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A child draws on a blackboard in an outdoor classroom at Jugudi primary school in Nyarugusu refugee camp, Kigoma province, western United Republic of Tanzania.

# BURUNDI SITUATION

The Burundi situation remains one of the least-funded refugee situations in the world. As of June 2020, 333,703 Burundian refugees were in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the already precarious condition of Burundian refugees in the region, including pressure on the health and sanitation systems in remote areas of countries of asylum. Some Burundian refugees have opted for voluntary repatriation, which is ongoing from the United Republic of Tanzania and was initiated recently from Rwanda. UNHCR is not promoting return but is assisting those refugees who indicate they have made an informed choice to repatriate.

UNHCR's overall requirements for the Burundi situation in 2020 stand at \$189.9 million. As of 25 August 2020, \$19 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional \$48.5 million to the Burundi situation, raising the current funding level to 36%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR's operations in Burundi and in neighbouring countries to cut programmes and activities across a range of sectors, including voluntary repatriation, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and cash assistance, with cuts anticipated to other programmes should further funding not be received.

## AFFECTED COUNTRIES

## KEY POPULATION DATA (AS OF 30 JUNE 2020)

**333,703**  
Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers

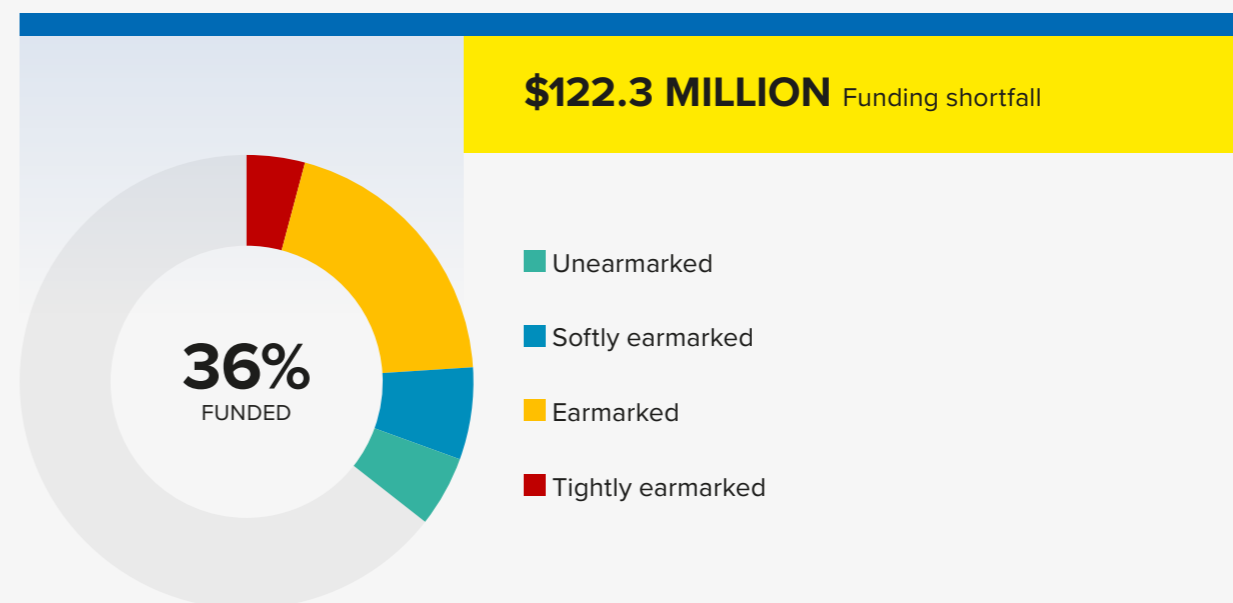
**135,058**  
IDPs

**85,209**  
Burundian refugee returnees



## \$189.8 MILLION

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020, as of 25 August 2020



# Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

## Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Since January 2020, the planned construction of boreholes and latrines in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province has been reduced due to a shortfall in funding. Burundian refugees have been living in unsanitary and substandard conditions and are at increased risk of communicable diseases.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
5,000 households

