

# Burundi Situation

December 2019

## 333,554\*

Total Burundian refugees residing in the main hosting countries (United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC, Uganda).

## 20,916

Burundian refugees assisted to voluntarily return so far in 2019. No returns took place in December.

## 11,251

Total Burundian arrivals recorded in 2019. In December, 758 new arrivals were reported.

## 79,720

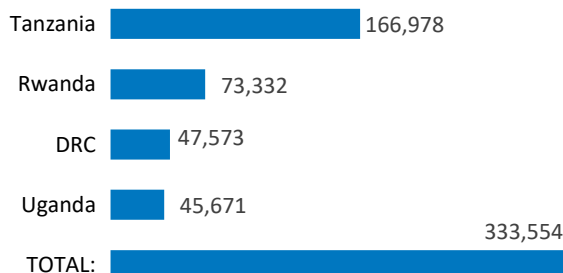
Total Burundian refugees assisted to return between September 2017 and 30 November 2019, mainly from Tanzania. No returns took place in December 2019. For more information, please check the [Voluntary Repatriation dashboard](#).

## 103,352

**Number of IDPs** in Burundi as of December 2019 according to IOM's Data Tracking Matrix. For 77 per cent the factors of displacement are linked to natural disasters, for 23 per cent they are linked to the socio-political situation.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

## Host Countries

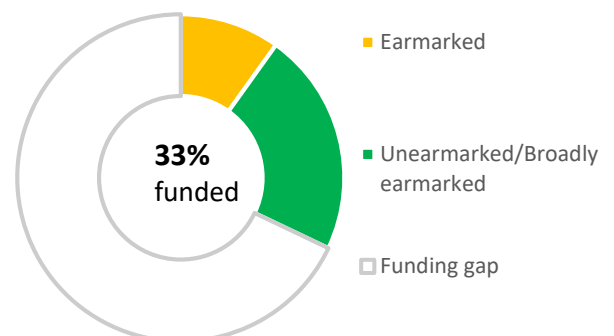


\*Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers pre- and post-2015 who are assisted through the 2019-2020 Burundi RRRP. The total above does not include some 43,200 Burundian refugees who are registered in Kenya and Southern Africa and assisted within the respective country level programmes, as well as a further 42,000 Burundian refugees who have lived for decades in Tanzania and no longer receive assistance.

### BURUNDI REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING

(as of 31 December 2019)

## USD 292.9 million



\*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Funding Tracker

## New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (Jan to Dec)
DRC	2,141	<b>2,725</b>
Rwanda	2,966	<b>2,706</b>
Tanzania	1	<b>0</b>
Uganda	2,851	<b>5,820</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,959</b>	<b>11,251</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- In a statement on 12 December, Human Rights Watch says tens of thousands of Burundian refugees face mounting pressure to involuntarily leave Tanzania amid efforts by authorities to reduce the number of Burundians in the country. The rights group stated that the fear of violence, arrest and deportation from Tanzania is driving many of the 166,000 Burundians out of the country and claims that some of the refugees have since sought shelter in neighboring Uganda. In mid-November, Human Rights Watch interviewed 20 Burundian refugees in Uganda who described the pressure and mounting intimidation that caused them to leave Tanzania between August 2018 and October 2019.

## Update on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania

### Background

- UNHCR and partners are not promoting returns to Burundi but are working with the governments involved to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions and take place in safety and dignity.
- The current return operation is taking place under the framework of a Tripartite Agreement between the two governments and UNHCR in which all parties have acknowledged that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons not to return at the present time and will continue to be in need of international protection.
- To ensure a sustainable reintegration in Burundi, support has been requested for both returnees and communities in areas of return in line with the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in particular objective four (4), which focuses on supporting conditions in countries of origin for return.

### Update

- Due to capacity constraints, voluntary repatriation remained on hold in December. However, UNHCR remains firmly committed to supporting durable solutions for refugees in Tanzania and will continue to ensure that all returns take place in safety and dignity and are based on a free and informed choice. A total of 78,797 individuals have voluntarily been repatriated from Tanzania since the exercise began in September 2017.
- No return convoys have taken place since 7 November 2019.

### Partners

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania work in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HelpAge International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 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, World Food Programme (WFP), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Caritas and the Civil Volunteer Group (GVC).

## Updates and Achievements

### TANZANIA

#### Latest Developments

- The Government of Tanzania (GoT) through the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNHCR jointly conducted validation of persons of concern located in Dar es Salaam and other urban areas from 4-7 December 2019. The purpose of the exercise was to establish the exact number of refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern residing in urban areas and to record their biometric data to ensure no duplication of records. The validated dataset emerging from this exercise will be the baseline for planning and implementation of protection, documentation and assistance interventions. It will also support the identification of appropriate durable solutions. The total number of individuals validated was 242 (90 female and 152 male), including 38 individuals from Burundi.

