

# BURUNDI SITUATION

August 2017

In August, some 2,100 **newly arrived Burundian refugees and asylum seekers** were recorded in the region. The largest number was recorded in Uganda with **806** newly registered Burundian refugees.

**Following a ministerial tripartite commission in Dar-es-Salaam on 31 August 2017**, modalities have been put in place to assist the voluntary return of 12,000 Burundian refugees from Tanzania until the end of 2017.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, Refugee Status Determination conducted by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) resumed on 17 August, after having been suspended for almost two months.

## KEY INDICATORS

### 423,056

Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who fled since 1 April 2015

### 534,000

Projection of Burundian refugees by the of end 2017, while the total returns figure is expected to rise to 50,000 (RRP Planning Figures)

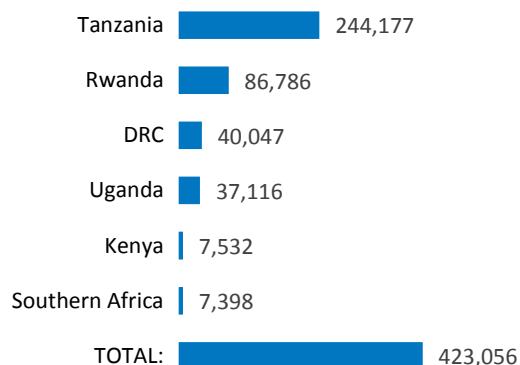
### 209,202

IDPs according to IOM including 69,734 individuals linked to the current crisis, as of May 2017

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Host Countries

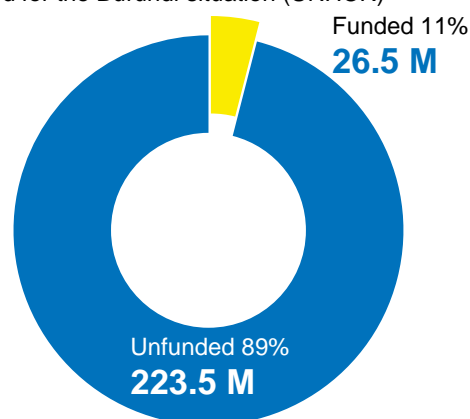
Note: Figures reflect current number of registered Burundian refugees and asylum seekers since 1 April 2015



## FUNDING (AS OF 26 SEPT 2017)

### USD 250 M

requested for the Burundi situation (UNHCR)



## New Arrivals

in the major hosting countries of Burundian refugees and asylum seekers (note: these do not account for returns)

	<b>12 months</b> <i>from</i> 1 January 2016 <i>to</i> 31 December 2016	<b>8 months</b> <i>from</i> 1 January 2017 <i>to</i> 31 August 2017
TANZANIA	84,319	37,518
RWANDA	12,468	4,883
DRC	11,665	7,418
UGANDA	14,245	4,405
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122,697</b>	<b>54,224</b>

## Operational Context

### Voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees:

- A ministerial-level tripartite meeting was concluded between UNHCR and the governments of Burundi and Tanzania on the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania on 31 August in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting resulted in a Joint Communiqué where both Governments reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of voluntary repatriation of refugees, while acknowledging that some refugees may still have well-founded reasons for not wanting to return at this time. In addition, modalities have been put in place to assist an estimated 12,000 Burundian refugees to return from Tanzania to Burundi in the last quarter of 2017.
- While small-scale repatriation from Tanzania has begun in early September, based on the agreement in the Joint Communiqué, conditions for large-scale organized repatriation under conditions of safety and dignity are not yet in place. UNHCR underscores the fact that Burundian refugees still have a need for continued international protection. It also highlights the need to ensure that tripartite mechanisms are set in place to govern the development of operational modalities to assist those refugees who may indicate an intent to return voluntarily based on a free and informed choice.

### Funding update:

- The (UNHCR) Burundian Refugee Situation continues to be severely under-funded at **11 percent of the total requirement of USD 250 million**, making it one of the lowest funded refugee emergencies worldwide.
- The revised (Inter-Agency) **Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan**, released on 26 September 2017, is appealing for **USD 429 million** for Burundian refugees in the neighbouring countries and is currently only 12 per cent funded.
- Funding constraints continue to pose challenges for the provision of basic humanitarian services across the region. Underfunding has severely hampered reception capacities and strained asylum space as well as the quality of protection rendered by host countries. Refugees continue to live in overcrowded and congested camps, suffering from a deterioration of emergency shelters, shortages of water and food and overstretched health and education services.

## Achievements during Reporting Period

### TANZANIA

#### Latest developments

- **The number of asylum-seekers from Burundi who have entered the territory in the month of August 2017 stands at 314 individuals with an average daily arrival rate of 10 individuals.** This is lower than the July figure of 525 with an average daily arrival rate of 17 individuals. The monthly arrival figures have been decreasing since January 2017 when the number reached over 18,498.

