

# BURUNDI REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January - December 2021



**CREDITS:**

UNHCR wishes to acknowledge the contributions of partners and staff in the field, Regional Bureau in Nairobi and Headquarters who have participated in the preparation of the narrative, financial and graphic components of this document.

Production: UNHCR, Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes, Nairobi, Kenya.

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All statistics are provisional and subject to change.

For more information on the Burundi crisis go to: [Burundi Information Sharing Portal](#)

**FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH:**

Tanzania. A Burundian refugee family with their Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) in Kigoma Refugee Camp

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# Foreword

With the Burundi refugee situation approaching its seventh year, 312,615 Burundian refugees continue to be hosted by four main asylum countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The relative stabilization of the country following the 2015 crisis and the mostly peaceful political transition in May 2020 offer new perspectives for solutions to this protracted refugee crisis. While not promoting returns in the current context, UNHCR supports Burundian refugees to exercise their right to return as long as their decision to return is voluntary, based on a free and informed choice, and that the returns take place in safety and dignity.

Since July 2020, an increasing number of Burundian refugees expressed their intention to return home, and 39,411 Burundian refugees were assisted in their voluntary repatriation over the course of the year. Preparations are underway to further scale up voluntary return operations, based on planning figures for some 143,000 Burundian refugees to return to their country of origin in 2021.

It is, however, evident that the majority of Burundian refugees will still continue to be in need of international protection throughout 2021. The Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan was among the most critically underfunded refugee situations globally in 2020, receiving only 40 per cent of the resources required. This led to acute gaps, including food ration cuts, inadequate shelters, lack of medicines, deficient WASH infrastructure and insufficient livelihoods activities. The COVID-19 pandemic further compounded the situation. Increased support for this Regional Refugee Response Plan is crucial to ensure meaningful protection and essential humanitarian assistance for the Burundian refugee population. It is important to avoid that undue pressures, reduced livelihoods and increased hardship become push factors for refugees to prematurely return to Burundi. It is therefore vital that refugees who are not seeking to repatriate at this time receive support to meet their basic needs and that their right to asylum is fully respected. A stronger investment in education and vocational skills, as well as diversified livelihoods support will contribute to the resilience of refugees in this

transition phase and will facilitate their reintegration in Burundi, when they are able to safely return home.



The 2021 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan takes a comprehensive and solutions-oriented approach with emphasis on the inclusion of refugees in national systems and integrated service delivery with host communities to the extent possible. The goals of socio-economic inclusion and livelihood activities are to strengthen self-reliance of refugees and empower them to contribute to their host communities. This document is complemented by the 2021 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan developed by partners in Burundi to provide adequate reception facilities, strengthen the absorption capacity in return areas and promote the sustainability of voluntary returns.

In order to present the entire refugee response in the context of the current dynamics, the 2021 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan includes a regional overview, summaries of the refugee response plans in asylum countries, as well as a chapter on the envisaged voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees.

We appreciate the strong dedication of all partners to enhance the protection of Burundian refugees and work towards durable solutions for this long-standing refugee situation. We are grateful to the host countries and communities for their support.

Last but not least, we recognize the crucial role of the donor community to sustain our collective efforts and call on all actors across the humanitarian-development nexus to contribute toward progressively resolving this refugee situation. We are looking forward to working together through a whole of society approach and based on the principle of responsibility-sharing in a spirit of solidarity, as envisaged by the Global Compact on Refugees to achieve comprehensive solutions for Burundian refugees throughout the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Salami'.

**Clementine Nkweta Salami**

UNHCR Regional Director, Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

172,000

PROJECTED REFUGEE  
POPULATION BY END OF  
2021

143,000

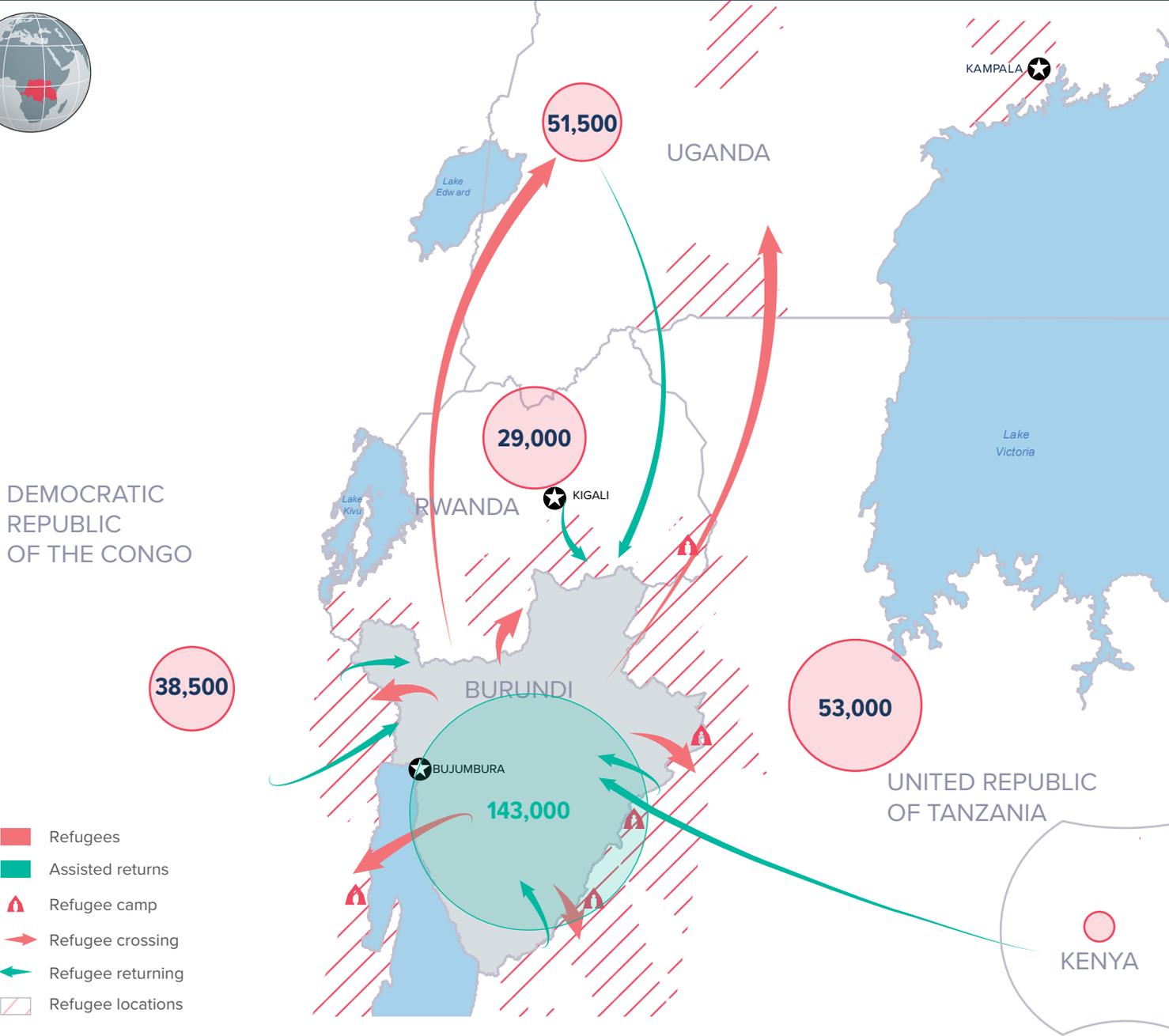
PROJECTED RETURNEES  
IN 2021

US\$ 222.6M

REQUIREMENTS 2021

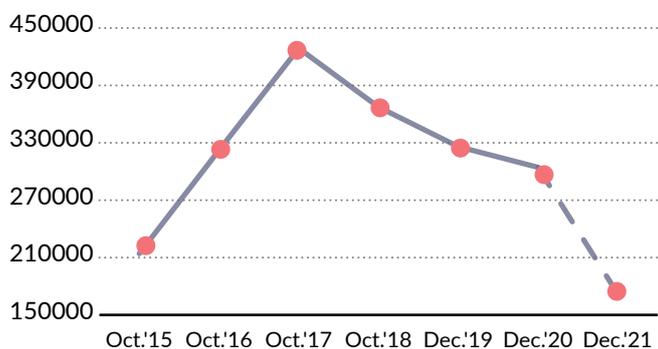
34

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN  
2021

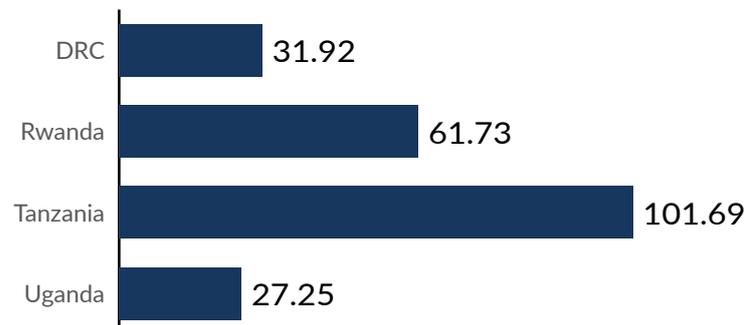


- Refugees
- Assisted returns
- ▲ Refugee camp
- ➔ Refugee crossing
- ➔ Refugee returning
- ▨ Refugee locations

Refugee Population Trends 2015 - 2021



2021 Requirements | in millions US\$



# Introduction

The 2021 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) outlines the multi-agency response strategy and financial requirements of 34 partners supporting host governments to provide protection and assistance to Burundian refugees across the four main asylum countries. The updated plan developed in accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model takes a comprehensive and solutions-oriented approach and includes the impact on host communities, as well as support to refugees returning to Burundi. The 2021 RRRP for the Burundi situation envisages stronger engagement with development and peacebuilding partners to enhance services and infrastructure in refugee hosting and return areas. In light of increasing numbers of refugee returns to Burundi since August 2020, and the continued high number of voluntary repatriations anticipated in 2021, an inter-agency 2021 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP) is being developed to enhance the absorption capacity and reintegration opportunities in return areas in Burundi, complementing the RRRP.

Despite heightened tensions in Burundi during the May 2020 elections, there was no major forced displacement inside Burundi or across borders. The new Government of Burundi has urged refugees who had fled the country, including government critics and human rights activists, to return home. Since August 2020, an increasing number of voluntary returns have been facilitated from Tanzania and Rwanda, as well as from DRC. Whereas UNHCR will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Burundi refugees who express their wish to return, it remains crucial to provide international protection to the refugees who are not seeking to return at this time and to fully respect their right to asylum.

Refugees from Burundi have different profiles and have sought asylum for different reasons, including political

and human rights concerns, as well as related socio-economic factors. As a result, some may find a measure of safety upon return to areas whereas others would still be in continued need of international protection.

The DRC, Rwanda and Uganda have developed refugee responses in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, granting freedom of movement to refugees, providing refugees access to national social services and supporting the goal of self-reliance. Efforts towards greater autonomy of refugees is however severely hampered as a result of many constraints on the ground, including inadequate resources, lack of economic opportunities, poor infrastructure and security-related challenges. Tanzania maintains an encampment policy and restrictive livelihood environment.

The large majority of the refugee population remains dependent on humanitarian assistance and lives in densely populated camps with inadequate shelter, health services and WASH infrastructures coupled with food ration cuts in several countries due to underfunding. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the situation.

Burundian refugees face multiple protection risks, in particular gender-based violence (GBV) including survival sex and early marriages as a result of limited access to livelihoods, school closures, overcrowded shelters, lack of domestic energy supply and reduced humanitarian assistance. Refugee children (over 50% of the refugee population) are exposed to particular risks. The situation of unaccompanied and separated children is particularly concerning, as many suffer neglect and adolescents have increasingly resorted to negative coping mechanisms. In the context of the refugee response, RRRP partners will continue to prioritize support to children, women and persons living with

disabilities or with other specific needs and consolidate community-based protection mechanisms. Psychosocial and mental health support will be scaled up.

There is an urgent need to create better conditions to promote the self-reliance of refugees in asylum countries, through increased livelihood opportunities, expansion of cash-based interventions promoting refugees' financial inclusion and contribution to the local economy, and stronger socio-economic inclusion of refugees (in particular in the areas of health, education and jobs). RRRP partners aim to integrate the refugee response with development plans and efforts to promote socio-economic growth, by expanding livelihood interventions in refugee camps, hosting districts and urban areas and ensuring inclusion of refugees within national systems and services. Partnerships with the private sector will be strengthened to enhance refugees' work opportunities through advocacy and policy efforts.

In the second half of 2020, the operations in asylum countries were redirected from contingency planning for possible further influxes of Burundian refugees towards intention surveys, counselling and facilitation of

voluntary returns. As of December 2020, a total of 107,169 Burundian refugees have been assisted to return to their country from Tanzania (since the Voluntary Repatriation for Burundian refugees from Tanzania started in September 2017), of which a total of 30,636 refugees repatriated in 2020. The increased departures in the second half of 2020 reduced overcrowding in some of the refugee camps.

The projected voluntary repatriation of over 140,000 Burundi refugees in 2021, mainly from Tanzania (93,000) and Rwanda (40,000), requires the reinforcement of counselling, registration and departure centres, the renovation and/or construction of transit facilities and the recruitment of additional qualified staff to carry out pre-departure formalities and logistical support. COVID-19 testing must be organized for all departing refugees, and upgrading of health and WASH facilities will also be required.

In 2021, RRRP partners will continue to preserve access to asylum and ensure reception, protection and assistance for Burundian refugees, including new arrivals, with targeted assistance for persons with

### Projected Burundi Refugee Population, with Age and Sex Breakdown

	Refugee Population 31 Dec. 2020	Projected Returns 2021	Projected Refugee Population 31 Dec. 2021	Age	Female	Male	Total
DRC	46,829	6,000	38,500	0-4	10%	10%	20%
Rwanda	65,037	40,000	29,000	5-11	10%	11%	21%
Tanzania*	147,748	93,000	53,000	12-17	7%	7%	14%
Uganda	49,728	2,000	51,500	18-59	21%	22%	43%
				60+	1%	1%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>309,342</b>	<b>143,000**</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* The population figure does not include 69,369 Burundians of the 1972 caseload who are not covered by this RRRP.

