



IOM CONVOY WITH BURUNDIAN RETURNEES LEAVES FROM TANZANIA TO BURUNDI © IOM 2018

SNAPSHOT

- As of 31 March 2019, 61,000 individuals had returned through voluntary repatriation (mostly from the United Republic of Tanzania) since September 2017
- The highest provinces of return were Ruyigi, Muyinga, Cankuzo and Makamba
- 220,000 Burundians remain in refugee camps in Tanzania. IOM continues to provide pre-embarkation health screenings and dignified return transportation to Burundians who wish to return
- 96,000 Burundians are expected to voluntarily return from the United Republic of Tanzania in 2019

220,000






BURUNDIANS IN REFUGEE CAMPS

150,000

BURUNDIANS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

IOM APPEAL (USD)

(May-December 2019)

	Movement & Health Assistance	1 M
	Shelter & WASH	4.8 M
	Housing, Land & Property	250 K
	Reintegration	2.5 M
	Border Management	90 K
TOTAL		8,640,000

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The United Republic of Tanzania hosts approximately 220,000 Burundian refugees who arrived in the country in several waves since 2015, which accounts for more than half of the Burundian refugees in the Great Lakes region. This significant influx into the country in 2015 prompted the Government of Tanzania to grant *prima facie* refugee status to Burundians and open additional refugee camps. Following the Government of Tanzania's revocation of the *prima facie* policy in January 2017, the number of Burundian asylum seekers who crossed the border reduced considerably.

Since 2017, with the situation in Burundi seemingly stabilizing, the trend has reversed and, according to the 2018 Regional Refugee Response Plan,

60,000 refugee returnees were anticipated to voluntarily return to Burundi in 2018. Additionally, on 28 March 2018, the 20th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania was held in Bujumbura, Burundi. In a joint communiqué, Tripartite Commission members Burundi, Tanzania and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agreed on a planning figure for the voluntary repatriation of 72,000 Burundians. This figure, however, was not met in 2018.

IOM, in coordination with UNHCR and the governments of Tanzania and Burundi, has been responsible for the safe and orderly voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees. While humanitarian partners are not promoting repatriation to Burundi, this opportunity is made available to those who voluntarily wish to return and is seen as a durable solution to the refugee situation in Tanzania. Such returns are achieved in accordance with protection concerns and procedures, considering the specific refugee status of the beneficiaries. By the end of 2018, IOM assisted 57,867 Burundian refugees to return to Burundi. In 2019, an additional 96,000 Burundians are expected to be repatriated, according to the Burundian Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Response Plan.

Upon their return to Burundi, IOM aims to contribute to the sustainable reintegration of returnees through the provision of shelter support and community-prioritised quick impact projects (QIPs), which contribute to social cohesion and expanding community absorption capacity. In 2018, shelter support in Burundi reached 6,373 returnees, including shelter repair for 500 households in rural areas and 6-month rental support grants for 1,133 households hosted by the communities of return. More than 5,800 members of the host community participated in the programme through cash-based interventions, including for shelter repair. IOM's peacebuilding reintegration initiatives reached more than 4,000 people through community dialogues held to jointly identify QIPs that would improve the community's infrastructural capacity to absorb returnees. Additionally, 605 beneficiaries received Cash-for-Work opportunities, 250 beneficiaries received vocational training, 10 business incubators were created, 528 agricultural tool-kits were distributed and 17 QIPs, ranging from bridge repair to classroom and water point rehabilitation, were implemented.



IOM TANZANIA

Since 2015, IOM in the United Republic of Tanzania has been undertaking movement assistance for Burundian refugees. Starting in May 2015, IOM began transporting new arrivals, providing them with safe transport from border crossing points to refugee camps. With the situation evolving, in 2017 IOM began providing safe and dignified transportation to Burundian refugees who registered their willingness to return with UNHCR. In 2018, IOM provided return transportation for 57,867 Burundian refugees. From February to mid-April 2019, IOM will have assisted just under 7,000 Burundian refugees.



MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE AND PRE-DEPARTURE MEDICAL SCREENING

There are three refugee camps in the Kigoma region of the United Republic of Tanzania established under the encampment policy for registered refugees. The camps are: Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu. Repatriation is seen as a durable solution to the refugee situation in Tanzania and those voluntarily registering to return have been and will continue to be assisted with movement assistance services.

IOM manages the transportation of the refugees and their personal belongings from departure centres in Tanzania to transit centres in Burundi. In addition to ensuring that the repatriation is undertaken in accordance with accepted norms and principles of refugee law and human rights law, IOM conducts pre-departure medical screening for all beneficiaries who are to be transported, and medical and operational escorts are assigned to each convoy movement to escort the beneficiaries. IOM processes and analyses data of all movements in its Migrant Management Operational System Application (MiMOSA).

Funding required

\$1,000,000

Target no. of individuals

45,200 (out of 96,000)

Mtendeli refugee camp and Nyarugusu refugee camp are approximately 45 kilometres and 75 kilometres from Nduta camp, respectively. To bring them to the designated departure points in two of the three camps (Nduta and Nyarugusu), IOM transports refugees residing in the other camps. Subsequently, movement assistance to transit centres in Burundi is provided following a three-day, pre-departure logistical preparation window. Depending on the number of refugees to be transported, as manifested by UNHCR, IOM can operate at a rate of up to two convoy movements per week of 1,000 refugees each.

IOM is currently adequately resourced to provide movement assistance to up to 50,800 Burundian refugees. This is insufficient should the number of Burundians who register to return approach or reach the 2019 planning figure of 96,000. An additional 1,000,000 USD is needed in order for IOM to be sufficiently resourced to provide movement assistance to the remaining 45,200 individuals expected to voluntarily return.