#### Achievements and challenges

- **Refugees and asylum seekers are hosted in three camps (Nyagurusu, Mtendeli and Nduta) in the Kigoma region.**<sup>1</sup> All three camps face severe pressure on available resources, and chronic and severe underfunding of the humanitarian response hampers the capacity of humanitarian organizations to deliver lifesaving and critical assistance. Nduta camp is the only one capable of receiving new Burundian arrivals and is currently sheltering more than 127,499 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **Refugees in the three camps in Tanzania are receiving 60% of the required food ration with further cuts expected unless WFP receives additional funding to meet the nutritional needs of refugees through December.** General food distribution for the month of August was undertaken in all three refugee camps of Nyagurusu, Nduta and Mtendeli. The Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) exercise started in August in all camps and is expected to be completed by mid-September.
- **Partners distributed core relief items to 165 households which includes new arrivals in Nduta camp and protection cases in Mtendeli camp.** Collectively, they received 101 mosquito nets, 16,667 buckets, 199 jerry cans and 33 family tents to meet their basic needs. Moreover, a total of 46,093 bars of soap were distributed to refugees in Mtendeli camp to improve the sanitation situation.
- **One reproductive health centre was constructed in Nyarugusu refugee camp** and the expansion of the maternity centre was completed in Mtendeli refugee camp. Both new units are expected to open in September. The facilities will

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<sup>1</sup> The following is the breakdown of Burundian refugee and asylum seeker figures in Tanzania: 1. Nyagurusu camp (66,312); 2. Nduta camp (127,499); 3. Mtendeli (50,350); Transit Center (16)

increase access to reproductive health services within those camps. Additionally, Family Planning outreach services are on-going in Nyarugusu and Nduta camps to improve the contraceptive prevalence rate.

- **Mortality rates remained stable and higher than the SPHERE minimum standards. Crude Mortality Rate and Under 5 years Mortality Rate remained stable at 0.2/1000/month and 0.6/1000/month respectively.** A total of 50,345 consultations were conducted across the three refugee camps in August with the Health Facility Utilization Rate of 2.2 per cent.
- **A livelihood programme benefitting refugees in Mtendeli and Nduta camps as well as host communities, was completed.** Beneficiaries included 580 vulnerable women who were trained in kitchen gardening, 41 groups trained in community action plan including business development support, 60 groups in business skills training and start-up grants, and to 59 village saving and loan association groups (VSLAs).
- **The number of Burundian separated children stands at 1,033 (517 female; 516 male) while that of unaccompanied children stands at 738 (339 female; 399 male).** A total of 2,261 children aged 3 – 5 were engaged in psychosocial activities at Children Friendly Spaces.

## RWANDA

### Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 86,786 registered Burundian refugees in Rwanda, hosted in Mahama camp, in reception centres and in urban areas.** 483 new arrivals were received in August, a decrease from 607 arrivals in July. The average number of new arrivals was 16 individuals per day, which is stable vis-à-vis the average daily arrival rate in 2017 of 21 individuals a day.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR and MIDIMAR have identified some 24 hectares of land for construction of additional shelters in Mahama camp out of 50 hectares of land required to house up to 60,000 refugees until the end of 2017. The remaining gap is now 26 hectares of land.** Additional funds are now required to construct latrines and extend the water system to villages 17-21 in Mahama camp, which are being constructed on the newly identified land.
- **The transition from emergency shelters to semi-permanent structures in Mahama Camp continues.** To date, a total of 5,584 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama camp, sheltering 75 percent of Burundian refugees (41,497). 25 per cent of refugees (13,370) remain in temporary structures. An additional 442 shelters are in the final stages of construction.

- **UNHCR and WFP have successively advocated to ensure no food cuts will be effected in September.** However, food cuts will begin as of October 2017, with 20% in October and potentially deeper cuts in the following months.
- **UNHCR and partners are working to ensure refugees in Mahama camp are provided with sufficient water supply (20.25 litres per person per day).** The water system in the camp is currently being upgraded from temporary piping placed during the emergency with more durable materials so that all refugees throughout the camp will have consistent water supply. In addition, UNHCR continues to distribute drinking water to the host communities surrounding the camp.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Latest developments

- **There are now a total of 40,047 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers who arrived since April 2015.** 29,936 refugees live in Lusenda camp.
- Refugee status determination conducted by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) resumed on 17 August, after having been suspended for almost two months.
- UNHCR activities continue to be negatively affected by the security situation in Fizi and Uvira due to confrontations between FARDC and various armed groups. The territory of Fizi has been affected by the confrontations between the FARDC and an armed group, the Mai-Mai Yakutumba. These confrontations provoked displacement from Kikonde and Kasandjala areas to other areas in the country as well as some movements to Burundi.