\*\*This includes some 2,000 refugees projected to return to Burundi from Kenya, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia.



specific needs using a community-based approach. Refugees will be registered and issued with documentation (national ID cards, birth and marriage registration). Moreover, RRRP partners will intensify activities to enhance peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities and refugees, including through the protection of the environment. COVID-19 prevention and response activities will also be continued throughout 2021 and critical gaps in the WASH sector will be prioritized.

This Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) presents a coherent approach to the Burundi refugee situation and summarizes the pertinent elements of the relevant Country RRP. With the increasing number of refugee returns to Burundi in 2020, especially from Tanzania and Rwanda, the 2021 RRRP complements the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP) developed by inter-agency partners in Burundi.

Tanzania continues to host the largest Burundian refugee population with some 148,000 refugees, almost all of whom live in the eastern part of the country in Ndutu, Mtendeli, and Nyarugusu camps. In Rwanda, the great majority (83.5 per cent) of the 65,000 Burundian refugees reside in Mahama camp. Over 11,000 refugees live in urban areas, mostly in Kigali and Huye. The DRC hosts some 50,000 Burundian refugees, predominantly in the Lusenda and Mulongwe sites in South Kivu, with others living in communities in Katanga, Maniema, and North Kivu provinces. Some 50,000 Burundian refugees reside in Uganda, the vast majority in Nakivale settlement, with others living in Oruchinga settlement and urban areas.

In the pursuit of protection, assistance, and solutions for Burundian refugees, the 2021 RRRP also takes into

account the situation of and relationship with host communities. Resilience programming for both refugees and hosting communities will benefit targeted host community individuals, households, and communities, with the aim to conduct the humanitarian response in a manner that engages and strengthens national systems and local service delivery in refugee hosting areas.

Despite the relatively peaceful elections in Burundi in May 2020, the international community remains concerned about the security and human rights situation in the country. During the presentation of its annual report at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council on 23 September 2020, the Burundi Commission of Inquiry (COI)<sup>1</sup> noted that some repatriated Burundians are met with hostility and suspicion of association or collaboration with rebel armed groups, and called on Burundian authorities to take all necessary measure to guarantee the security of returnees, support their reintegration and allow for independent monitoring of their situation.

The prolonged political crisis has also had a negative impact on the socio-economic situation. Burundi's economy remains seriously affected by the limited financial aid by key donors, shortage of foreign exchange reserves, price inflation and declining investment.

The Addendum to the 2020 Burundi Humanitarian Response Plan<sup>2</sup> indicates that the number of internally displaced persons increased from 104,000 in December 2019 to 135,000 in May 2020. 83 per cent of the internal displacements was linked to natural disasters.

<sup>1</sup> The 2020 report of the Burundi Commission of Inquiry can be accessed at the following link: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G20/203/95/pdf/G2020395.pdf?OpenElement>.

See also the summary of the statement of President Evariste Ndayishimiye at the General Assembly on 24 September 2020: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1073632?utm\\_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=fa8e8d909f-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_09\\_25\\_06\\_20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fdbf1af606-fa8e8d909f-105782937](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1073632?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=fa8e8d909f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_25_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdbf1af606-fa8e8d909f-105782937)

<sup>2</sup> Addendum au Plan de Réponse Humanitaire 2020 Burundi, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.human->

The 2021 RRRP brings together 34 partners to respond to the needs of 322,000 Burundian refugees by the end of 2021, of whom some 143,000 are projected to return to Burundi over the course of the year.

These projections may be revised depending on the developments in Burundi, the situation in the main countries of asylum, and any significant related changes to the arrival and return trends.

# Regional Protection and Solutions Analysis

In 2020, the Governments of Rwanda, DRC and Uganda maintained an open-door policy to Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers, whereas access to Tanzanian territory was restricted with all border entry and reception points for Burundian asylum-seekers officially closed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many countries closed their borders for several months, thereby limiting access to potential asylum-seekers from Burundi. Rwanda continued to afford asylum-seekers from Burundi prima facie recognition as refugees; all other countries apply individual or group refugee status determination procedures. Backlogs and delays notwithstanding, both Uganda and DRC have recognition rates for Burundians of more than 90 percent. In Tanzania, where some 15,000 Burundian asylum applications are still pending, the recognition rate has been much lower.

With children making up more than half of the Burundian refugee population and with significant numbers of unaccompanied and separated children, child protection services remain a key priority, including improving the ratio of caseworker to children. Protection of adolescents and youth also needs to be strengthened through targeted interventions. The main risks for children and youth include psychological distress, family separation, forced recruitment, child labour, physical violence, access to education, and gender-based violence.

Women and girls are particularly exposed to a heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence as a result of overcrowded shelters, traditional gender attitudes, and family separation.

Regionally, the percentage of Burundian refugee children who were enrolled in all three levels of education increased in 2020, from 38 to 52 per cent for early childhood development, from 88 to 93 per cent for primary school, and from 21 to 36 per cent for secondary schooling (gross enrollment rate). However, following school closures in March, only 24 per cent of enrolled refugee learners overall were estimated to be reached by distance learning programmes.

Steady progress has been made throughout the region in the transition from emergency to semi-permanent shelter, with 76 per cent of Burundian refugee families now in semi-permanent shelters.

All Burundian refugees have access to health centres, but most are overcrowded and periodically run out of medicines and supplies. Global acute malnutrition rates were below emergency thresholds in all countries of asylum. The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant additional challenges to the health situation of Burundian refugees in all asylum countries.

*itarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/hrp\_2020-bdi\_addendum-fr\_v0.7.pdf, page 6.*

Adequate quantities of clean water are generally available, but gaps remain in access to sanitation facilities with the majority of households regionally still forced to use communal latrines, compounding risks of gender-based violence.

The presence of refugees put additional strain on limited natural resources of the host communities sometimes causing competition over water and tensions due to deforestation and other environmental issues. Initiatives to protect and restore the natural environment are necessary to foster social cohesion among refugees and host communities, as well as to halt environmental degradation in the region.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, many services are linked to national systems. An important next step is to maximize efficiency by promoting integrated service delivery and their inclusion in national and local plans and budgets, supported by bilateral and multi-lateral development assistance.

Uganda, Rwanda, and DRC all have notably conducive policies to promote livelihoods and foster self-reliance, including the right to work and operate businesses. However, much more support and investment are needed to realize the potential that these policies would allow. Support is also needed to improve livelihood access for host communities in the region in order to strengthen their resilience.

While the Government of Tanzania, from where the vast majority of Burundians are returning, continues to reaffirm its commitment to the voluntary nature of returns, refugees have expressed feeling pressure to leave. RRRP partners have continued advocating for the voluntariness of returns to be respected and are actively working to verify voluntariness and ensure protection safeguards are in place.

Voluntary repatriation remains the main durable solution for Burundian refugees, but freedom of choice in deciding whether and when to return must be respected. Referrals of Burundians for resettlement are

## THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES AND THE APPLICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES

In 2016, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), to strengthen international responsibility sharing in situations of large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations. The New York Declaration set in motion preparations for the Global Compact on Refugees, informed by the practical application of comprehensive responses and a broad range of consultations, which the General Assembly adopted on 17 December 2018.

With the CRRF as an integral part, the Global Compact on Refugees proposes a range of global and context-specific measures for applying comprehensive responses in more systematic and sustainable ways, as outlined in its programme of action. The objectives of the Compact are to: (i) ease pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third country solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Regional and country refugee response plans contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees by articulating prioritized multi-stakeholder responses for the benefit of refugees and host communities, identified together with governments and partners. The strategy outlined in this RRRP reinforces the implementation of comprehensive responses in line with the Global Compact throughout all countries affected by the Burundi refugee situation in 2021.

generally low given the relatively recent arrival of the majority of the Burundian refugee population.

Complementary pathways for admission to third countries could offer an alternative approach but remain largely unexplored for the Burundian refugee population.

# Regional Response Strategy and Priorities

## Regional Objectives

The 34 partners in the 2021 Burundi RRRP aim to work with host governments to enhance the protection environment and meet the basic needs of refugees including food, adequate shelter, sanitation, and education, while continuing to promote livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion with host communities and placing a greater emphasis on resilience and solutions.

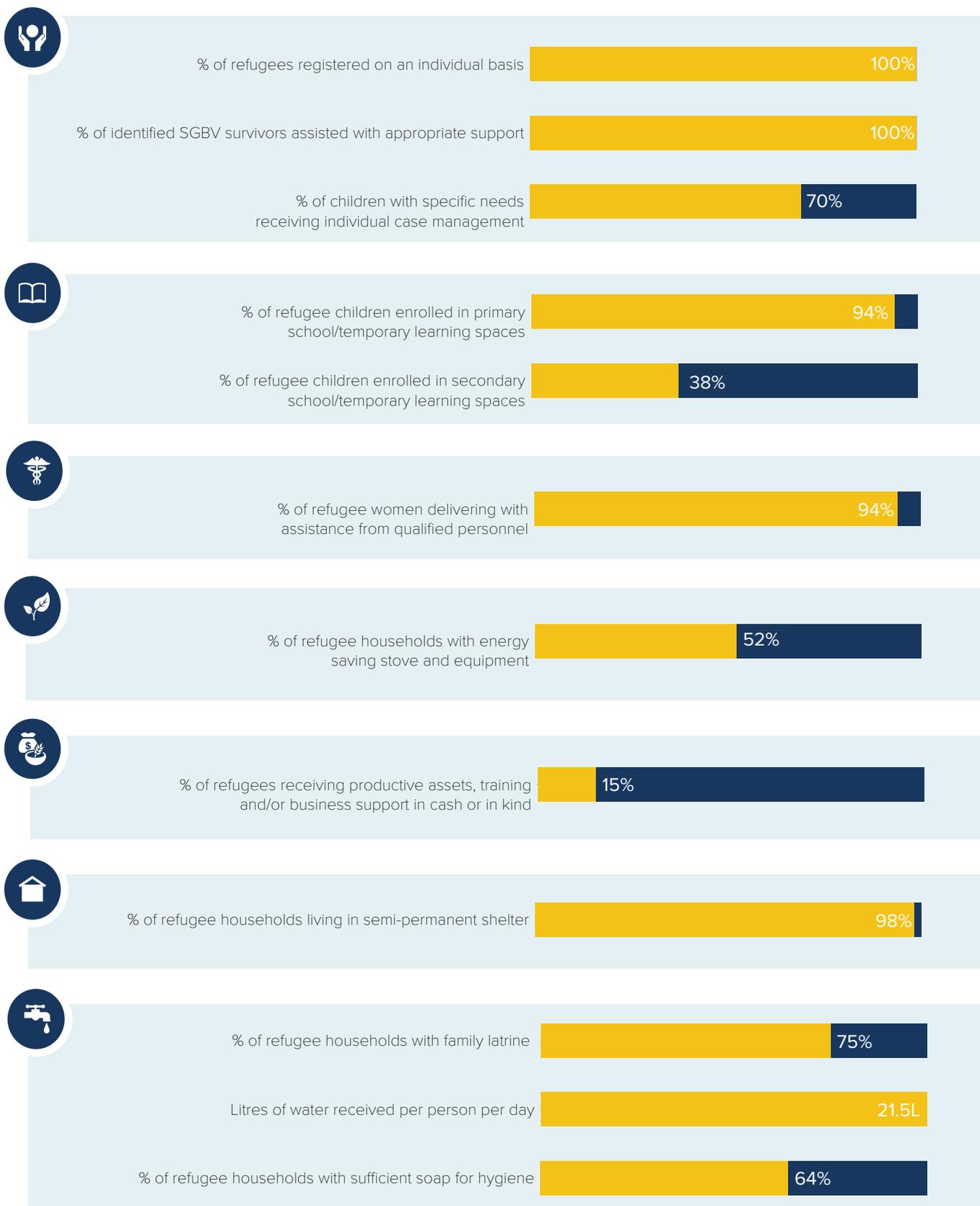
The 2021 RRRP for the Burundi situation is guided by six regional strategic objectives:

1. Burundian refugees enjoy unhindered access to asylum, are able to access fair, impartial and efficient RSD procedures, are fully documented, and enjoy a favourable protection environment in host countries and upon return.
2. Protection systems are strengthened to ensure Burundian refugees and returnees are able to enjoy their full rights, specifically with regard to safety and security, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, and community-based protection.
3. Burundian refugees, returnees and all affected persons access essential services with progressive inclusion in national health, education, social protection and other services.
4. Peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities and refugees, as well as for returnees in their home communities, is supported, including through protection of the natural environment.
5. Refugees and returnees transition from aid dependence towards self-reliance and resilience, with the capacity and opportunity to contribute to the economic development of their host/home communities while in countries of asylum and upon return to Burundi – breaking the dependency cycle and restoring control and dignity to their lives.
6. Comprehensive solutions for Burundian refugees are progressively achieved.

To complement these overarching regional objectives, there are ten core sectors of the RRRP for which harmonized regional indicators have been developed and against which the refugee response is measured including: child protection; prevention and response to gender-based violence; education; energy and the environment; food security; health and nutrition; livelihoods; shelter; water and sanitation; and solutions.

## 2021 Regional Targets

Regional targets are compiled based on the inputs from the countries participating in the Burundi Regional RRP.



A cross-cutting priority will be to implement cash-based initiatives to afford greater dignity and independence for refugees as well as an improvement in socio-economic conditions for both refugees and the surrounding host communities.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, partners will work collaboratively toward refugee inclusion, integrated services and self-reliance, pursuing financial inclusion and synergies with development initiatives.

