,476 Congolese refugees were resettled and 2,420 cases submitted for resettlement in 2018.

Burundian refugees living in Tanzania (44,763) and in Kenya (586) were assisted to return in Burundi in 2018.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum seekers:  
77,177



\*Others: Angola, CAR, Ethiopia, India, Mali, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Turkey and Zambia

**IDPs:** 142,625 IDPs, including **34,230** linked with socio-political situation, according to OIM Data Tracking Matrix, dated November 2018.

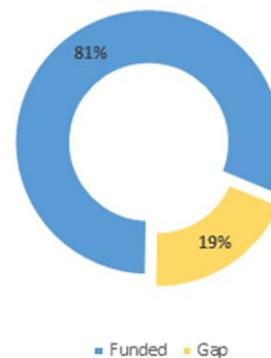
**Persons at risk of statelessness:** 974

As of December 31, UNHCR assisted the Government 58,546 Burundians to repatriate mainly from Tanzania (57,867) but also from the region since 7 September 2017.

## FUNDING AS OF 04 DECEMBER 2018

USD 33.0 M

requested for Burundi



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

132 National Staff  
36 International Staff

### Offices:

Branch Office in  
Bujumbura  
01 Sub Office in Ruyigi  
02 Field Offices Muyinga  
and Makamba



A convoy of Burundian returnees crossing the Border from Tanzania to Burundi

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR collaborates with governmental partners (Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of public security, Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), NGOs and UN sister agencies, including WFP, UNICEF, and UNFPA, FAO, WHO, UNAIDs; IOM; UNDP as well as the World Bank and regional organizations such as the ICGLR. UNHCR works with implementing partners, including l' Office National et de Protection des Réfugiés Apatrides (ONPRA), International Rescue Committee (IRC), La Direction Generale du Rapatriement et de la Reintegration, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Refugee Education Trust (RET), Caritas, Burundi Red Cross and the Gruppo di Volontariato Civile.
- UNHCR is leading the protection and NFIs sectors and co leads the shelter sector with OIM.
- DRC contingency plan was updated and discussed with operational and implementing partners at Branch Office and field Offices levels with regards to the forthcoming elections in the DRC. Partners were as well updated on their respective roles should the emergency occurs. It was agreed that the reception capacity of the newly built refugee in Nyankanda (Eastern province of Ruyigi) could be increased to 40,000 individuals hosted in collective hangars.
- A coordination meeting between UNHCR and the ONPRA in charge of the CCCM (Camp coordination and camp management) and RSD (Refugee Status Determination) was organized in Muyinga discussed ways and means to improve RSD procedures in the field.
- Monthly coordination meetings in refugee camps discussed camp management, SGBV, Ebola, food and non-food items distribution;
- A coordination meeting with actors and partners involved in the child protection was organized in the Province of Muyinga;
- Synergy meetings were, as well organized in refugee camps with various people involved in the assistance and the protection of refugees;

## Highlights

- DRC contingency plan was updated and discussed with operational and implementing partners at Branch Office and field Offices levels with regards to the forthcoming elections in the DRC. Partners were as well updated on their respective roles should the emergency occurs. It was agreed that the reception capacity of the newly built refugee in Nyankanda (Eastern province of Ruyigi) could be increased to 40,000 individuals hosted in collective hangars.

- A first convoy of 270 DRC refugees, including 54 persons with specific needs arrived in the newly built Nyankanda camp on 19 December 2018. The refugees were first hosted in collective hangar and received food ration for 18 days. They were then asked to choose their accommodation between a traditional individual house built with iron sheets and mud-covered walls and IKEA houses. 19 households opted for the IKEA units.