IOM has been present in Burundi since 2010 and provides a wide range of services to internally displaced persons, host communities, refugees and other vulnerable migrants. Due to the influx of Burundians returning to the country after years spent abroad, already limited resources are being stretched even thinner to accommodate the needs of Burundi's growing population. IOM is therefore working in collaboration with UNHCR and other UN agencies to respond to the rising needs of returnees. As borders with the United Republic of Tanzania are heavily frequented by returnees, IOM is providing administrative and sensitization training for border officials, as well as improving border point infrastructure so as to support safe, orderly and humane migration. Since January 2018, IOM has been providing shelter and reintegration assistance to vulnerable migrants in their communes of return. IOM's reintegration activities are improving the ability of host communities to absorb large number of returnees by creating platforms for dialogue, strengthening existing basic service infrastructure, and providing opportunities for short-term employment and job training. These activities have been of paramount importance for improving social cohesion and preventing socioeconomic conflict.



SHELTER AND WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

At the final destinations in the communities, shelter and sanitation assistance is vital to support returnees' reintegration. IOM intends to assist at least 1 out of 5 returnees from Tanzania, or 3,500 households (approx. 21,000 individuals). Shelter repair kits and latrines, along with rental assistance grants, will be provided to the most vulnerable households in need of shelter support upon arrival. An overwhelming majority of returnees find their property either occupied, destroyed or no longer in habitable condition, with 49% reporting they had no access to their old homes and 76% overall who are landless. This assistance will be targeted and determined by means of a thorough shelter assessment to identify the most vulnerable households.

Funding required

\$4,800,000

Target no. of individuals

21,000

IOM, as co-lead of the NFI/Shelter sector in Burundi, coordinates this response with other partners, and the support given follows the standards approved by the sector: providing dignified shelters to the most vulnerable households, promoting the use of cash and purchasing in local markets through the shelter activities. Each month, 290 households will receive shelter assistance and 60 among them sanitation support, based on a transparent needs assessment conducted in the commune of return. This strategy was chosen based upon based on data from UNHCR's Protection Monitoring Report, which determined that shelter was considered the primary need for returning refugees. In the first quarter of 2019, the returnees of Rutana, Ruyigi, Cankuzo, Muyinga and Kirundo will be targeted.




HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

As many returning refugees are compelled to reside with family or friends upon their arrival in Burundi, tensions stemming from a lack of resources, including land and shelter, can arise. IOM will therefore support the durable reintegration of returnees through enhancing their access to land.

Communication with Communities (CwC) activities including sensitization trainings on the rights and processes to access land, according to the national legislation, will be conducted with returnees, host communities and local authorities. These trainings will aim to reduce existing conflicts around Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and will be followed by public validations of land titles at the community level.

Funding required

\$250,000

Target no. of individuals

4,200



REINTEGRATION



CHILDREN CARRY WATER FROM REHABILITATED WATER POINT IN RUYIGI PROVINCE © IOM 2018

IOM contributes to the sustainable reintegration of repatriated refugees through inclusive approaches responding to the locally-identified needs of returnees and local communities. To ensure that social cohesion is reinforced during the reintegration of Burundian returnees in local communities, IOM will provide essential services in communities to improve social and economic conditions, through social cohesion activities, community dialogues, livelihood support, vocational training and quick impact projects (QIPs) in coordination with other reintegration activities as outlined in the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Response Plan.

Funding required

\$2,500,000

Target no. of individuals

50,000

This action would target refugee returnees along with host community members to engage in awareness sessions along with the social cohesion dialogues. These sessions will provide a dignified welcoming platform to ask questions or express concerns related to the integration/reintegration process. In addition, information will be provided on the legal requirements of the reintegration process as well as housing, health, education and potential livelihood opportunities available.

These dialogues will also provide the opportunity for both groups to jointly identify QIPs that would improve the community's infrastructural capacity to absorb the returnees in local communities (ex: rehabilitation of schools, bridges, water points, etc.). These sessions will include data collection that will inform the needs analysis for the QIPs, as well as the needs for individualized counselling and specific reintegration assistance for the most vulnerable. The QIPs will provide an opportunity for community members and returnees to receive skills building and training through Cash-for-Work. This action will specifically focus on the most vulnerable provinces of return including Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi.



BORDER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND COORDINATION

Given the geographical, security and humanitarian challenges along the border and in anticipation of receiving a large number of returnees from Tanzania in 2019, IOM, as the leading organization for border management, will provide support to the Government of Burundi to cope with the upsurge in border movements and cross-border flows, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable provinces of return, including Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi.

Funding required

\$90,000

Target no. of individuals

100,000

Following border assessment recommendations and cross-border activities recently undertaken in Burundi and Tanzania, IOM will implement a Humanitarian Border Management approach on both sides (Burundi/Tanzania) of the border, in line with national migration management policies. IOM's support will focus on streamlining administrative processes, supporting the enhancement of border officials' capacity in carrying out movement registration activities and upgrading their operational systems at the border, and building the capacity of border management staff – including immigration, administrative and health officers – to respond effectively to the needs of the returnees, with a focus on protection issues, including GBV.

Activities will also include cross-border meetings between Burundian and Tanzanian immigration officers to ensure proper cross-border coordination and collaboration, as well as raising awareness on the needs of special cases [vulnerable populations, victims of trafficking (VoT), unaccompanied minors, etc.] and trust-building activities between immigration officers and border communities using a community-based approach. These activities will target immigration officers and border officials, local administrations, health officers and border communities.

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