RRRP partners will work with governments to link the refugee response with international development actors to support capacity development and improved social service infrastructure.

## Regional Protection Framework

RRRP partners will continue advocacy and capacity development with concerned governments for access to territory and asylum, fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures, maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, non-refoulement and voluntariness of return. Where possible, the protection response will include efforts to remove or modify restrictions on refugee movements.

Protection monitoring at borders will be required in order to enable evidence-based advocacy and appropriate programmatic responses. In Burundi, returnee protection monitoring will be reinforced.

Response partners will continue to work toward creating a rights-based protection environment, expand programmes targeting refugees and returnees with specific protection needs, and reinforce both individual case management and community-based prevention and response mechanisms including specifically for child protection and SGBV.

The protection risks faced by youth and adolescents will be addressed through targeted interventions – especially in sustainable livelihoods, marketable vocational training, and skills development.

The regional response will aim to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities, addressing the barriers they face to accessing protection and assistance.

Community-based protection, livelihoods, education, and environmental protection programmes will be designed to involve host communities in order to promote social cohesion and contribute toward a better protection environment.

All response partners will have measures in place to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

## Strengthening Livelihoods and Self-reliance

To foster economic self-reliance for refugees and host communities, RRRP partners will work toward strengthening resilience across the region, emphasizing economic inclusion and utilizing cash-based interventions wherever feasible.

In the DRC, to foster economic self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees and host communities, the use of cash will be expanded, reducing the dependency on humanitarian aid and promoting social economic growth in line with national and development plans.

In Rwanda, a key priority will be strengthening livelihoods and self-reliance by scaling up interventions that are more sustainable and cost effective. To achieve this, the joint Government-UNHCR strategy on Economic Inclusion of Refugees serves as a key instrument to focus more on market-based livelihood interventions for both farming and business. RRP partners will explore opportunities to support entrepreneurial development, particularly for women and youth.

Despite Uganda's progressive approach to refugee management, the vast majority of refugees remain dependent on international aid. In this regard, priority outcomes for the improvement of livelihoods in Uganda will be access to short-term employment opportunities especially in areas such as agricultural production, afforestation measures and labour-intensive public works.

RRP partners in Tanzania will focus on an integrated approach toward resilience and livelihoods that includes both refugee and host populations as the Kigoma region, where the majority of Burundian refugees reside, is in great need of socio-economic development. The United Nations Kigoma Joint Programme aims to establish more long-term projects in this regard.

## Expanding Solutions

The 2021 Burundi RRRP places greater focus on comprehensive solutions in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and its objectives. In addition to the traditional solutions of voluntary repatriation, formal local integration, and third country resettlement, the RRRP emphasizes socio-economic inclusion as a means to empower refugees to be both productive while living in countries of asylum, and better prepared to take advantage of other solutions.

While not promoting returns to Burundi, RRRP partners will assist those who indicate they have made a free and informed choice to return voluntarily, by ensuring protection safeguards are in place, and providing transport and return packages in line with the 2021 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan.

Third country resettlement will remain a critical tool for certain Burundian refugees who face serious protection concerns in the region. Complementary pathways to admission will be more proactively pursued, including exploring opportunities for family reunification, labour mobility, and education both in the region and globally.



# Partnerships and Coordination

In close collaboration with host governments, UNHCR leads and coordinates the response to the Burundi refugee situation in each affected country following the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). Technical meetings are organized by sector at the local level and also in the respective capitals.

The Regional Child Protection Network (RCPN), coordinated by UNHCR, and the Education in Emergencies Network (EiEN), coordinated by UNHCR and Save The Children, are interagency networks convened in Nairobi with partners who are working across the region, to support cohesive, interagency child protection and education responses at the field-level through technical support, capacity building, promotion of learning, joint analysis, and advocacy. The coordination of cash transfers in each country will proceed through joint assessment, monitoring, and a dedicated working group to determine the best transfer mechanisms and ensure linkages with different sectors.

UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the East/Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes facilitates coordination with inter-agency partners at the regional level and develops initiatives for joint advocacy and resource mobilization.

## 2021 BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- Africa Humanitarian Action
- ALIGHT
- Association Des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Developpement Endogene
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants
- Danish Refugee Council
- Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Handicap International
- HelpAge International UK
- International Aid Services
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Medical Teams International
- Mercy Corps Uganda
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Oxfam
- Plan International
- Prison Fellowship Rwanda
- Relief to Development Society
- Save the Children International
- Tanzania Red Cross Society
- The Legal Aid Forum
- United Nations Childrens Fund
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- UNWOMEN
- War Child Canada
- Women's Legal Aid Centre
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization
- World Vision International

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL (US\$)
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	100,000
Africa Humanitarian Action	30,000
ALIGHT	2,379,000
Association Des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Developpement Endogene	342,000
Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants	502,513
Danish Refugee Council	2,593,497
Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions	474,500
Finnish Refugee Council	28,250
Food and Agriculture Organization	4,127,378
Handicap International	580,000
HelpAge International UK	3,120,000
International Aid Services	50,000
International Organization for Migration	6,600,000
International Rescue Committee	7,064,265
Medical Teams International	2,404,255
Mercy Corps Uganda	7,702
Norwegian Refugee Council	2,800,000
Oxfam	548,085
Plan International	4,000,000
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	300,000
Relief to Development Society	6,803,530
Save the Children International	4,624,261
Tanzania Red Cross Sociaty	500,000
The Legal Aid Forum	49,690
United Nations Childrens Fund	6,177,601
United Nations Development Programme	3,900,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	111,974,890

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL (US\$)
United Nations Population Fund	2,667,380
UNWOMEN	100,000
War Child Canada	201,714
Women's Legal Aid Centre	220,000
World Food Programme	45,326,849
World Health Organization	843,500
World Vision International	1,151,328
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>222,592,189</b>

## By Sector

SECTOR	TOTAL (US\$)
Protection	55,209,001
Education	23,078,404
Energy and Environment	22,783,035
Food Security	41,681,686
Health and Nutrition	29,434,045
Livelihood and Resilience	13,539,659
Shelter and NFIs	21,254,391
WASH	15,611,968
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222,592,189</b>

## By Country

COUNTRY	TOTAL (US\$)
DRC	31,923,508
Rwanda	61,729,523
Tanzania	101,692,513
Uganda	27,246,644
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222,592,189</b>





# SUMMARY OF COUNTRY REFUGEE RESPONSE PLANS



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

**38,500**

PROJECTED REFUGEE  
POPULATION BY END OF  
2021

**6,000**

PROJECTED RETURNEES  
IN 2021

**US\$ 31.9M**

REQUIREMENTS 2021

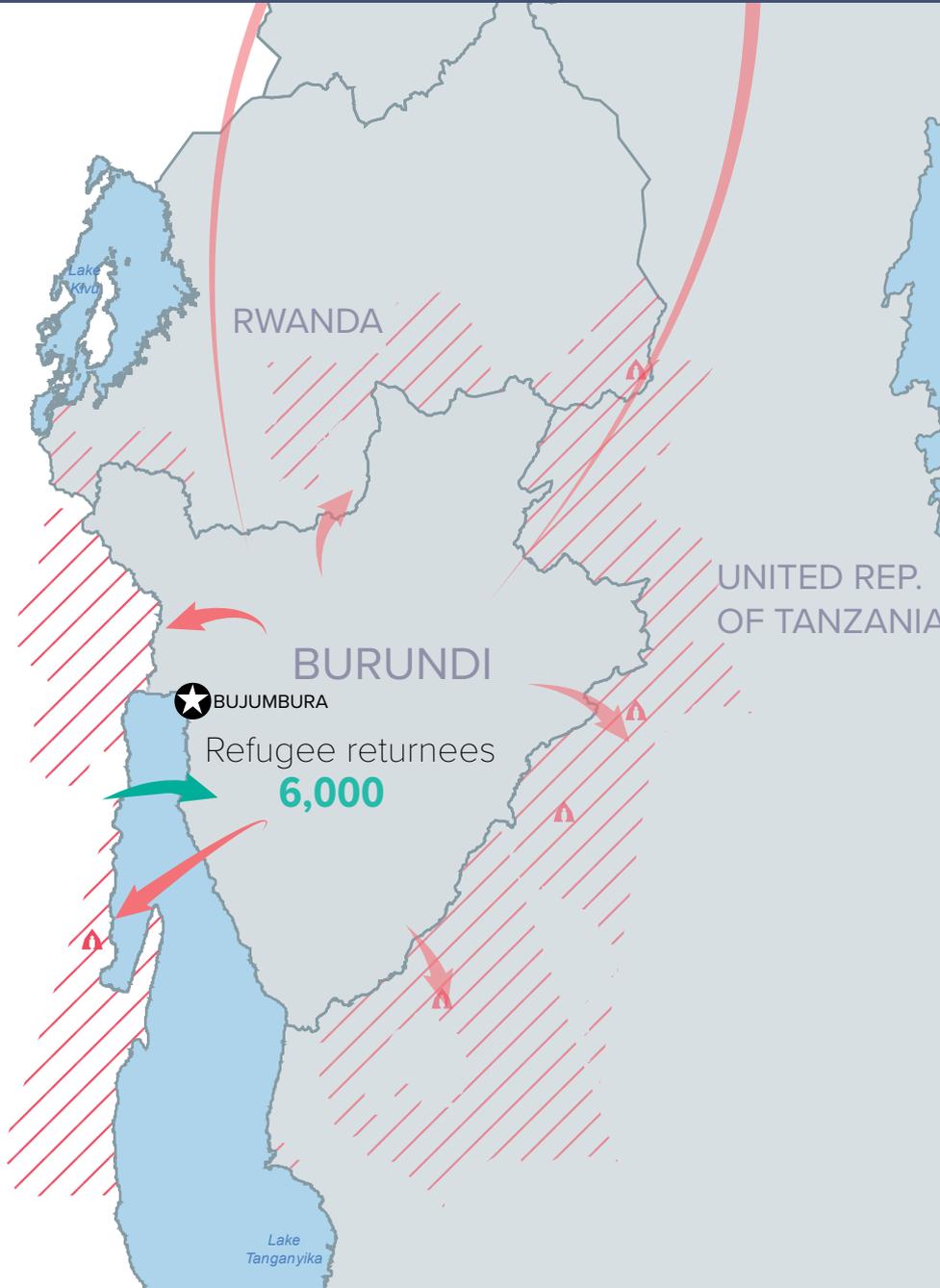
**6**

PARTNERS INVOLVED  
IN 2021



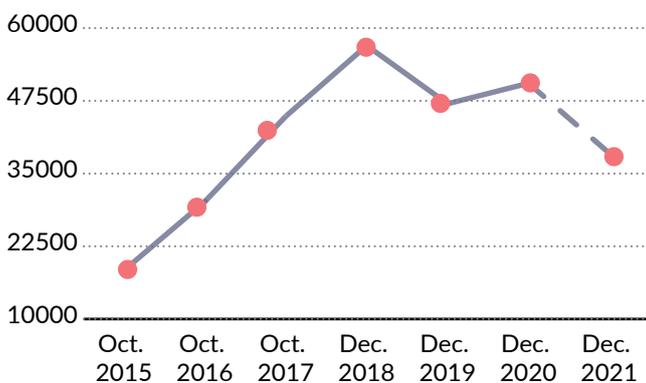
DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO

Refugee population  
**38,500**

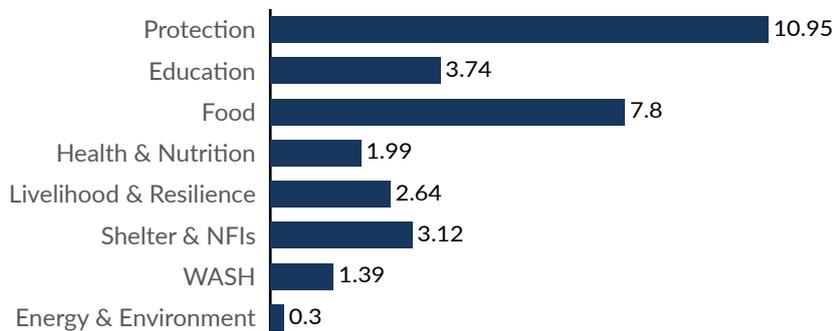


- Refugees
- Assisted returns
- ▲ Refugee camp
- ➔ Refugee crossing
- ➔ Refugee returning
- ▨ Refugee locations

Refugee Population Trends 2015 - 2021



2021 Requirements | in millions US\$



# Background

Some 50,000 Burundian refugees reside in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), of which 61 per cent are children under 18 years. The vast majority reside in camps or settlements, communities or urban/semi-urban areas in South Kivu province. The security situation in South Kivu, and in particular in the southern part of the province where most Burundian refugees are settled, was at an elevated level of risk throughout 2020 due to ongoing inter-ethnic conflict between the Banyamulenge and the Babembe-Bafuliru – Banyindu communities amongst others, and armed groups typically affiliated with these communities. This situation was exacerbated by military offensives by the Congolese national army (FARDC) against armed groups, causing the displacement of populations throughout South Kivu and the rest of Eastern DRC. 2020 was also marked by attacks on humanitarian actors, including the kidnapping of several UN and NGO staff. The Lusenda camp (established in 2015) currently hosts some 30,000 refugees, while the Mulongwe site hosts about 8,700 individuals. Mulongwe, where refugees are able to farm and access shared services with the local community, encourages self-reliance and community participation and integration. Approximately 6,400 Burundian refugees live in rural areas, mostly in host communities, outside of camps/sites, while approximately 1,700 Burundian refugees have settled in urban areas throughout the DRC.