### Achievements and Challenges

- **UNHCR assisted in the small scale voluntary repatriation of 70 Burundian refugees (24 households) from Lusenda camp to Burundi.** While UNHCR is not promoting voluntary return at this stage, it assisted the governments of DRC and Burundi respectively in the delivery of necessary documentation and provision of material assistance to returnees.
- **In the new site of Mulongwe (near Baraka, Fizi territory), construction is ongoing with the support of two operational partners (MEDEOR and CARITAS).** 30 hectares have been cleared, two blocks (of 13 planned blocs) of 16 villages were demarcated, and five communal shelters and one warehouse was constructed. Local workers are employed for the construction through cash-based incentives. However, works have slowed down due to the worsening security situation in Fizi territory.

- **On 22 August, enrolment of refugee children in primary and secondary schools started in Lusenda camp.** Enrolment will take place first at the camp, and then students will register in the schools which are in the host communities.
- **A cholera epidemic was declared in the territories of Fizi and Uvira.** No cases have been reported so far in refugee hosting areas and preventive measures were put in place including distribution of additional jerry cans and soap. For the measles epidemic declared since June, improvements have been observed thanks to a large scale vaccination campaign.
- **UNHCR's medical partner *Association pour le Développement Economique et Social (ADES)* carried out 2,950 medical consultations.** 1,658 medical consultations (for 626 men and 1,032 women) were carried out at Lusenda Health Post. The most frequently recorded diseases were malaria, respiratory infections and intestinal parasites. 1,292 medical consultations were carried out in transit centres (Kavimvira, Mongemonge, Sange gathering point).
- **The water consumption at Lusenda camp increased to 14 litres/person/day in July to 17 litres in August due to the rehabilitation of two 70m<sup>3</sup> water tanks.** A new water tank of 50m<sup>3</sup> is currently in the process of being installed in Lusenda camp by partner ADES. Installation of 37 latrines and showers is now needed to complete the shelter rehabilitation of 218 shelters in Lusenda camp to host new arrivals.
- **The use and production of biomass briquettes is increasing in Lusenda camp and the transit centers.** Two new associations of refugees and locals were provided with material to start the production of biomass briquettes. In Transit Center Kavimvira, 350 kg of briquettes were used in the common kitchens. In the Gathering Point of Sange, improved stoves adapted to be used with the briquettes were provided.

## UGANDA

- No update available.



## Financial Information

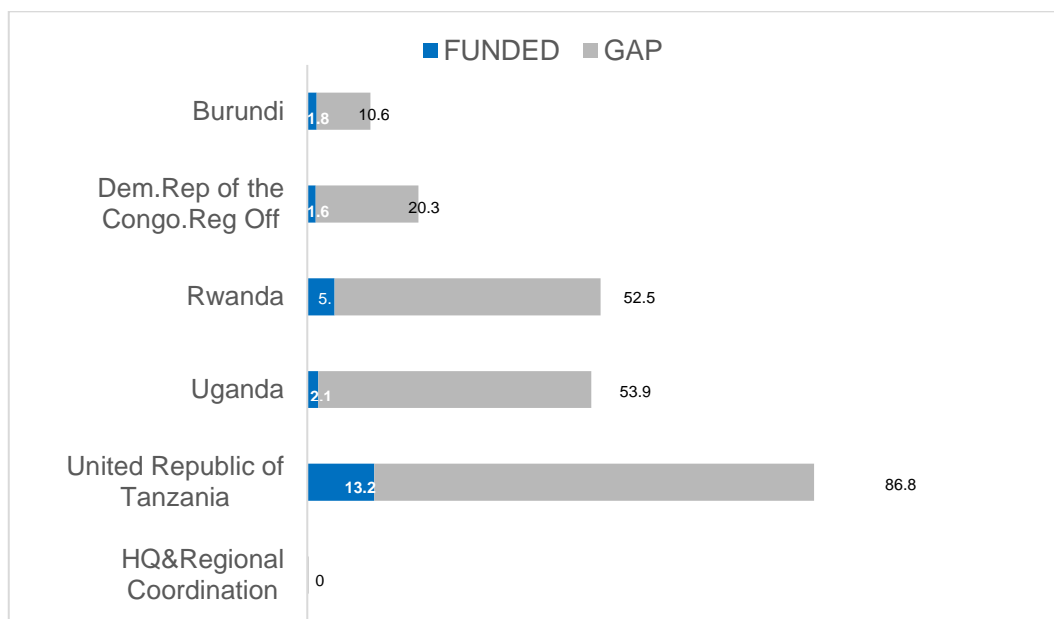
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation or operations.

### Donors who have contributed to the Burundi Situation:

- African Union
- Belgium
- Denmark
- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Norway
- Private Donors USA
- Sweden
- The Global Fund
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

### Funding (in million USD) (as of 26 September 2017)

Out of the \$250 million needed, a total of \$ **26.5 million** has been funded





**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017**

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Private Donors Spain (41M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23 M)| Priv Donors Republic of Korea (20M)| Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Private Donors United States of America (14M) ) | France (14M) | Private Donors Italy (13M) | Germany (12M) |Private Donors Japan (12M) | Italy (10M)  
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**LINKS**

<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>  
<http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8488>