#### Achievements and Impact

- Through Save the Children, Tanzania Red Cross Society distributed 40,000 mosquito nets to refugee households in Nyarugusu camp. These nets will play a critical role in reducing the prevalence of malaria inside the camps during the rainy season.
- A total of 2,996 refugee housing units were installed in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps, bringing RHU installation to 99 per cent of the planned target of 3,000 by year end. The proportion of camp-based refugees living in adequate shelters now stands at 81 per cent.

### RWANDA

#### Latest Developments

- The Government of Rwanda participated in the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held on 17-18 December 2019 in Geneva and made pledges in five thematic areas, including Education, Jobs and Livelihoods, Energy and Infrastructure, Protection and Solutions, and Health. The Government of Rwanda showcased the good practices of refugee inclusion in the High-Level Dialogue on Protection Capacity.

#### Achievements and Impact

- As part of efforts to improve registration data and identity management by capturing biometric data of the refugees and asylum-seekers the ongoing verification exercise in Mahama camp had reached 95 per cent of the total population of over 60,000 refugees living in the camp.
- A total of 2,806 birth certificates have been issued to Burundian refugees since the beginning of 2019 (216 during the month of December).
- As of end December, 16,702 individuals were employed or engaged in income-generating activities. In addition, 836 refugees have been provided with financial support through loans from Voluntary Savings and Lending Groups in order to boost their businesses.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest Developments

- The *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) and UNHCR biometrically registered 882 Burundian asylum-seekers at Kavimvira, Mongemonge and Sange Transit Centres (TC) in December. They will remain in the TCs until they are recognized as refugees by the CNR. Most arrived in the DRC in late 2019, fleeing political tension and violence around the upcoming May 2020 elections in Burundi.

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partner ADRA distributed 105,415 kgs of biomass briquettes to 29,463 Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp and 5,638 in Mulongwe settlement. Biomass briquettes are an eco-friendly alternative to firewood. However, UNHCR is only able to provide briquettes for 1-2 weeks of cooking per month (depending on consumption), due to a lack of funding.
- A total of 800 fuel-efficient stoves were also installed, and beneficiaries were sensitized on how to save energy. Using less and alternative energy also helps improving peaceful coexistence between refugees and locals, as it addresses the issue of resource-sharing.
- The World Food Programme (WFP), along with CNR, AIDES and UNHCR, distributed small amounts of cash assistance to 37,400 Burundian refugees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement, enabling refugees to supplement their food needs. Due to limited purchasing power, refugees often have restricted diets consisting of rice, beans and cassava, which can lead to malnutrition.
- UNHCR continued agricultural activities for Burundian refugees and host populations through its partner ADRA. Additional land was made available for plowing, 318 refugees and locals received agricultural training in Lusenda and Mulongwe, and 229 households received seeds. 17,500 seedlings of different species were also planted by refugees and host communities. Cultivating fields together has demonstrated a positive impact in ensuring self-reliance and peaceful coexistence among refugees and locals.

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- Uganda participated in the GRF, to discuss ways to improve the response of the international community to refugee situations. The delegation participated in several high-level engagements, and made six pledges, to galvanize support for refugee and host communities in Uganda. The pledges made included: maintaining the open-door policy; inclusion of refugees in national planning and statistical systems; implementation of the Education Response Plan; the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan; Water and Environment Response Plan; and ensuring the integrity of the asylum system. Refugees residing in Uganda were also invited to the GRF and spoke on high-level panels, presenting a set of pledges on behalf of refugees in Uganda. These were centered around livelihoods, education/, and environmental conservation.

### Achievements and Impact

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), UNHCR and the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation (GCAF) launched on 12 December a four-year programme to promote access to financial and non-financial services for refugees and host communities in Uganda. In total, about 100,000 refugees and nationals will be able to access financial services (credit and savings), of which 70 percent will be women. The programme is an innovative blended financial approach with public and private funds coming together to support refugees and host communities. It will support the creation and development of small businesses such as farming, handicrafts, catering and trading. This is a first-of-its-kind programme, designed to incentivize both microfinance investors and financial service providers, to extend their financial services to refugee and host populations. The programme is currently being piloted in Kampala and Palorinya refugee settlement, Obongi district. It will be gradually expanded to other targeted refugee-hosting districts.

## 2019 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 35 partners across the four main countries of asylum:

*Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène* | African Initiatives for Relief & Development | American Refugee Committee | Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants | CARE International | Caritas | Church World Service | Community Environmental Management and Development Organization | Danish Refugee Council | Food and Agriculture Organisation | Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation | Good Neighbours Tanzania | Handicap International | HelpAge International | Impact Initiatives | International Organisation for Migration | International Rescue Committee | Medical Teams International | Norwegian Refugee Council | Oxfam | Plan International | Relief to Development Society | Save the Children International | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Uganda Red Cross Society | United Nations Capital Development Fund | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Population Fund | UN Women | Water Mission | Women Legal Aid Center | World Food Programme | World Health Organisation

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### LINKS

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

UNHCR Burundi Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/burundi-situation.html>

UNHCR Burundi Global Focus : <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>

RRRP and JRRRP Funding Tracker: [Refugee Funding Tracker \(RFT\)](#)