The right of freedom of movement is generally guaranteed for refugees living in the DRC. The Government has identified secure areas (camps or settlements) where refugees can be provided with assistance. The Government does not prevent refugees from settling in host communities but exhibits a strong preference for Burundian refugees to live in the designated camps or settlements. Despite fertile land, access to waterways, and significant mineral resources in the area, most of the rural zones hosting refugees have poor access to resources and opportunities, with a low level of essential services, and very few employment opportunities. Insecurity both limits economic opportunities and slows development and the construction of infrastructure. Most Burundian refugees, i.e. those living in the camp or site in South Kivu, depend on RRP partners' assistance for food, education, healthcare, and water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH), and livelihoods. Progress towards self-reliance among refugees has been hampered by lack of funding and by the location of most refugees in hard-to-reach and low-resource areas. With limited resources available, insecurity, and scarcity of arable land available to refugees, UNHCR's focus remains

## Projected Beneficiary Population

	Population 31 Dec. 2020	Projected Population 31 Dec. 2021
Burundian refugees	46,829	38,500
Host Community	17,000	17,000

almost exclusively on the delivery of assistance. Since September 2020, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 1,964 Burundian refugees to Burundi, in accordance with the 2009 Tripartite Agreement<sup>1</sup>. So far, mostly refugees living in transit centers in Uvira territory were among the Burundian returnees.

The refugee response in the DRC is largely aligned with the inclusion approach of the Global Compact on Refugees; for example, refugees are allowed to move freely and select their places of residence (application of the out-of-camp policy); refugees have access to the labour market and to national social and justice services functioning in hosting areas; the possibility for them to access (although not purchase) irrigable land for crop cultivation; and promotion of a culture of self-reliance in all aspects of refugees' lives. In 2021, the RRRP will strengthen the engagement with development and peacebuilding partners to improve services for all who reside in hosting areas.

Efforts to strengthen community-based protection mechanisms and collaboration with development actors are ongoing, but the camp-focused response will continue in 2021 due to the unpredictable security situation. A rapid assessment on return intentions for Burundian refugees conducted in South Kivu in October 2020 concluded that close to 30% are interested in returning to their country of origin in 2021. As of 2 December 2020, RRP partners have facilitated the voluntary return of 1400 Burundian refugees. In 2021, the planning figure for voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from DRC to Burundi is 6,000 people.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic that restricted or blocked movements with the closure of Burundian borders, the political events in Burundi and the sudden death of former President Nkurunziza, 1,111 new Burundian refugee arrivals were registered in 2020. Contingency planning shifted from preparations for a large-scale influx related to the May 2020 elections in Burundi, to the Covid-19 prevention and response, as well as the planning and facilitation of voluntary returns to Burundi.

## Needs Analysis

Burundian refugees in the camps and transit centres located in Fizi and Uvira Territories in South Kivu often live in overcrowded conditions, increasing the risk of the spread of communicable diseases. These risks are compounded due to the COVID-19 pandemic (no cases amongst Burundian refugees to date) and due to the fact that cholera is endemic in the area and lack of awareness and practice of basic hygiene and sanitation measures are ongoing challenges. Additional funding is of critical importance for the provision of shelter, as 1,500 families are still living in emergency shelters made of plastic sheeting in Lusenda site. Also, there is a shortage of drugs to treat even the most common illnesses. In the water and sanitation sector, water provision is below minimum standards with only 19 liters per person per day and 47 percent of the population are still in need of family latrines.

Refugees face multiple protection risks, which are heightened due to the general insecurity and the lack of a functional security sector. Gender-Based violence is perpetuated at high rates throughout the DRC, and the situation in the refugee settlements is compounded by a weak judicial system, low participation of women in decision-making

<sup>1</sup> *The Tripartite Agreement between the DRC, Burundi and UNHCR was adopted on 11 December 2009*

processes, lack of livelihoods and education opportunities, impunity for perpetrators, and the common practice of women having to cross isolated areas to collect firewood. Survival sex has been on the rise with the frequent interruptions in food distribution and a decrease in cash assistance. The effects of COVID-19, such as isolation, reduced funding and the lower presence of humanitarian actors, has further increased the risks of GBV for Burundian refugees. The health situation of the refugees living in communities remains difficult to monitor.

There is an urgent need to create better conditions to promote the self-reliance of refugees through increased livelihood opportunities and strengthening of their resilience. However, these projects require expertise and engagement from a wide range of actors beyond RRP partners. It has proven difficult to attract such actors to Fizi territory. Due to limited resources, major logistical obstacles, and lengthy processing of asylum requests by the Government of the DRC, new arrivals are obliged to stay for months in transit centers before they can be transferred to the Mulongwe site, which was established in 2017 to help decongest the overcrowded camp in Lusenda and promote “the alternative to camp” approach. In Mulongwe, new arrivals are provided with a plot for shelter and small-scale farming activities to encourage self-reliance.

As elsewhere in the country, there is a need to support land and conflict management, policing, justice and civil registration, and other local governance and rule of law structures in South Kivu. If development support can be secured in these sectors, highest priority for humanitarian support would be given to children subjected to child labor and/or forced recruitment into armed groups; addressing sexual and gender based violence and exploitation, such as survival sex and early marriage, as well as providing legal and psychosocial support for survivors of GBV; and help with tools and approaches for conflict resolution at the community level.

The presence of Burundian refugees into Fizi territory of South Kivu has put pressure on already scarce resources and services in host communities. Only 35 per cent of the refugee population have access to agricultural and fishing activities, which heightens the dependency on humanitarian assistance. The presence of large numbers of refugees has also impacted the environment, leading to deforestation. Some refugees have been given access to land. All of these facts contributed to creating additional sources of tension between the refugees and the local community, in the context of limited self-reliance and livelihoods prospects for refugees and the host communities.

#### 2021 BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS IN DRC

- Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Children’s Fund
- World Food Programme

# Response Strategy and Priorities

In 2021, RPP partners in the DRC will focus on promoting a favourable protection environment while strengthening emphasis on durable solutions, resilience and empowerment in order to gradually reduce refugees' dependence on humanitarian assistance and to support a more holistic, community-based response. RRP partners are implementing strategies, policies and plans in support of refugees and host communities, in line with comprehensive responses and advancing the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

RRRP partners will focus on the following objectives in 2021:

1. Preserve equal and unhindered access to territorial asylum and international protection, promoting the full enjoyment of rights, and the civilian character of asylum.
2. Improve the protection and solutions environment through stronger links to and support of developing national systems and services through development and government partners, including police and the justice, health and education, land management and others necessary for community-based responses, self-reliance, and progression towards the full enjoyment of rights.
3. Anchor the response in government processes, systems and infrastructure, with the goal of achieving minimum standards in the provision of multi-sectoral assistance to refugees and host communities, through inclusion in development plans; multi-year strategies; and regional protection frameworks and policies – paying particular attention to the needs of children, women, and persons living with disabilities or with other specific needs;



4. Promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities through the implementation of targeted self-reliance and resilience programmes and respect for the natural environment.
5. Foster economic self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees and host communities by expanding the use of cash, reducing the dependency on humanitarian aid and promoting social economic growth in line with national and development plans.
6. Response to emergency through preparedness and response plans including epidemics (Cholera, measles, COVID). Particularly in 2021, activities on COVID-19 will be maintained in 8 pillars: Coordination, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (CREC), Surveillance, Point of entry (PoE), Laboratory, Prevention and Control of Infection (PCI), Case management, Logistics and Operations Support.

RRP partners will deliver protection and other services in 2021, in the context of the multiple, layered challenges faced in South Kivu, DRC, by continuing to adapt and provide essential protection interventions. UNHCR and partners have prioritized protection interventions that respond to the greatest needs, such as direct GBV and child protection case management, which was reinforced in 2020 and will continue in 2021. RRP partners continue to work closely with Burundian refugee and host community protection groups to support them with training and resources to provide protection in their communities. The community-based protection mechanisms were affected in 2020, as RRP partners were not able to directly reach the refugees for long periods of time due to COVID-19 prevention measures. However, the crisis also provided an opportunity for community-based networks to take more ownership of the protection of their communities, and these practices will be encouraged and supported in 2021.

## Partnership and Coordination

Working in accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model, coordination is managed under the leadership of the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) with UNHCR playing a key supporting role.

Partnerships with stakeholders beyond the humanitarian community, including the Government, donors, UN agencies, development agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector and research institutions, will be pursued in order to develop sustainable responses that have a meaningful impact. RRP partners will participate in the Local and Provincial Development Plan. Consultations to further strengthen comprehensive responses in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and defining the next steps to advance multi-year, multi-stakeholder approaches are foreseen with national authorities.

A Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) has been developed for DRC for the period of 2019/2020, laying out the inter-agency assistance strategy for all refugees and returnees in the country, in support of the Government. A new CRRP is being elaborated for 2021.

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL (US\$)
Association Des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Developpement Endogene	342,000
Food and Agriculture Organization	850,000
United Nations Childrens Fund	2,062,222
United Nations Development Programme	3,900,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	16,969,286
World Food Programme	7,800,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>31,923,508</b>

**RWANDA**

**2021 PLANNED RESPONSE**

**29,000**

PROJECTED REFUGEE  
POPULATION BY END OF  
2021

**40,000**

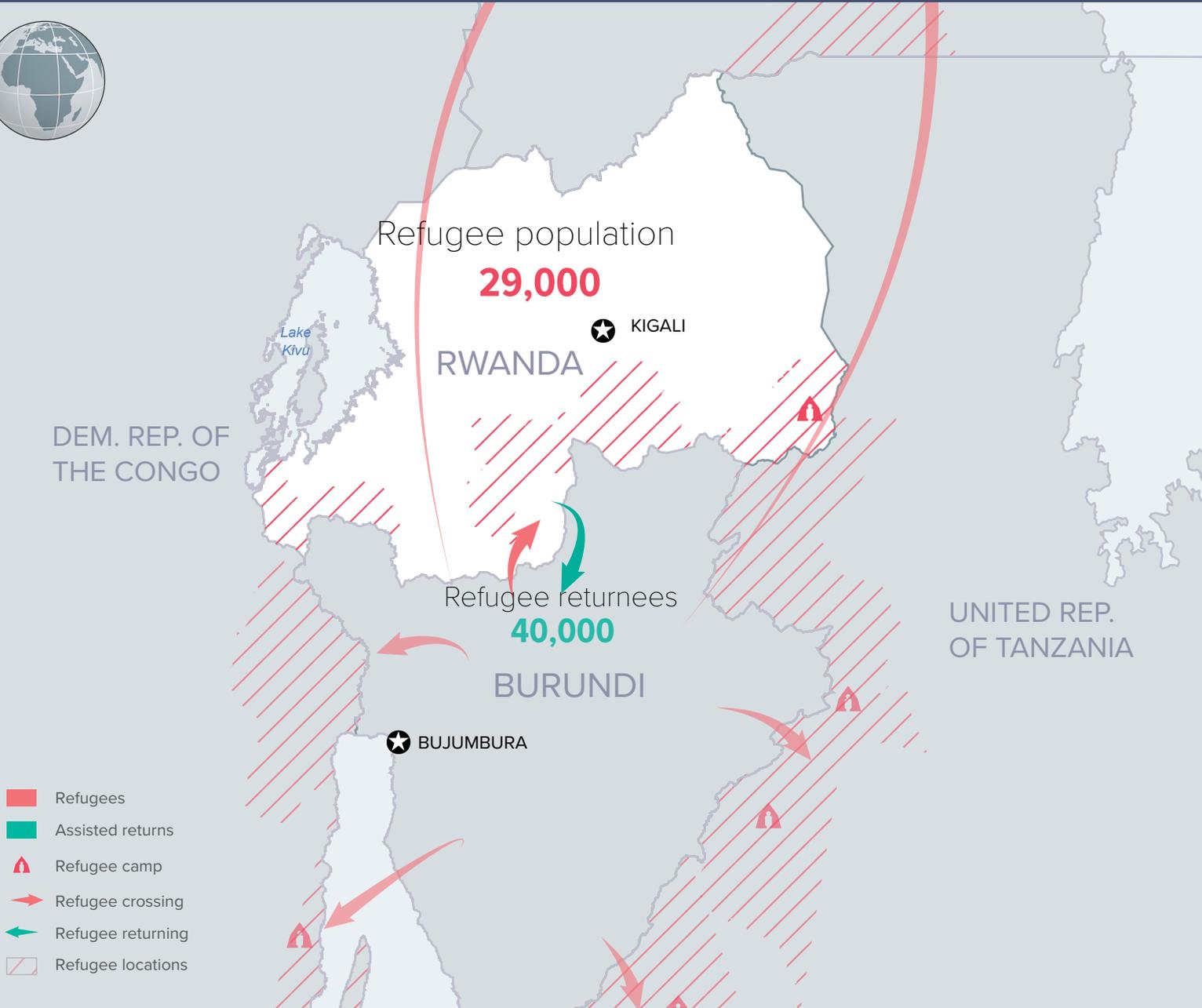
PROJECTED RETURNEES  
IN 2021

**US\$ 61.7M**

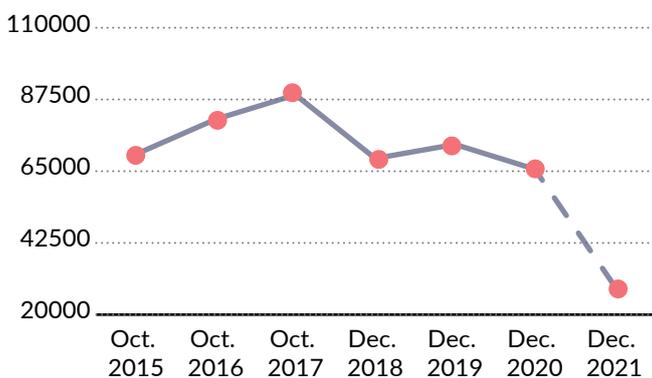
REQUIREMENTS 2021

**15**

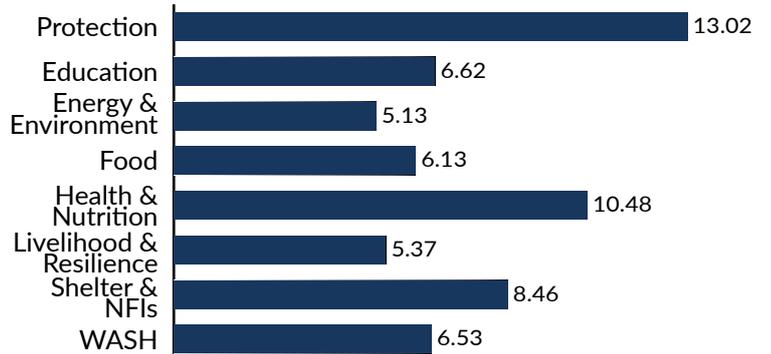
PARTNERS INVOLVED IN  
2021



**Refugee Population Trends 2015 - 2021**



**2021 Requirements | in millions US\$**



# Background

At the end of 2020, some 65,000 Burundian refugees were registered in Rwanda. Of these, about 83.5 per cent reside in Mahama camp, which consists of two sites within the same camp. Another 11,000 live in urban areas, mostly in Kigali and Huye.

