



International Organization for Migration

# IOM APPEAL VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA

(07 September - 31 December 2017)



IOM assisting Burundian refugee families onto busses in Nduta for their return to Burundi © IOM 2017 (Photo: IOM Kigoma)

21 September 2017

**279,672**

Burundian Refugees

**12,000**

Burundians in Need of Return Assistance

**IOM APPEAL (USD)**

(07 September - 31 December 2017)

**TOTAL 3.715 M**



IOM Tanzania **450,000**



IOM Burundi **3.265 M**

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The United Republic of Tanzania is hosting 279,672 Burundian refugees, who arrived in the country in several waves since April 2015. Of this refugee population, nearly 80 per cent are women and children (Regional Refugee Response Plan, June 2017). The significant influx of Burundians into Tanzania prompted the Government of Tanzania (GoT) to open additional refugee camps to address overcrowding. In April 2015, all Burundians were granted refugee status by virtue of a prima facie declaration, whilst in January 2017, this decision was revoked for new arrivals, putting a refugee status determination process in place for new arrivals. The result of this was that by June 2017, the arrival rate of Burundian refugees into Tanzania dropped by 98 per cent (In January 2017, 18,498 new arrivals were recorded compared to 377 in June 2017).

On 20 July 2017, Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza and Tanzanian President John Magufuli issued a call urging Burundian refugees to voluntarily return, promising to help rebuild the Burundian economy. As of 27 August, 11,600 Burundian refugees from three camps have expressed their intention to voluntarily return home (UNHCR, September 2017).

On 31 August 2017, a Joint Communique from the 19th Tripartite Commission Meeting (the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Burundi, and UNHCR) for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania was signed. The Tripartite Commission has agreed to: (a) implement a work plan covering the period of 7 September - 31 December 2017; (b) undertake, in phases, the voluntary repatriation of 12,000 refugees who have registered for returns; (c) provide exit access from Tanzania, and entry access to Burundi; and (d) appeal to the international community to provide the necessary support for the voluntary repatriation process. To facilitate the process of returns, IOM will be working in cooperation with UNHCR, who will aid in the provision of transportation from Nyarugusu and Mtendeli camps to Nduta. As experts in all aspects related to transportation, including pre-departure medical screening, the disbursement of return kits and transit centre management, IOM has provided transport services to Burundian refugees arriving in Tanzania since May 2015, facilitating transport from border crossing points to refugee camps. As such, IOM has the institutional and operational capacity, expertise and credibility to take the lead in the provision of voluntary repatriation to Burundian refugees that have expressed their intention to return. Furthermore, IOM will implement activities to promote and lay the foundations for sustainable returns and reintegration. The programme will capitalize on IOM's Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations Framework in areas of return which seek to foster social cohesion and promote livelihoods.

There are three refugee camps in Tanzania: Mtendely, Nduta and Nyarugusu—all within the Kigoma region. For this voluntary repatriation process, Nduta camp has been designated as the departure point for all returnees. In Burundi, 10 main provinces of return have been identified: Ruyigi, Muyinga, Makamba, Kirundo, Rutana, Cankuzo, Karuzi, Bujumbura, Rumonge and Ngozi.





Aiming for a three-day pre-departure logistical preparation window, IOM Tanzania will carry out the following support operations for return assistance:

Day 1—IOM operations and medical teams at the departure centre will support the arrival of refugees and their belongings (transport from Mtendeli and Nyaragusu refugee camps to Ndtua will be facilitated by UNHCR).

Day 2—IOM medical teams will conduct fitness to travel checks. After the government representatives have finished conducting luggage checks, IOM's operations team will proceed to label, seal, sort and secure baggage, as well as creating manifest lists, which will be shared with all relevant operational partners

Day 3—After providing a meal, the IOM teams will help refugees board busses, while cross-checking manifest lists. Separate convoys with busses, and trucks to transport luggage will depart an hour before the convoy with returnees. Once the transit centres in Burundi are reached, IOM Burundi takes over from IOM Tanzania in coordination with representatives from the Burundian government, as well as UNHCR.

**\$ 450,000**

Funding required

Target no. of individuals:

**12,000**



IOM Burundi will support operations following the arrival of returnees from Tanzania, consisting of: (a) reception, transit, and onward transportation from reception centres to final destination in Burundi; (b) provision of basic services (such as food, shelter, medicals, washing facilities etc.) in the reception centres; (c) at final destinations, provision of standard non-food items kits (inclusive of core relief items), and shelter kits for those in need of temporary shelters; and (d) reintegration activities supporting social cohesion, community capacity to absorb returnees, and socioeconomic development of vulnerable persons.

Community dialogue sessions will be hosted in areas of larger return, including members from the host community and returnee population. Through these dialogue sessions, Quick Impact Projects (QIP) that will improve the capacity of the host community to absorb the returnee population will be identified. Labour for the QIP's will include members from the host community and returnee population, providing On the Job training and Cash-for-Work in the process. This would support an estimated 1,400 people including returnees and host community members in five provinces: Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana, and Ruyigi.

**\$3.265 M**

Funding required

Target no. of individuals:

**12,000**

#### CONTACTS

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