



United Republic of Tanzania

Reporting period: July 2018

Background

On 31 August 2017 at the Tripartite Commission Meeting for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, the Tripartite Commission (United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR) issued a joint communiqué and agreed to implement a work plan from 7 September to 31 December 2017, which entails the voluntary repatriation plan of Burundian refugees who wish to return to Burundi.

On 28 March 2018, a follow up Tripartite Commission Meeting was held in Bujumbura, Burundi. While UNHCR continued to maintain that it will assist and not promote voluntary returns to Burundi due to the unresolved political situation, both governments reaffirmed their commitment to promoting return and upholding the principle of voluntariness. With the completion of Phases I, II and III, the two Governments, UNHCR and key partners agreed to implement a new work plan to return 72,000 individuals from 5 April to 31 December 2018. While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return to Burundi, it is supporting the operation to ensure that returns are based on the principles of voluntariness and informed decisions, and take place in safety and dignity.

The Tripartite Commission also acknowledged 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 continue to be in need of international protection.

Return Figures and Trends from the Reporting Period

- 5,803 individuals assisted to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi in July;
- 2,854 and 49% males and 2,949 and 51% females;
- 605 of returnees were persons with specific needs;
- 8 return convoys.

Overall Return Figures and Trends

As at 31 July 2018, 40,287 individuals have returned since September 2017. Below is the breakdown:

- 20,540 (51.0%) females & 19,747 (49.0%) males;
- 22,989 (57.1%) children;
- 4,393 and 10.9% persons with specific needs; and
- The highest number of returns were to Makamba, Muyingi and Ruyigi provinces (7,645, 7,472, and 7,078 returnees respectively).

The tables below show the breakdown of Burundian refugee returns per month, age and sex, refugee camp, period of asylum in Tanzania, and return destinations in Burundi.

Table 1: Number of Returns per Phase

Phase	Phase I (Sep & Oct 2017)	Phase II (Nov & Dec 2017)	Phase III (Jan – March 2018)	Current Phase (as at 31 July 2018)	Total
Number of returns	6,887	6,216	8,347	18,837	40,287



Table 2: Age and Sex Breakdown

	0-4 yrs	5-11 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-59 yrs	Over 60 yrs	Total	%
Female	4,779	4,456	2,229	8,397	609	20,540	51.0%
Male	4,896	4,431	2,128	7,719	573	19,747	49.0%
Total	9,675	8,887	4,427	16,116	1,182	40,287	100%
%	24.0%	22.1%	11.0%	40.0%	2.9%	100%	

Table 3: Period of Asylum of Returnees

<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-12 months	>1 year	Total
105	249	1,373	12,118	26,442	40,287
0.3%	0.6%	3.4%	30.1%	65.6%	100%

Table 4: Provinces of Return

Return Provinces	Individuals
Makamba	7,645
Muyinga	7,472
Ruyigi	7,078
Cankuzo	4,227
Kirundo	4,034
Rutana	3,780
Gitega	1,217
Rumonge	1,214
Karuzi	1,050
Ngozi	805
Bujumbura	568
Bururi	399
Gisuru	358
Muramvya	119
Kayanza	111
Citiboke	99
Bubanza	78
Mwaro	33
Total	40,287

Table 5: Total Departures per Camp

Camps in Tanzania	Individuals	%
Nduta	26,534	65.9%
Mtendeli	10,828	26.9%
Nyarugusu	2,925	7.3%
Total	40,287	100%

Table 6: Registered & Processed vs. Returned

Registered intention to return	Returned (as of 31 July)	Withdraw/Convoy Dropouts	Pending Departure
69,049	40,287	1,542	26,120

Table 7: Key Partners and Activities

Government	Registration, documentation, security, and convoy and immigration formalities
UNHCR	Coordination, verification of return location, biometric enrolment, and documentation
DRC	Management of departure centre, accommodation, wet feeding, and distribution of high-energy biscuits provided by WFP
HelpAge	Assistance to persons with specific needs
ICRC/TRCS	Restoration of family links in Burundi, medicine, and ambulances
IOM	Fit-to-travel medical screening and transportation of refugees
Plan & IRC	Child protection (unaccompanied and separated children)
WFP	Provision of food for wet feeding in departure centre, on arrival at transit centre and dry ration