Rwanda generally provides a favourable protection environment with de facto right to work, open borders and a high-level commitment that all durable solutions should be made available. Access to core protection services such as registration, legal assistance, community-based protection and SGBV prevention and support are key priorities, as well as ensuring that refugees have access to national schools and basic services such as primary health care, WASH and Shelter facilities. The Government of Rwanda officially accepted the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in February 2018 and has contributed to the progressive implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. Rwanda made 9 pledges at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019, which focus on education, livelihoods, protection, environment, energy and health. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the operation made good progress in the implementation of the GRF pledges in 2020. Rwanda was the first country to develop thematic action plans per pledge, which has been recognized as a best practice. All operational responses are in line with this inclusive protection and solutions approach.

Following the installation of a new Government in Burundi in May 2020, more Burundian refugees expressed their interest in being assisted to voluntarily return to their home country. Between 27 August and 31 December 2020 weekly convoys were organized, facilitating the return of 7,896 refugees.

## Projected Beneficiary Population

	Population 31 Dec. 2020	Projected Population 31 Dec. 2021
Burundian refugees	65,037	29,000
Host Community	125,000	125,000

# Needs Analysis

2021 planning assumptions for the response to the Burundi situation are the following:

- An average of 50 new arrivals per month
- 4% natural population growth
- 40 resettlement departures for protection referrals
- 40,000 facilitated voluntary returns anticipated

While refugees in Rwanda generally enjoy a favourable protection environment, most of the Burundian refugees living in Mahama camp remain dependent on assistance to meet their basic needs, including shelter, WASH, food and nutrition, health, clean cooking energy and education.

To support effective camp management and participation of the community to develop their own protection mechanisms and services, refugees are given training and equipment to organize leadership committees, women's committees, security committees, and other community-based structures.

Some 10.9% of the registered refugee population in Rwanda have specific needs (such as child-headed households, female-headed households, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons with mental disorders).

Sexual and gender-based violence remains a key concern; incidents are underreported and often result in unwanted pregnancies, school dropouts and stigmatization, putting survivors at further risk of exposure to negative coping mechanisms like survival sex. Programmatic gaps in other sectors such as overcrowded shelters, limited access to livelihood opportunities and lack of clean cooking energy also compound SGBV risks. Beside efforts made in availing sexual and reproductive health, including family planning services, teen pregnancies continue to be a serious concern in the camp.

Refugee children represent around 48% of the total population of concern and are exposed to various types of risks. Unaccompanied and separated children represent about 1.7 per cent of all refugee children and are most at-risk of abuse and exploitation. Neglect is among the highest identified risks. Due to the COVID-19 restriction measures, particularly the suspension of child protection community awareness, Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and sports activities, the situation deteriorated and more children suffered neglect, and more adolescent were resorting to negative coping mechanisms. In this context, refugee children are particularly vulnerable to drop out of school, child labour, child marriage and domestic violence. Challenges and concerns remain regarding children-at-risk, care arrangements for unaccompanied children, family reunification, and limited friendly spaces for children and youth.

Refugees in Rwanda have limited access to livelihoods opportunities due to inadequate farming land (both access and availability), limited trade exchanges between the camp population and the host communities, challenges in obtaining documentation, access to financial services and start-up capital, poor infrastructure (including access to electrical power, market structure), weak market linkage, low coverage of existing livelihoods interventions, lack of skills and chronic dependency on humanitarian assistance. Low energy access and deteriorating energy security is also a major limiting factor for the development of business activities. The current livelihoods support only reaches a small portion of the refugee and host communities because of resource constraints. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected the economic situation of refugees. Using a prioritized targeting approach, in 2021, there is a need to strengthen livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions to enhance self-reliance and resilience of refugees while rationalizing the use of humanitarian assistance.

The only durable solution available for Burundian refugees in Rwanda is voluntary return. At the end of July 2020, a group of refugees requested assistance from UNHCR to repatriate to Burundi. A subsequent tripartite meeting between Rwanda, Burundi and UNHCR on 13 August confirmed the validity and applicability of the provisions of the 2005 Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian refugees in Rwanda. All parties consequently agreed to work together to facilitate refugee returns from Rwanda to Burundi. Over 18,000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda registered to return. By the end of 2020, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 7,895 Burundian refugees in Rwanda to their country of origin. It is expected that in 2021, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary return of up to 40,000 refugees. This will require reinforcement of capacities of both the registration and departure centres in Mahama camp, the renovation of the existing facilities, the construction of additional accommodation units and the upgrading of WASH facilities and public structures. COVID-19 testing must also be organized for all departing refugees.



# Response Strategy and Priorities

Strategic areas for the 2021 Burundi refugee response by the RRP partners are:

1. Continuing to ensure reception, protection and assistance for all persons of concern, including new arrivals, with targeted assistance for vulnerable persons with specific needs using a community-based approach;
2. Ensuring the issuance of documentation (national ID cards, birth and marriage registration) for all refugees;
3. Expanding cash-based interventions to ensure gains in efficiency and effectiveness, and promoting refugees' financial inclusion and contribution to the local economy;
4. Pursuing the roll-out of alternative cooking energy solutions in all camps in line with the national policy banning the use of firewood;
5. Reinforcing advocacy and strengthening strategic partnerships in order to support the Government of Rwanda in the inclusion of all refugees in national systems, in particular health and education in line with Government policy;
6. Supporting the Government of Rwanda in its efforts to promote the economic inclusion of refugees with the objective of fostering refugees' self-reliance and their progressive graduation out of humanitarian assistance;
7. Supporting the implementation of durable solutions, mainly through the facilitation of the voluntary repatriation of refugees who express the wish to return to Burundi.

The Government of Rwanda made 17 pledges – nine at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019 and eight at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness; this is the highest in the region. The GRF pledges focus on education, livelihoods, protection, environment, energy and health. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the operation made good progress in the implementation of the GRF pledges. Rwanda was the first country to develop thematic action plans per pledge, which the Regional Bureau has shared as a best practice. The action plans were developed jointly with sector leads and the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) identified project ideas, including timelines and cost estimates.

In line with the Government of Rwanda-UNHCR new joint strategy on Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities (2021-25), UNHCR and partners' key focus will be to support the Government in its development efforts that lead to the promotion of socio-economic growth, scaling up livelihoods interventions both in the refugee camps, hosting districts and urban areas to graduate refugees out of extreme poverty through integrated medium-term support and strengthening of partnerships with the private sector, and enhancing refugees' work opportunities through advocacy and policy efforts.

Assistance will be targeted based on needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of refugees, rather than the provision of blanket assistance. In line with the Government policy of integrating refugees into national systems, a key priority will be to ensure integration of services for refugees within the existing services, especially at the district level, promoting equity in service delivery for refugees and host communities.

The shift towards cash-based interventions for food assistance will provide refugees with greater autonomy in meeting their needs. This will be based on feasibility studies and response analysis, with the objective of making gains in efficiency and effectiveness, while assessing the impact on local markets and communities, and mitigating protection risks.

## Partnership and Coordination

The Refugee Coordination Model in Rwanda is co-coordinated by the Government's Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR. It includes a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners. UNHCR also coordinates sector working groups.

UNHCR coordinates the preparation of refugee response plans and appeals such as the CRRP, Rwanda chapters in the RRRPs for the Burundi and the Congolese situations, CERF appeals, the COVID-19 emergency appeal, among others, to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

The 17 RRP partners in 2021 are involved in the planning of the refugee response through the contribution to the participatory needs' assessment and other interagency assessments, including UNHCR's country operation plan. They attend the Refugee Coordination Meeting (RCM) every two months for information exchanges and to brainstorm collectively on how best to respond to challenges and to define the way forward. RRP partners also attend field coordination meetings to follow-up on sectoral activities. In addition, UNHCR works closely with refugee leaders, refugee community groups and conducts regular protection monitoring through focus group discussion and households' visits to ensure that humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner.

RRP partners will continue to engage with the private sector in the areas of energy, construction and livelihoods in 2021. The private sector is a core of Rwanda's national development strategy and thus a pillar for the operation's self-reliance strategy.

### 2021 BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS IN RWANDA

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- Africa Humanitarian Action
- Alight
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Handicap International
- International Organization for Migration
- Prison Fellowship Rwanda
- Save the Children International
- The Legal Aid Forum
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- UNWOMEN
- World Food Programme
- World Vision International

Voluntary Repatriation is organized in the framework of the 2005 “Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Rwanda”. UNHCR and representatives of both Governments are holding weekly tripartite technical meetings to coordinate the organization of voluntary returns of refugees and to exchange information on developments and lessons learnt in the context of repatriation and reintegration activities in Rwanda and Burundi.

UNHCR in collaboration with MINEMA is expanding strategic partnerships with other institutions, notably the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Local Government, Education, Health, district authorities, and others, to strengthen protection and solutions for refugees, building up on the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum (2019). The relationship with district authorities in areas hosting refugees will be further strengthened in 2021.

As a result of strong advocacy within the One UN and UNCT, refugees and returnees are included in the UNDAF II (2018-2023) and in the national development agenda. UNHCR participates in the newly established SDG Taskforce and co-chairs the UNDAF Results Group 2B on Resilience. UNHCR is also an active member of the Development Partners Coordination Group chaired by the Ministry of Finance.

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL (US\$)
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	100,000
Africa Humanitarian Action	30,000
ALIGHT	999,000
Food and Agriculture Organization	1,214,729
Handicap International	580,000
International Organization for Migration	6,600,000
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	300,000
Save the Children International	2,602,163
The Legal Aid Forum	49,690
United Nations Childrens Fund	2,000,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	37,073,476
United Nations Population Fund	738,500
UNWOMEN	100,000
World Food Programme	8,190,636
World Vision International	1,151,328
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>61,729,523</b>

UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
TANZANIA

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

**53,000**

PROJECTED REFUGEE  
POPULATION BY END OF  
2021

**93,000**

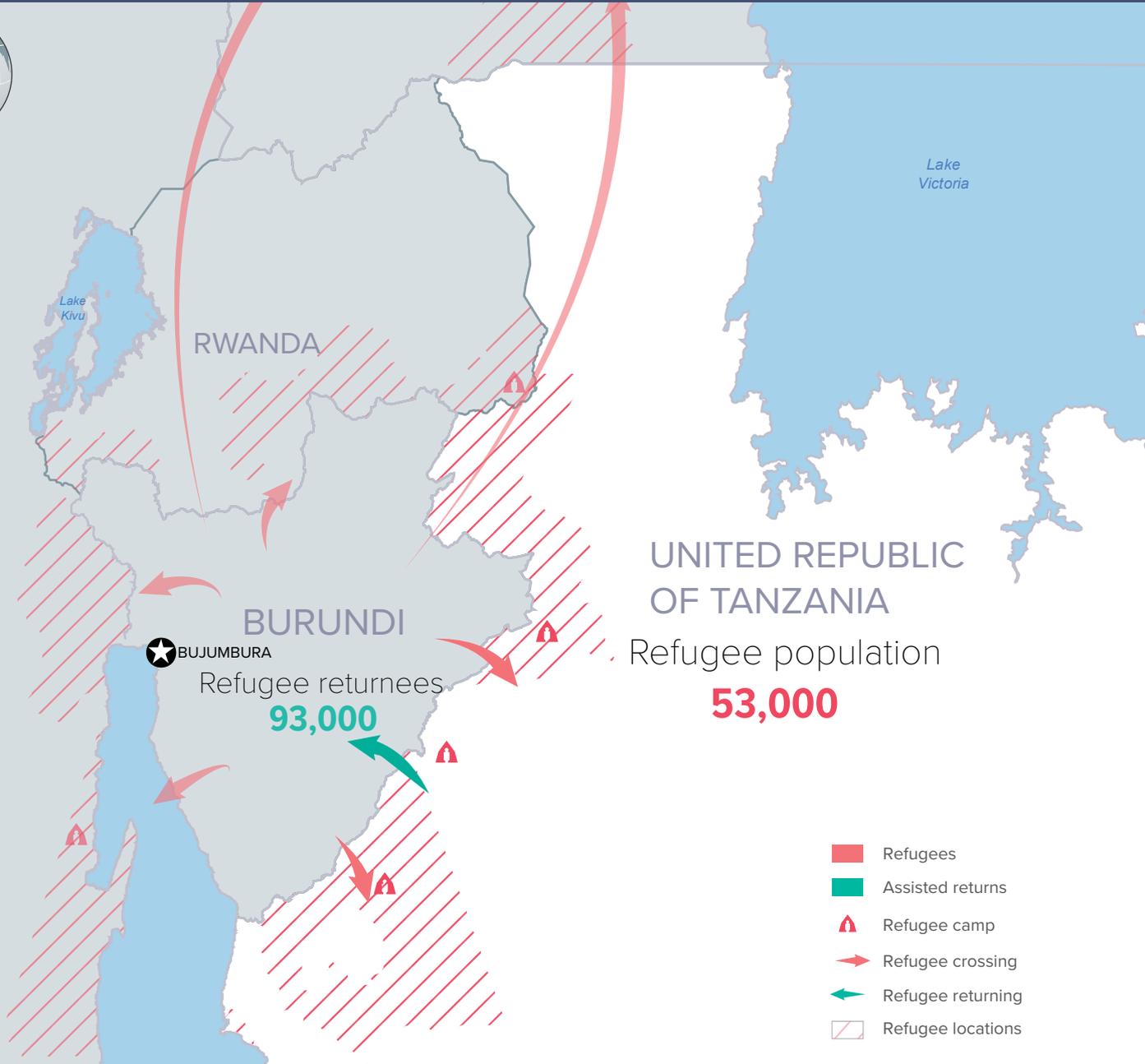
PROJECTED RETURNEES  
IN 2021

**US\$ 101.7M**

REQUIREMENTS 2021

**16**

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN  
2021



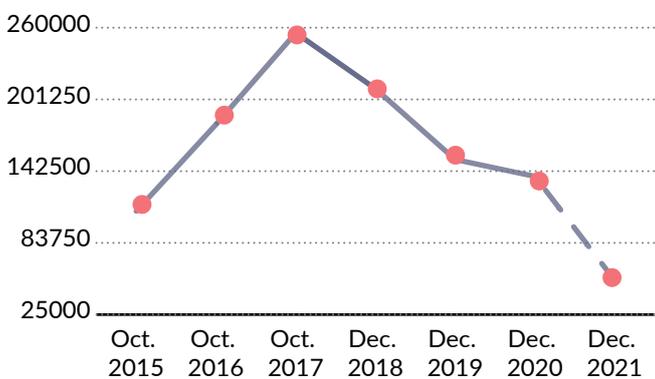
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Refugee population  
**53,000**

