UNHCR and partners began to assist the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in September 2017 as a durable solution for those refugees who have decided to return home. The vast majority of returns have been from Tanzania, with smaller numbers assisted to return from Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Almost all returns from Rwanda and Uganda have so far been self-organized.

**KEY FIGURES – ASSISTED REPATRIATION**

| **# of registered Burundian refugees** | 92,170* |
| **# of assisted returns since September 2017** | 31,823 |
| **# of Burundian refugees pre-registered for VoRep pending travel arrangements** | 209 convoys |
| **% female** | 48% |

**RETURN TRENDS BY MONTH SINCE SEPTEMBER 2017**

- Returns by country of asylum:
  - Tanzania: 162,859
  - Rwanda: 72,007
  - DRC: 48,586
  - Uganda: 48,404
  - Kenya: 13,800

**REGISTRATION FOR VOLREP IN TANZANIA 2017-2020**

- 2,277 returnees are unaccompanied and separated children
- 56% are children
- 26% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2015
- 41% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2016
- 28% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2017
- 5% of Burundian returnees had sought asylum in 2018 and 2019

**AREAS OF RETURN***

- Includes assisted returns from Tanzania (90,747), Kenya (742), Rwanda (485), DRC (184), Zambia (5), Uganda (2), Cameroon (2), Gabon (1), Senegal (1) and Burkina Faso (1).
- Excludes number of refugees from DRC, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

**OVERVIEW**

1. UNHCR and partners are providing assistance to refugees who have decided to return to Burundi so that they may do so in safety and dignity, as well as to support social cohesion and sustainable return at the community level.

2. Additional funding is critically needed to ensure that returns can continue as well as to strengthen returnee monitoring and support sustainable reintegration.

3. The voluntary return operation from Tanzania to Burundi is taking place under the framework of the Tripartite Agreement between the two governments and UNHCR. All parties have agreed to ensure returns are voluntary.

4. While the governments of Burundi and Tanzania have undertaken activities to promote refugee return, all actors in the region acknowledge the importance of refugees having the opportunity to make a free and informed choice about repatriation.

5. While returnees are generally being welcomed back by the Government of Burundi and their communities of origin without incident, returnee monitoring indicates many do face a number of reintegration challenges.
RETURN MONITORING IN BURUNDI

METHODOLOGY
Protection monitoring of returnees to Burundi is an essential protection activity for UNHCR and its commitment under the Tripartite Agreement. It aims to collect, process, analyse and disseminate in a systematic and regular way, the data and information on: 1) The conditions of return of assisted returnees; and 2) The level of reintegration in return areas.

The purpose is to propose an effective protection response by area of intervention and for advocacy purposes (towards sectors of intervention, development actors, donors and government authorities). It was initially established in September 2017 after the repatriation started in Tanzania and was revised in early 2019 to better meet operational needs.

MONITORING PROGRESS
By 31 August 2020, 26,228 interviews with returnee families were conducted (see below the breakdown by province).

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION
- 35% of returnee HHs report that HH members have a national identification card

DISPLACEMENT

VULNERABILITY
- 9% returnee HHs have vulnerabilities, most often characterized by chronically ill and/or disabled family members

EDUCATION
- 49% of returnee children attend school, of which 33% primary school and 16% secondary school

HEALTH CARE
- 79% of returnee HHs have access to health care

WATER
- 93% returnee HHs have access to water

ACCESS TO HOUSING
- 33% returnee HHs could access housing they owned prior to fleeing

LIVELIHOODS
- 94% of returnee heads of households are subsistence farmers

ACCESS TO LAND
- 82% of returnee HHs report having access to land

TOP 3 PRIORITIES IN THE USE OF CASH ASSISTANCE
1. Household items (38%)
2. Shelter (20%)
3. Land rental (19%)

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