## Main Activities

### UNHCR Burundi priorities in the 2018-2019 Country Operational Plan

- Preservation of the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, ensuring respect for the principle of non-refoulement;
- Delivery of protection and the provision of assistance (essential basic services) for refugees and asylum seekers in camp and urban area of Burundi;
- Ensuring biometric registration for all refugees and asylum seekers both in camp and urban areas;
- Promotion of refugees' self-reliance and their socio-economic integration to the utmost extent possible;
- Support of durable solutions for all refugees through resettlement
- Assist in the voluntary repatriation and reintegration;
- Security and protection of refugees from crime and violence, including from SGBV, and through assistance notably in land dispute cases;
- Facilitation of the voluntary return and reintegration of Burundian returnees, as agreed in the Tripartite talks with the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi;
- Promotion of coordination and collaboration with all development actors targeting returnees and IDPs for durable solutions purposes;
- Promotion of a favourable protection environment for people at risk of statelessness; through naturalization of the 974 persons at risk of statelessness of Arab-Persian Gulf area / possibly from the Sultanate of Oman;
- Advocacy for ratification of the (i) 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and (ii) 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, (iii) 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).

### **Protection**

- Refugee status was granted to 138 DRC asylum seekers
- Monthly monitoring of prisons and detention centers, as well as the follow-up of refugee cases were carried out in the provinces where refugees are living;

- From 12 to 13 December, the UNHCR Resettlement Unit organized in Muyinga a training for 36 staff and partners involved in the resettlement operation. The training consisted of five modules, including resettlement as a protection tool and the three durable solutions, identification procedures of potential resettlement cases, medical references and resettlement, family composition evaluation and resettlement fraud.
- In December, activities relating to 16 Days of activism against GBV continued in refugee camps and urban communities. These included to GBV awareness campaigns, discussions on the various themes like the rights of women and of the children, the importance of schooling, psychological violence, etc.

### **Food Security and Nutrition**

- Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) exercise was carried out in Musasa and Kavumu refugee camps in the Northern provinces of Burundi to assess food security and nutrition.
- Food fares were organized in all refugee camps. Available food items included maize and cassava flour, beans, local and imported rice, as well as oil and salt;
- Cooking briquettes were distributed in refugee camps.
- Refugees with moderate acute malnutrition living in refugee camps, as well as Persons with Specific Needs were assisted;
- Nutrition support/supplementation assistance targets only pregnant women and lactating mothers and the persons living with the HIV chronic diseases. The diet of the persons with specific needs has yet to be improved;
- Nutritional assistance to refugees with severe acute malnutrition is provided by UNICEF through Government's health structures, outside refugee camps;
- CSB is no longer available in the food basket;
- There is a lack of sufficient financial means to assist malnourished refugees in camps;

### **Water and Sanitation**

- Sensitization session to good hygiene and distribution of dignity kits to refugee females in camps;
- The water network in the new refugee camp in Nyankanda was successfully installed from the source to the tank inside the camp. The construction of latrines and showers are in the final phase.
- The water networks in other refugee camps were maintained and defective parts replaced.
- Refugees were sensitized to take actively part in the maintenance of latrines.

- Water chlorination was done on a regular basis in refugee camps. Houses and latrines were disinfected.
- Latrines in transit centers and in camps were maintained /rehabilitated.
- Some old latrines were replaced by drainable ones.
- Individual houses and latrines were disinfected in refugee camps.

### **Health**

- UNHCR Burundi continued to implement Ebola preventive mechanisms in refugee camps and in transit centers, in line with the national prevention protocols. These included as well campaigns and training of medical and field staff;
- Isolation places (houses) were established in refugee camps and in transit centers. Medical screening of all new refugee arrivals continues;
- Integration of refugees in the national health system is in progress;
- UNHCR health partner in the camps continued to carry out curative activities, including medical consultations, mental health services and referrals.
- A good number of urban refugee households have now subscribed to SOLIS health and benefit from all categories of health care. In addition, UNHCR supports 50 % of health care charges for more than 1000 refugees with specific needs who are not enrolled in the Health mutual insurance (Solis).

### **Self-reliance activities**

- Income generating activities, including follow-up and coaching of Village Servicing and Loan Associations (VSLAs) continued in refugee camps and in Bujumbura. More funds are needed to support new VSLA in refugee camps and in urban communities.