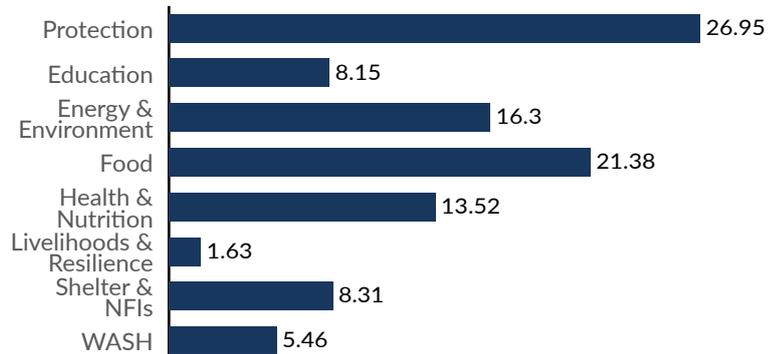
Refugee returnees  
**93,000**

- Refugees
- Assisted returns
- ▲ Refugee camp
- ➔ Refugee crossing
- ➔ Refugee returning
- Refugee locations

Refugee Population Trends 2015 - 2021



2021 Requirements | in millions US\$



# Background

As of 31 December 2020, the United Republic of Tanzania hosts 148,000<sup>1</sup> Burundian refugees residing in refugee camps in north-west Tanzania.

All 19 border entry and reception points for both Burundian and Congolese asylum-seekers have been closed since July 2018. However, due to unpredictable political dynamics in Burundi, 5,000 new Burundi refugee arrivals are projected into Tanzania in 2021. Despite a challenging protection environment and limited capacity and resources to stabilize and strengthen existing programmes, RRP partners continue to provide protection and assistance to refugees, while also prioritising targeted interventions which address the humanitarian and development needs of the refugees and host communities in Tanzania.

Voluntary Repatriation for Burundian refugees is based on the outcome of a Tripartite Commission meeting between the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and UNHCR in 2017 that agreed to initiate returns under the framework of the 2001 Tripartite Agreement for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees. As of December 2020, 107,169 Burundian refugees have been assisted to return from Tanzania to their country, of which a total of 30,636 refugees repatriated in 2020.

Following the elections in Burundi in May 2020, both governments have been pushing for increased returns. While not promoting repatriation to Burundi, RRP partners seek to ensure that refugees can make informed, voluntary decisions on whether and when to return, and that return itself is safe, dignified and sustainable.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RRP partners will collaborate within the framework of the National Response Plan and the Kigoma Contingency Plan (KCP), and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, regional and local authorities. In 2021, RRP partners will continue to prioritize critical sectors of health and WASH and continue capacity development and dissemination of information.

<sup>1</sup> The population figure does not include 69,369 Burundians of the 1972 caseload who are not covered by this RRRP.

## Projected Beneficiary Population

	Population 31 Dec. 2020	Projected Population 31 Dec. 2021
Burundian refugees	147,748	53,000
Host Community	20,000	20,000

# Needs Analysis

Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance due to the encampment policy and restrictive livelihood environment.

More than 26,000 Burundians continue to live in dilapidated emergency shelters and tents leading to unacceptable living conditions. This has exposed Burundians to harsh weather conditions and health risks adding more burdens to the health sector. More funding is needed to ensure the safety and privacy of refugees in the camps where 79% are women and children. This camp demography also means that SGBV and child protection are key areas which require continuous engagement and interventions.

Inadequate specialized services for chronic and non-communicable diseases, limited specialized equipment in basic health care facilities, lack of well-equipped ambulances and extremely prioritized referrals hamper the delivery of comprehensive primary health services in the camps.

Local authorities continue to stress the importance of promotion of the environment and natural resources inside refugee camps. Investment in alternative and renewable energy sources would not just provide a much-needed boost for the energy sector but would also foster social cohesion and coexistence in the region.

There are major gaps in the WASH sector which will be addressed with priority in the context of COVID-19 prevention and response activities in the camps. 51% of Burundian households use shared latrines. In 2021, UNHCR will distribute 500g/person/month of soap which in previous years UNHCR was not able to provide due to funding gaps.

RRP partners will continue to support the regional government's COVID-19 preparedness and response plan through operational and logistical interventions. Partners will continue with Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities, support capacity building of health workers and government staff in camp and district health centres and at points of entry. Partners will continue to maintain isolation units and quarantine facilities in the camps, while sectoral interventions under the Burundi RRRP will be mainstreamed with COVID-19 activities.

# Response Strategy and Priorities

In 2021, RRP partners will continue to seek innovative, cost-effective and sustainable ways to meet basic needs and deliver essential services and life-saving activities to Burundian refugees through a multi-layered response to the complex and constantly changing protection environment in Tanzania. Priority areas will include development of sustainable approaches, which address the Government concerns over the natural environment, security, health and the host community, promotion of fair and efficient national RSD procedures and self-reliance.

The focus will be on the following strategic objectives:

1. Preserve equal and unhindered access to territorial asylum and protection, promote the full enjoyment of rights, and maintain the civilian character of asylum;
2. Enable access to essential services according to minimum international standards and ensure protection systems are strengthened and refugees and returnees can enjoy their full rights, specifically in regard to safety and security, child protection, protection from SGBV, RSD and community-based protection;
3. Enhance peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities and refugees, including through protection of the natural environment;
4. Ensure refugees have access to comprehensive solutions;
5. Support Kigoma Contingency Plan for COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response.



**Strengthening Livelihoods and Resilience**

Livelihoods and resilience require an integrated approach linking the refugee response with host community support. Refugees who are only being supported with humanitarian assistance but have not been able to pursue livelihood activities also find themselves at risk of coerced returns. The Government confirmed its commitment to the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) as reflected in its pledges for the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. Kigoma as a refugee hosting region can make huge strides in its development and support to host communities through the operationalization of the GCR, provided there exists significant political will.

UNHCR Tanzania will continue to maintain its active participation in the area-based UN Joint Program for the Kigoma region, where the linkage between humanitarian assistance and development of host community areas is established. While voluntary repatriation is considered a durable solution, returnees who become vulnerable in the country of origin are often more likely to flee their country again and return to Tanzania.

The pressure for return by the Government has exacerbated challenges faced by remaining refugees, especially unaccompanied minors and separated children (UASC), as foster parents sometimes repatriate leaving their foster children behind. Children are also at risk of child labour and child trafficking. Government Social Welfare Officers are now working in the refugee camps, supported by UNICEF, providing a useful example of how national social protection services could benefit the refugee community, for instance, in ensuring the placing of unaccompanied refugee children with Tanzanian foster families. The collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department will be enhanced and further strengthened to ensure the protection of UASCs.

RRP partners will advocate for increased support in Tanzania to mitigate the risk of premature returns. UNHCR will work with the Tanzanian authorities to strengthen protection and assistance with an emphasis on the specific profiles of the remaining population. A critical action required to move these discussions forward would be the ability to conduct meaningful protection profiling and individual assessments of the remaining population. The qualitative data gathered during these protection assessments will allow for evidence-based communication, which is key for dialogue with all stakeholders on the way forward.

RRP partners will continue to explore other opportunities to reach alternative durable solutions for Burundi refugees including resettlement and complementary pathways.

As the majority of the population in Tanzania depends on wood-based fuel for cooking and lighting, most refugees also use wood-based fuels since the costs of renewable alternatives are high and not easily available in the market. With restrictions on livelihood activities in the camps, priority will be given to skills training, business and financial management.

**Host Communities**

In line with the RRRP strategic objectives of reducing community friction through confidence building and dispute resolution measures, the host community will be supported with quick impact projects each on health, water and education sectors. Host community members are also availed of health services inside the camps.

The Government has been calling for increased international support for areas hosting refugees in Tanzania. RRP partners will facilitate coexistence interactions through quarterly and ad-hoc meetings, town hall meetings and promotion of social interactions of communities via reforestation programmes and sports activities both in camps and in villages surrounding the three camps.

### **Voluntary Repatriation**

Returns from Tanzania to Burundi are taking place within the framework of the 2017 Tripartite Agreement under which both governments and UNHCR have affirmed their commitments to uphold the core principle of voluntariness in the repatriation of refugees, bearing in mind that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons for not returning at the present time and will benefit from continued international protection.

In Tanzania, voluntary return is carried out in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, IOM, WFP and Protection Partners under the overall coordination of UNHCR as part of the Refugee Coordination Model. UNHCR coordinates voluntary return through the RCM which provides a platform for planning and coordination so that refugees and asylum-seekers return in safety and dignity through the collective efforts of all partners involved in the repatriation process. The Tripartite Commission holds responsibility for planning and implementing voluntary return to Burundi. The Commission and its Technical Working Group meet at regular intervals to review the voluntary return operation, make recommendations and ensure compliance with the Plan of Action.

In Tanzania, refugees are hosted in three refugee camps: Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu, all within the Kigoma region. Designated departure points are located in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps and IOM provides inter-camp transport for refugees residing in other camps. Movements are conducted by hired buses and IOM operations and medical teams conduct pre-embarkation checks at the departure centre to assess refugees' fitness to travel and ensure that they do not pose any health threat to themselves and to other passengers. Special arrangements are made for persons with specific needs and other vulnerable persons.

The efforts of partners in the framework of the Cross-Border Working Group (Tanzania/Burundi) to create a cross-border referral pathway to improve access to services for refugee returnees during repatriation is a timely initiative, as it provides critical support to returnees during the transition phase and contributes to their reintegration in Burundi.

Due to the protracted refugee situation in the country, the strict encampment policy, restrictive policies and chronic underfunding, the refugee population in Tanzania remains highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, exposing many refugees and asylum-seekers to a variety of protection risks. The Government of Tanzania continues to reiterate its position that naturalization or local integration would not be possible for Burundian refugees and that voluntary repatriation is the only eventual durable solution.

# Partnership and Coordination

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR along with its government counterpart MoHA coordinates the refugee response in Tanzania. MoHA and UNHCR co-chair the Refugee Operation Working Group at national level, while Inter-agency and Inter-Sector working groups meet regularly and are chaired by UN agencies and RRP sectoral partners. Field level coordination structures ensure that day-to-day progress and challenges are shared and managed efficiently between partners. UNHCR will ensure the effective participation and involvement of relevant stakeholders (local authorities, UN bodies, I/NGOs and representatives of host communities) to advance on the strategic objectives.

Within the framework of the National Response Plan and the Kigoma Contingency Plan (KCP) as well as the coordination structure of the Incident Management System of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), COVID-19 preparedness and response for refugee camps will be further intensified. While the Regional Medical Officer coordinates the response at the regional level, camp level coordination has been ongoing in close collaboration with Camp Commandants and District Medical Officers for camp specific issues. The KCP has specified the roles and responsibilities of actors in the camps with referral pathways, linkages with government isolation facilities and details on the COVID-Task forces in the various camps. The coordination meetings with all the partners and the Government related to the COVID -19 pandemic will continue on a monthly basis.