**Funding needed:**  
\$250,000

## Sanitation and hygiene in the United Republic of Tanzania



As of June 2020, a reduction in funding led to deprioritized construction of family latrines for 40% of Burundian households in the three camps (Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli) in the United Republic of Tanzania. 35% of households are using communal latrines or sharing with other households which results in conflicts, lack of ownership and hygiene, increased public health concerns, and protection risks particularly for women and girls.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
17,000 Burundian refugee households

**Funding needed:**  
\$2.4 million

JANUARY

JUNE

JULY

## Monitoring and reintegration assistance in return areas in Burundi



Since January 2020, underfunding has hampered UNHCR's ability to monitor and provide reintegration assistance in the return areas of Makamba, Muyinga and Ruhigi in Burundi. Monitoring activities have been conducted at approximately one third of what was planned, which in turn has meant UNHCR has been unable to provide necessary protection assistance. Reintegration support has had to be almost entirely deprioritized. For example, shelter kits have only been provided to the most vulnerable returnees. The extremely limited support provided jeopardizes the sustainability of return.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
88,000 refugee returnees since 2017

**Funding needed:**  
\$6.3 million

## Education in Rwanda

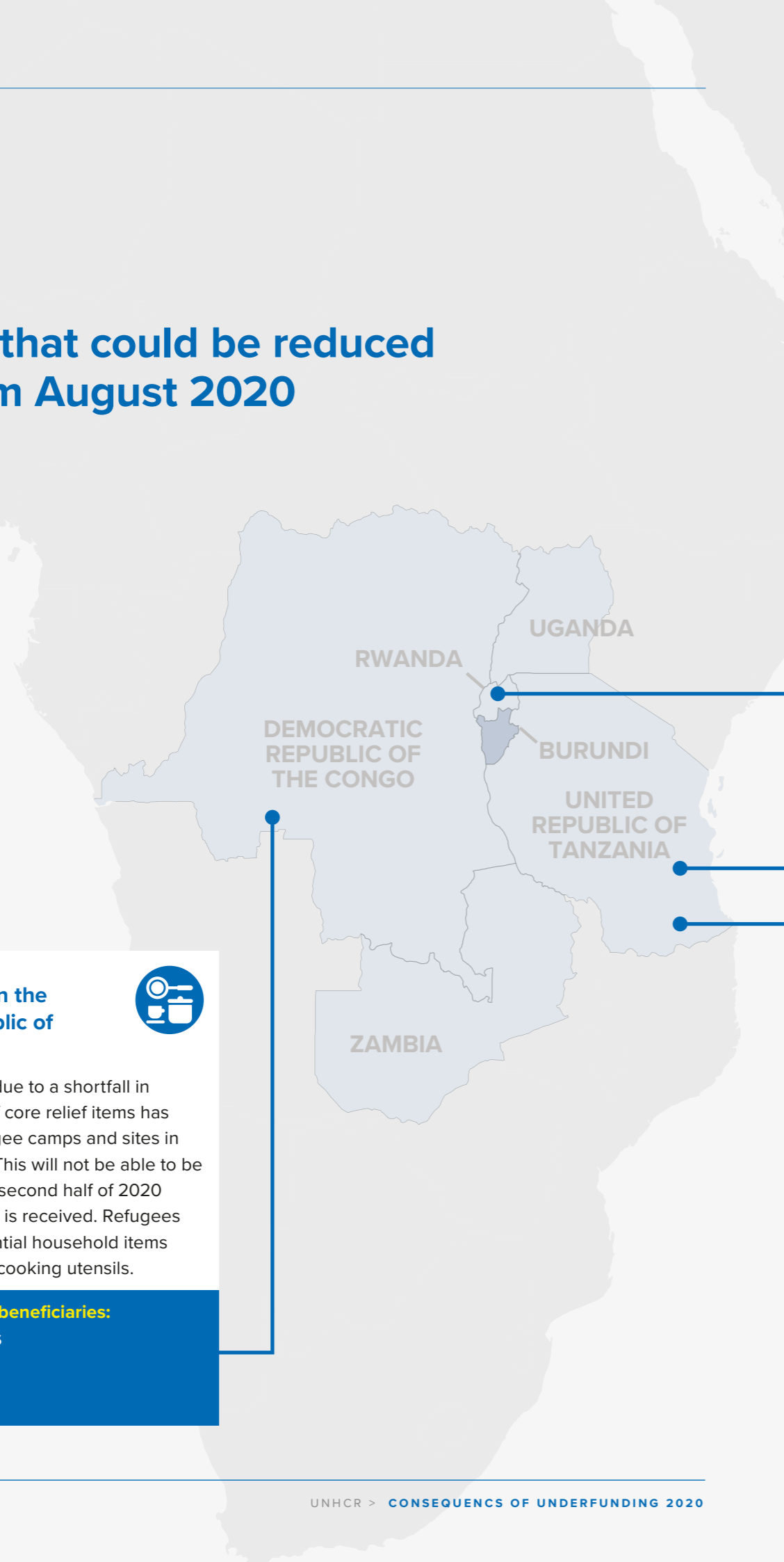


As of July 2020, the planned construction of 20 classrooms in Mahama camp, Rwanda, was deprioritized in order to address COVID-19 needs. The reduction will set back the progressive decongestion of overcrowded classrooms (more than 100 children per classroom). This is particularly concerning in the COVID-19 context.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
20,000 children

**Funding needed:**  
\$300,000

## Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020



### Cash assistance for household energy in Rwanda



Monthly assistance in terms of cooking energy for refugee families in Mahama camp in Rwanda could be interrupted from September 2020 in the absence of further funds. All camp-based refugees rely entirely on humanitarian assistance for cooking energy since firewood use has been banned. Disruption of assistance means refugees would have to resort to illegal means to acquire cooking energy, risking detention and conflict with hosting communities.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
65,000 individuals

**Funding needed:**  
\$1 million

### Distribution of core relief items in the United Republic of Tanzania



From mid 2020, a reduction in funding has led to deprioritization of the distribution of mosquito nets to families and standard dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age in the three camps (Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli) in the United Republic of Tanzania. The three refugee camps are located in a region with the highest incidents of malaria in the country, while lack of sanitary materials for women and girls poses substantial health and protection risks. These requirements are protection priorities, and the lack of funding continues to impact the lives of refugees negatively.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