### **Access to Energy and protection of the environment**

- Biomass briquettes were distributed to refugees in the four refugee camps. The main challenge is the high cost of the briquettes.

### **Education**

- The selection process for the beneficiaries of the DAFI and DAFI/AUF scholarships was completed. 28 refugees were preselected in Bwagiriza (10) and Kavumu (18) and will attend a training session facilitated by AUF before taking the final tests and interviews.
- Some of the classrooms in refugee camps were rehabilitated, but more still need rehabilitation.
- There are still overcrowded classes (between 70 and 80 student per classroom) and lack of school materials/manuals in refugee camps.
- There is need for qualified teachers in refugee camps;

## Site planning, Shelter and NFI

- The construction of the new refugee camp in Nyankanda is completed. The first convoy was received in December. Families were sheltered in IKEA units and in individual houses as per their choice.
- Distribution and installation of improved stoves has been ongoing in refugee camps
- The distribution list for individual solar lamps was established. The lamps will be distributed in early January 2019.
- Dignity kits were distributed to pupils in secondary and primary schools in refugee camps;
- Four drainable latrine blocks constructed with World Vision funds were handed over in Kinama camp. Old latrines and bathrooms were rehabilitated in the same camp.
- Access roads to Kavumu and Bwagiriza camps need repairs.
- There is a lack of sufficient budget to protect camps from erosion and for additional street lights in refugee camps;

## Durable Solutions

### 1. Repatriation of Burundian refugees

- Since the beginning of the facilitation of voluntary return of Burundian refugees from Tanzania on 7 September 2017 to 31 December 2018, UNHCR has assisted some xxxxx Burundian refugees to return from Tanzania on three transit centers (Gitara, Nyabitare and Songore). Returnees are provided with a return package comprising food items for three months, nonfood items and a cash grant( \$70 for adults and \$40 for children)

## Monitoring and reintegration

- A protection monitoring is regularly conducted by UNHCR in the return areas. Sometimes, reintegration of the returnees can be challenging with regards to their access to the civil documentation, health care, shelter, land, education, legal assistance.
- UNHCR has been tasked by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian coordinator to lead interagency efforts in line with the National Reintegration Strategy and the ODD to put in place a Response plan in terms of returnee reintegration and the host communities' resilience. The UNHCR Representative has met with different interagency actors and put in place a technical working group. PBF projects were developed and launched formally in July by the UNHCR Representative and a Representative from the Home Affairs Ministry.

## 2. Resettlement

- During the reporting period, 55 resettlement cases were submitted and 138 Congolese refugees departed for resettlement countries. In all, 2,476 Congolese refugees were resettled and 2,420 cases submitted for resettlement in 2018.

### Logistics

- UNHCR works with partners to ensure transportation of refugees from transit centers to refugee camps as well as transportation of returnees from transit centers to their communes of origin. UNHCR also transports nonfood items from its warehouse to refugee camps and transit centers.

#### External / Donors Relations

Thanks to Donors providing contribution to Burundi in 2018

#### **BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS 4 | USD**

**United States of America** 256.5 million | **Private donors Australia** 13.3 million | **Canada** 6.6 million | **Sweden** 3.2 million | **Private donors Sweden** 2.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.4 million  
France | Germany | Japan | Luxembourg | Malta | Norway | Republic of Korea | Switzerland | United Kingdom | World Food Programme | Private donors

#### **UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS 5 | USD**

**Sweden** 98.2 million | **Private donors Spain** 71 million | **Netherlands** 47.1 million | **United Kingdom** 45.3 million | **Norway** 42.5 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 32 million | **Japan** 26.5 million | **Denmark** 25.5 million | **Private donors Japan** 17.9 million | **Private donors Italy** 16.8 million | **Switzerland** 15.8 million | **France** 14 million | **Germany** 13.7 million | **Private donors Sweden** 13.2 million | **Italy** 11.2 million  
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#### **LINKS**

Regional portals - Congolese refugees : <http://data.unhcr.org/drc/regional.php>

Burundi situation : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>