## 2021 BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS IN TANZANIA

- Danish Refugee Council
- Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions
- HelpAge International UK
- International Rescue Committee
- Medical Teams International
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Plan International
- Relief to Development Society
- Save the Children International
- Tanzania Red Cross Society
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- Women's Legal Aid Centre
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL (US\$)
Danish Refugee Council	2,593,497
Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions	474,500
HelpAge International UK	3,120,000
International Rescue Committee	4,889,317
Medical Teams International	1,804,255
Norwegian Refugee Council	2,800,000
Plan International	4,000,000
Relief to Development Society	6,803,530
Save the Children International	2,022,098
Tanzania Red Cross Sociaty	500,000
United Nations Childrens Fund	1,195,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	47,396,837
United Nations Population Fund	950,000
Women's Legal Aid Centre	220,000
World Food Programme	22,503,479
World Health Organization	420,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101,692,513</b>



UGANDA

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

51,500

PROJECTED REFUGEE  
POPULATION BY END OF  
2021

2,000

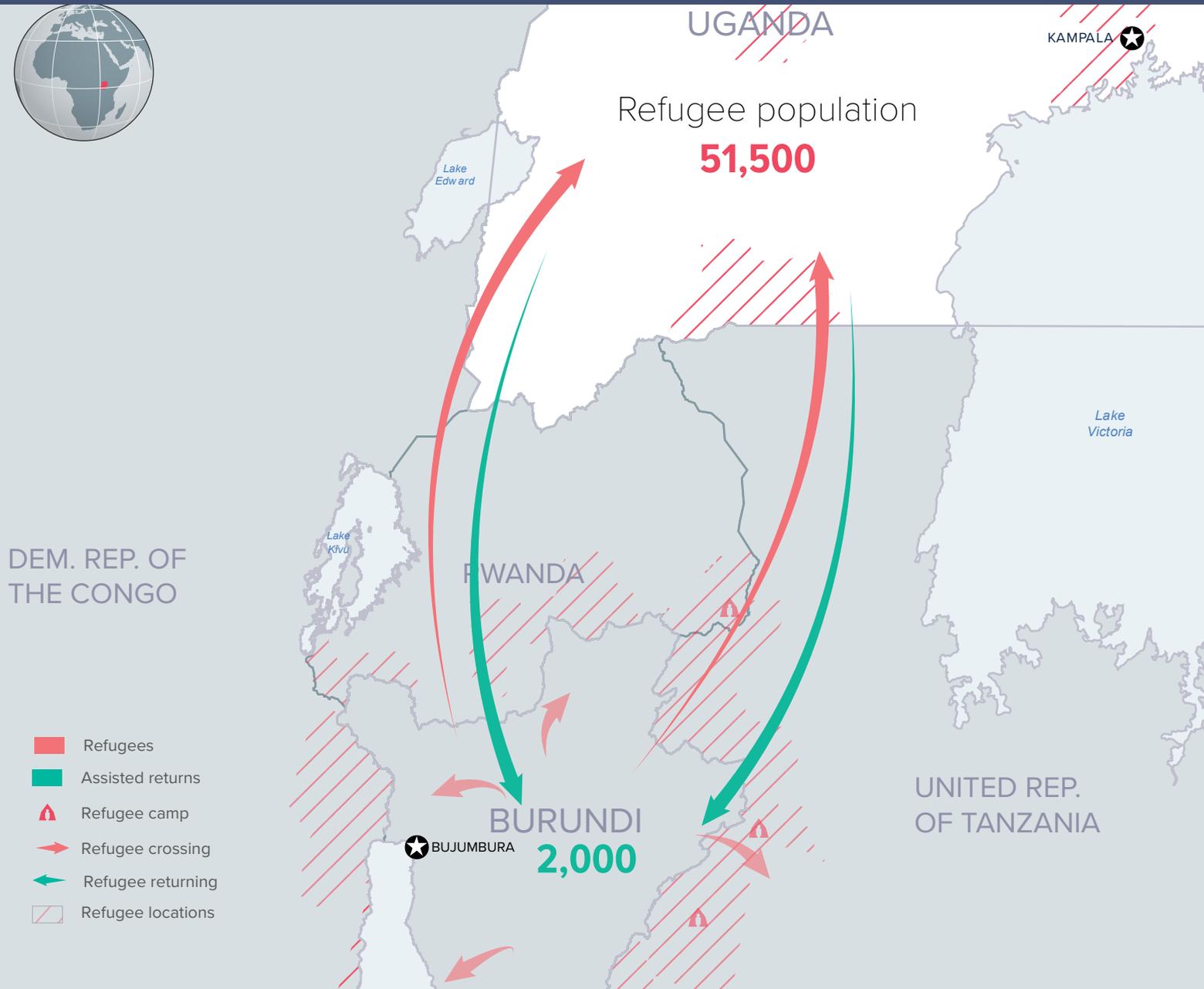
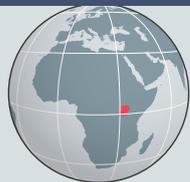
PROJECTED RETURNEES  
IN 2021

US\$ 27.2M

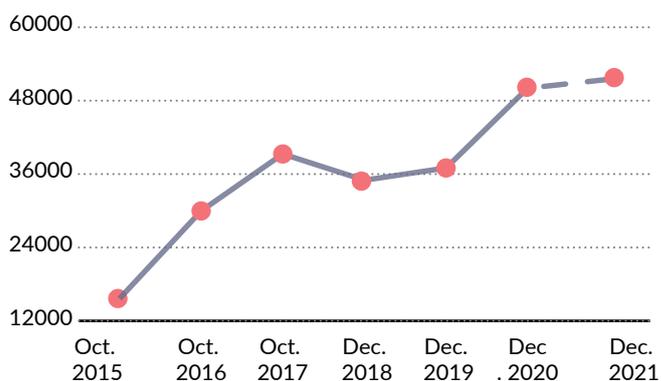
REQUIREMENTS 2021

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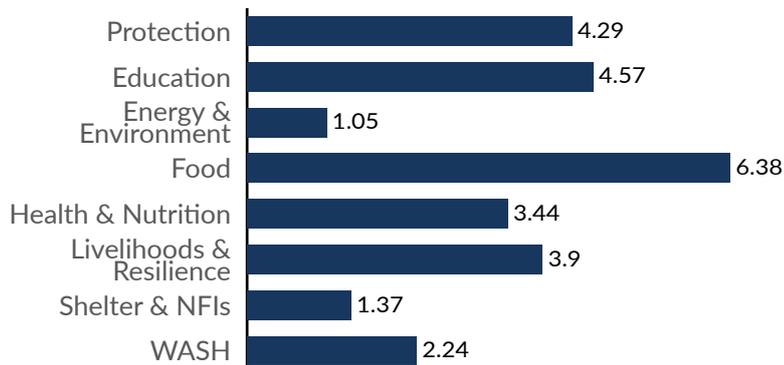
PARTNERS INVOLVED IN  
2021



Refugee Population Trends 2015 - 2021



2021 Requirements | in millions US\$



# Background

Uganda is hosting the highest number of refugees in Africa with more than 1.4 million refugees. Wars, violence and persecution in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region are the main drivers of forced displacement into Uganda, led by South Sudan's conflict, insecurity and ethnic violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and political instability and human rights violations in Burundi. As of 31 December 2020, Uganda is home to some 50,000 refugees from Burundi.

With some new arrivals from Burundi expected in 2021, Uganda is projected to host about 51,000 Burundian refugees by the end of 2021. This figure also factors in about 2,000 returns to Burundi over the same period. Host populations in refugee hosting sub counties are estimated to number about 2,500,000.

Uganda's favourable protection environment for refugees is grounded in the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. These legislations allow refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, establish a business, own property and access national services, including primary and secondary education and health care.

Through its Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), Uganda pursues a non-encampment policy in providing refugee protection and assistance. Refugees are provided with a plot of land for housing and cultivation and can settle alongside their host communities. In the Mid-West and South-West, the lands belong to the Government while in the North and West Nile they belong to the communities.

The Government of Uganda has been implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) since March 2017 and the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to address the needs of refugee and host communities. Application of the CRRF in Uganda places a strong focus on self-reliance of refugees and host communities and strengthening local service delivery for both. The "National Plan of Action to implement the GCR and its CRRF 2018-2020" has been the guiding document to provide for the direction and milestones for implementation. A revised 2-year Plan will be launched in 2021.

Over the past 3 years, to align the humanitarian response to Government sector priorities and policies, the Government of Uganda has developed comprehensive refugee response plans. The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (ERP), the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP), the Water

## Projected Beneficiary Population

	Projected Population 31 Dec. 2020	Projected Population 31 Dec. 2021
Burundian refugees	49,728	51,500
Host Community	75,000	75,000

and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) and the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan are in place, whereas the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) is under development. With its National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25), the Government of Uganda has fully included refugees in national planning and statistics.

## Needs Analysis

Despite Uganda's favorable protection environment, refugees are faced with numerous protection challenges due to the magnitude of forced displacement and growing vulnerabilities, compounded by diminishing resources and strained basic social services in refugee-hosting districts. Recent food cuts and COVID-19 measures have posed additional challenges on refugees in terms of their livelihoods and food security.

By the end of September 2020, RRP partners provided targeted support to 150,315 persons with special needs, as well as 34,880 children identified to be in need of case management services. Nevertheless, the needs were much higher even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit Uganda.

Limited police presence, the drastic reduction of mobile court sessions and legal representation hindered access to justice for refugees and other persons of concern. The limited number of case workers to conduct timely identification and monitoring of interventions for children-at-risk and survivors of SGBV affected the response. Further, lack of funding for programs for adolescents and out of school youth and limited psychosocial support for the refugees remained a concern. Asylum-seekers applications were not assessed in a timely manner and led to a backlog. While refugee children completed their primary education, the majority were unable to proceed with their secondary education.

Minimum standards in public health, nutrition, WASH, shelter, site planning, environment and energy were not achieved mainly because of resource constraints given the scale of the refugee and host community population. Critical unmet needs comprise support to health service delivery, investment in infrastructure improvement and development, provision of domestic energy and overall environment conservation efforts. Despite investments for self-reliance by humanitarian and development actors, more work needs to be done.

The COVID-19 crisis presented an extraordinary challenge for international protection of refugees, following the temporary suspension of admission of new asylum-seekers into the country and registration. The movement restrictions limited availability of essential care and support to refugees, as well as disruption of existing learning systems, social networks and support mechanisms.

With only 40 per cent of funding received for the Burundi situation at the regional level, RRP partners continued to face enormous challenges in stabilizing existing programmes and meeting the minimum standards of service

provision, let alone investing in long-term and more sustainable interventions. Notably, severe underfunding compromised the quality of child protection and education, and the capacity to fully provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

## Response Strategy and Priorities

The Uganda 2020-2021 Country RRP serves as the joint strategy setting, needs assessment and resource mobilization tool for all UN and NGO partners of the refugee response. It builds on the 2019-2020 RRP to include the reality of COVID-19 and related response interventions, as well as to extend the plan until the end of 2021. The Uganda RRP is consistent with the following national and international frameworks:

- The Constitution of Uganda;
- The Uganda Refugee Act and Regulations;
- The 1951 Refugee Convention, and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention;
- IGAD regional declarations on refugee matters;
- The Global Compact on Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

The five main objectives are:

1. Uganda's asylum space is maintained, equal and unhindered access to territory is preserved and the Government's emergency preparedness and response capacity is progressively strengthened.
2. The Government of Uganda owns protection processes that promote the full enjoyment of rights, and international protection standards throughout the displacement cycle are efficient and fair.
3. The refugee response paradigm in Uganda has progressively shifted from care and maintenance to inclusion and self-reliance through development of individual and community capacities and the promotion of a conducive environment for livelihoods opportunities.



4. Refugees progressively benefit from provision of inclusive basic social services, including health, education, child protection, water and sanitation, provided by national authorities in refugee hosting districts.
5. Refugees are well on their path to access durable solutions. They are either able to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, or have found third country solutions, or start attaining socio-economic opportunities similar to hosting communities in Uganda, including ability to exercise their full range of rights.

## Partnership and Coordination

The refugee response in Uganda is led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) which provides the over-arching policy and coordination framework, with the CRRF serving as a holistic approach to pursue and achieve an all-inclusive response. The coordination is at different levels:

Leadership level: co-led by the Uganda Government (OPM) and UNHCR;

Inter-agency, country level (UN and development partner operational focal points, NGO country directors): co-led by the Uganda Government (OPM and Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)) and UNHCR;

Technical sector level: co-led by Government, UN and NGO partners for each sector;

District/settlement level (inter-agency and sector structures): OPM, District Local Governments (DLGs), and UNHCR co-chair.

The Country Refugee Response Plan in Uganda lays out the inter-agency 2020-2021 assistance strategy for all refugees and returnees in the country, in support of the Government. Under the overall leadership of the OPM, the role of Line Ministries and district authorities in the coordination of the refugee response has been further strengthened in 2020 with Sector Ministries having established multi-stakeholder Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the comprehensive sector response plans.

### 2021 BURUNDI REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS IN UGANDA

- Alight
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- International Aid Services
- International Rescue Committee
- Medical Teams International
- Mercy Corps Uganda
- Oxfam
- United Nations Childrens Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- War Child Canada
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization

The multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society refugee response comes together under the leadership of the CRRF Steering Group, which is co-led by the OPM and the Ministry of Local Government as a national arrangement to implement the GCR. This high-level Steering Group is the policy- and main decision-making body for CRRF implementation and is responsible for coordinating leadership amongst key line ministries, as well as mobilizing resources from non-traditional actors in the refugee response to support the transition and integration of humanitarian-based services into Uganda's national service delivery system.