Mosquito nets - 145,000 refugees;  
Dignity kits – 51,000 women and girls

**Funding needed:**  
\$500,000

### Voluntary repatriation to Burundi from Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania



With increased interest in return following the elections in Burundi in May, additional funds are needed from September 2020 to facilitate repatriation in safety and dignity from both the United Republic of Tanzania (where assisted returns have been ongoing since 2017) and Rwanda (where refugees have recently requested assistance to repatriate with several thousand having already signed up). Funding is needed for protection personnel to undertake registration and verify voluntariness of return, for reception and return packages in Burundi, and to implement the necessary COVID-19 prevention measures, including screening and testing capacities, quarantine centres and safe transportation.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
20,000 returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania, 8,000 returning from Rwanda and 2,000 from other asylum countries

**Funding needed:**  
\$1.6 million in the United Republic of Tanzania, \$1.5 million in Rwanda and \$6.5 million in Burundi

### Core relief items in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Since January 2020, due to a shortfall in funding distribution of core relief items has been reduced in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province. This will not be able to be provided through the second half of 2020 unless further funding is received. Refugees continue to lack essential household items such as blankets and cooking utensils.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
5,000 households

**Funding needed:**  
\$500,000

## SPOTLIGHT: BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Aisha and her husband, Matias, are among the thousands of Burundian refugees living in eastern DRC who received cash to construct houses and toilets. The couple who met in the DRC after fleeing Burundi's conflict in 2017 built their new home – and crucially a toilet – with money they received from UNHCR's 'cash for shelter' project. Since the project began, Burundian refugees have benefited from improved access to better shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. However, funding constraints are limiting UNHCR's ability to meet these pressing needs for other Burundians displaced in the DRC. Since January 2020, the planned construction of boreholes and latrines in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province has been reduced due to a shortfall in funding. Burundian refugees have been living in unsanitary and substandard conditions and are at increased risk of communicable diseases.

*“Water is life.”*

*- Aisha*



Aisha and her husband Matias lean against the mud-brick wall of the house they built in Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