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL (US\$)
Alight	1,380,000
Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants	502,513
Finnish Refugee Council	28,250
Food and Agriculture Organization	2,062,649
International Aid Services	50,000
International Rescue Committee	2,174,948
Medical Teams International	600,000
Mercy Corps Uganda	7,702
Oxfam	548,085
United Nations Childrens Fund	920,379
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	10,535,290
United Nations Population Fund	978,880
War Child Canada	201,714
World Food Programme	6,832,734
World Health Organization	423,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,246,644</b>

# BURUNDI RETURNS

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

143,000

PROJECTED REFUGEE RETURNS IN 2021

120,494

REFUGEE RETURNS BETWEEN 2017 - 2020

US\$101.1M

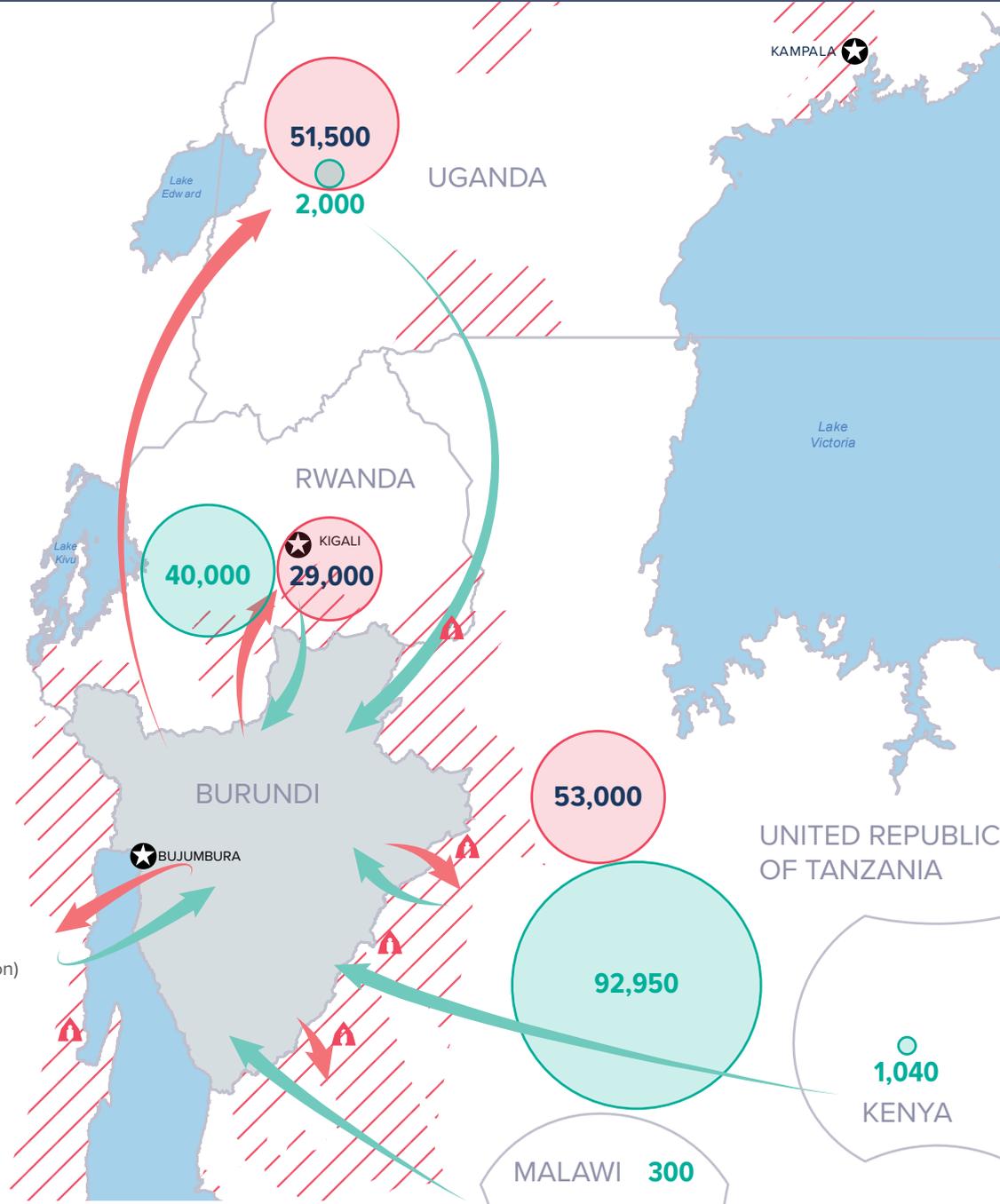
REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

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PARTNERS

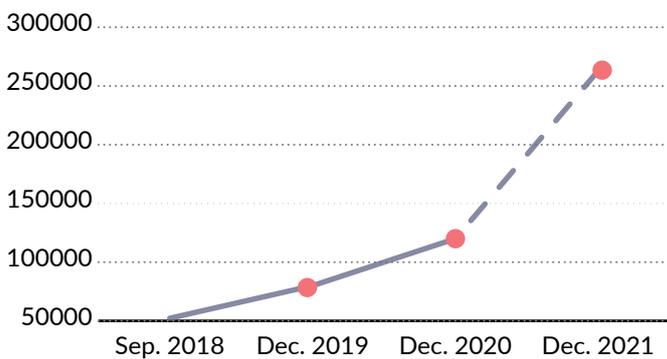


DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



- Refugees and asylum seekers (2021 projection)
- Assisted returns (2021 projection)
- ▲ Refugee camp
- ➔ Refugee crossing
- ➔ Refugee returning
- Refugee locations

Returns Trends 2018 - 2021



# Background

While not promoting returns in the current context, Regional RRP partners support Burundian refugees to exercise their right to return as long as their decision to return is voluntary, based on a free and informed choice, and that the returns are taking place in safety and dignity.

In 2021, Burundi is expected to receive returning refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, continuing the trend of increased numbers of voluntary returns following the relatively peaceful political transition in 2020.

The Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania started in September 2017 and 109,419 Burundian refugees were assisted to return home to date. An increase in the return trend has been observed since July 2020. In Rwanda, as refugees requested to be repatriated, and following a tripartite meeting held between Rwanda, Burundi and UNHCR on 13 August 2020 it was agreed that the existing principles and provisions of the 2005 Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian refugees in Rwanda remain valid. The Governments of Burundi and Rwanda and UNHCR agreed to work together to facilitate refugee returns from Rwanda to Burundi. Between 27 August and 31 December 2020, 7,896 refugees have returned from Rwanda, and more than 13,000 have formally expressed their intention to repatriate in 2021. In Uganda, 233 Burundian refugees returned home in two flights organized in December 2020. Another 600 refugees have registered for voluntary repatriation do not

## Projected Burundian Refugee Returns

	Assisted Refugee Returns by 31 December 2020	Projected Returns (Assisted and Self-Organized) in 2021 by 31 Dec. 2021
DRC	2,130	6,000
Rwanda	7,896	40,000
Tanzania	109,419	92,950
Uganda	233	2,000
Kenya	802	1,040
Malawi	-	300
Zambia	9	100
Namibia	-	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,494</b>	<b>142,890</b>

only include the improved security and relative peace in Burundi, but also the reduction of food rations and lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities in Uganda. 1946 Burundian refugees returned from the DRC in 2020 and more than 6,000 refugees in DRC have registered their intention to return to Burundi in 2021.

By the end of December 2020, over 312,000 Burundian refugees remain in exile in Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For 2021, it is expected that more than 140,000 Burundians will opt to voluntarily return as shown by the table below: 92,950 from Tanzania; 6,000 from the DRC; 40,000 from Rwanda; and 2,000 from Uganda.

Targeted support for return and reintegration is crucial. Failure to adequately mobilize resources to respond to the needs of these anticipated refugee returnees will compound existing protection and reintegration challenges for those who have already returned, and could reverse the gains made thus far, including triggering movement of refugee returnees back into exile. In addition, transit centres in asylum countries and reception facilities in Burundi must be rapidly expanded and upgraded considering COVID-19 measures.

The 2021 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP) complements the 2021 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plans and sets out the needs for the return and reintegration of some 253,000 Burundian and 82,000 members of host communities in 2021, as follows:

- A total of 114,460 assisted returnees who returned to Burundi since 2017 and have not received appropriate assistance for adequate reintegration;
- 142,890 assisted and self-organised refugee returnees projected to return from the five main countries of asylum in 2021;
- 82,000 members of host communities in the six main provinces of return: Ruyigi, Makamba, Muyinga, Kirundo, Cancuzo and Rutana) who have a high level of vulnerability.

## Linking Humanitarian & Resilience Frameworks

The integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a new approach, which places durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons at the centre of the development agenda. The JRRRP reflects this shift and is fully in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, anchored in the principle of leaving no one behind.

The JRRRP is also a manifestation of the Global Compact for Refugees which explicitly calls for the mobilization of support as a basis for safe and dignified repatriation and durable reintegration. While recognizing that voluntary repatriation is first and foremost the responsibility of the country of origin towards its own people, the GCR confirms the commitment of the international community to provide support in a spirit of solidarity, including to facilitate

sustainability of return as a way to effectively promote durable solutions. Accordingly, the international community is encouraged to contribute resources and expertise to support countries of origin to address root causes, to remove obstacles to return, and to enable conditions favourable to voluntary repatriation.

The JRRRP operationalizes the 'New Way of Working', which offers a concrete path to remove unnecessary barriers to humanitarian and development collaboration through a "whole of society" approach in order to enable meaningful and sustained progress. It emphasizes partnerships among UN agencies, international and local NGOs, private sector, civil society actors and governments.

JRRRP partners recognize the central role of the Government of Burundi in ensuring safe and dignified repatriation and durable and harmonious reintegration. Therefore, the goals underpinning the JRRRP are fully consistent with and anchored in national strategies and priorities. The JRRRP specifically aligns with the following objectives of the National Development Plan (2018-2027): (i) legal protection of refugee returnees in the areas of reintegration (ii) strengthen security conditions in the host communities; and (iii) support to the repatriation process.

#### **BURUNDI RETURN OPERATIONAL PARTNERS**

- Danish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Help A Child
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Jesuit Refugee Services
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Population Fund
- UNWOMEN
- Welthungerhilfe
- World Food Programme



**ANNEX**

# 2021 Financial Requirements

ORGANIZATION	Protection	Education	Energy & Environment	Food security	Health & Nutrition	Livelihood & Resilience	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	TOTAL (US\$)
DRC									
AFPDE								342,000	342,000
UN-FAO						850,000			850,000
UN-UNDP	3,900,000								3,900,000
UN-UNHCR	7,045,231	1,677,719	300,000		1,989,811	1,789,808	3,122,198	1,044,519	16,969,286
UN-UNICEF		2,062,222							2,062,222
UN-WFP				7,800,000					7,800,000
<b>DRC Total</b>	<b>10,945,231</b>	<b>3,739,941</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>7,800,000</b>	<b>1,989,811</b>	<b>2,639,808</b>	<b>3,122,198</b>	<b>1,386,519</b>	<b>31,923,508</b>
Rwanda									
ADRA		100,000							100,000
AHA					30,000				30,000
ALIGHT	279,000				720,000				999,000
Handicap International	580,000								580,000
IOM	4,800,000								4,800,000
LAF	49,690								49,690
PFR	300,000								300,000
SCI	644,001				1,958,162				2,602,163
UN-FAO			654,085			560,644			1,214,729
UN-IOM	800,000				500,000	500,000			1,800,000
UN-UNFPA	117,500				621,000				738,500
UN-UNHCR	4,895,169	5,384,728	4,472,477		5,338,568	3,397,627	8,456,782	5,128,125	37,073,476
UN-UNICEF	500,000	750,000			500,000			250,000	2,000,000

ORGANIZATION	Protection	Education	Energy & Environment	Food security	Health & Nutrition	Livelihood & Resilience	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	TOTAL (US\$)
UN-JUNWOMEN	50,000					50,000			100,000
UN-WFP		383,419		6,127,184	815,067	864,966			8,190,636
WVI								1,151,328	1,151,328
<b>Rwanda Total</b>	<b>13,015,360</b>	<b>6,618,148</b>	<b>5,126,562</b>	<b>6,127,184</b>	<b>10,482,797</b>	<b>5,373,237</b>	<b>8,456,782</b>	<b>6,529,453</b>	<b>61,729,523</b>
Tanzania									-
DIGNITY Kwanza	472,000					2,500			474,500
DRC	509,093		338,136			433,084	608,644	704,540	2,593,497
HAI UK	3,120,000								3,120,000
IRC	1,264,208	2,859,255			765,855				4,889,317
MTI					1,804,255				1,804,255
NRC		1,000,000					800,000	1,000,000	2,800,000
Plan	2,200,000	1,800,000							4,000,000
REDESO			6,803,530						6,803,530
SCI	956,687	1,065,411							2,022,098
TRCS					500,000				500,000
UN-JUNFPA	350,000				600,000				950,000
UN-JUNHCR	17,561,957	1,075,723	9,161,332		8,058,669	1,189,861	6,897,178	3,452,117	47,396,837
UN-UNICEF	300,000	350,000			245,000			300,000	1,195,000
UN-WFP				21,378,279	1,125,200				22,503,479
UN-WHO					420,000				420,000
WLAC	220,000								220,000
<b>Tanzania Total</b>	<b>26,953,945</b>	<b>8,150,388</b>	<b>16,302,997</b>	<b>21,378,279</b>	<b>13,518,979</b>	<b>1,625,445</b>	<b>8,305,823</b>	<b>5,456,656</b>	<b>101,692,513</b>
Uganda									-
ALIGHT	780,000							600,000	1,380,000
CAFOMI						502,513			502,513

ORGANIZATION	Protection	Education	Energy & Environment	Food security	Health & Nutrition	Livelihood & Resilience	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	TOTAL (US\$)
FRC		23,500				4,750			28,250
IAS		50,000							50,000
IRC		2,174,948							2,174,948
MCU						7,702			7,702
MTI					600,000				600,000
OXFAM	136,890		105,300					305,895	548,085
UN-FAO						2,062,649			2,062,649
UN-UNFPA	638,400				340,480				978,880
UN-UNHCR	2,739,175	2,001,705	948,176		1,264,235	1,264,235	1,369,588	948,176	10,535,290
UN-UNICEF		118,060			417,051			385,268	920,379
UN-WFP				6,376,223	397,191	59,320			6,832,734
UN-WHO					423,500				423,500
WCC		201,714							201,714
<b>Uganda Total</b>	<b>4,294,465</b>	<b>4,569,927</b>	<b>1,053,476</b>	<b>6,376,223</b>	<b>3,442,457</b>	<b>3,901,169</b>	<b>1,369,588</b>	<b>2,239,339</b>	<b>27,246,644</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,209,001</b>	<b>23,078,404</b>	<b>22,783,035</b>	<b>41,681,686</b>	<b>29,434,045</b>	<b>13,539,659</b>	<b>21,254,391</b>	<b>15,611,968</b>	<b>222,592,189</b>



