



CASH DISTRIBUTION IN GIHARO, ©IOM 2019/T. NTORÉ

Between May and August 2019, staff from IOM's Transition and Recovery department conducted a "check-in" exercise with returning refugees from Tanzania. The team interviewed 230 returnee beneficiaries (150 women, 80 men) who participated in IOM's 2018 and 2019 reintegration programme in which returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities were recruited for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) through a Cash-for-Work (CfW) modality. The interviewees worked on 15 community infrastructure-related QIPs, in Muyinga, Ruyigi, Rutana and Makamba provinces.

Cash for Work activities promote the economic recovery of vulnerable communities. Short-term employment opportunities were provided to returnees, IDPs and host community members to work as semi-skilled or unskilled laborers in the QIP construction projects. A community-based, gender-sensitive and bottom-up approach to income-generating activities helps relieve some of the initial stressors and shocks that communities routinely face. This snapshot expands on the outcomes of the Cash for Work component of the project.



Anatolie Niyibona, a 49-year old returnee and mother of 7 living in Rutana province, helped to rehabilitate a school classroom in her community through IOM's reintegration programme in 2019. Describing how she planned to use the money she received from the Cash for Work initiative, she said, "First I will buy a goat. When I returned to Burundi, I found that my field was no longer fertile. With the manure from the goat, I hope to re-fertilize the land. Also, I will buy food and school supplies for my child who will soon begin his seventh year at school. Finally, I will use it to hire a labourer who can help me to cultivate my land."



## GENERAL INFORMATION ON LIVING AND LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS

Returnees earn 60,000 BIF per month, on average, excluding the Cash for Work salary received for the QIPs. According to recent analysis in Burundi, a household must earn at least 70,000 BIF per month to cover basic needs – which is not the case for the returnees included in this survey.

**82%** eat twice a day, **14%** eat only once a day, and only **4%** have three meals a day

**57%** are the head of their household

**77%** have up to 7 members in their household, **23%** have up to 13 members in their households

**99%** work (regular, irregular or daily work included) but still cannot make ends meet

**92%** require a second source of income to access basic needs

**68%** are small farmers, **25%** are daily laborers and **7%** have small businesses

**56%** reported that if they were given an opportunity, the job they would mostly likely want to learn is sewing, and this applies to both men and women

**28%** would like to have entrepreneurship trainings to open a small business

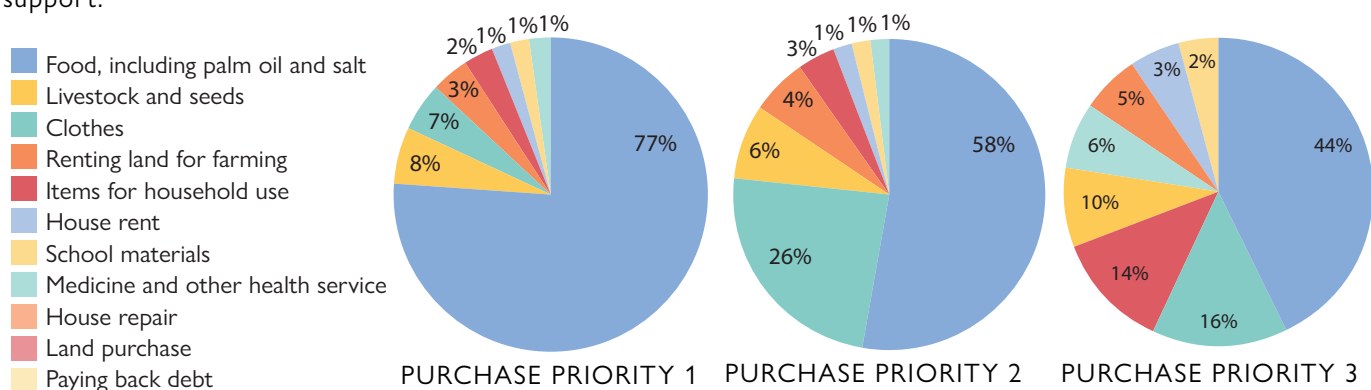
**15%** would like to learn construction and mechanics

**1%** would like to learn computer sciences

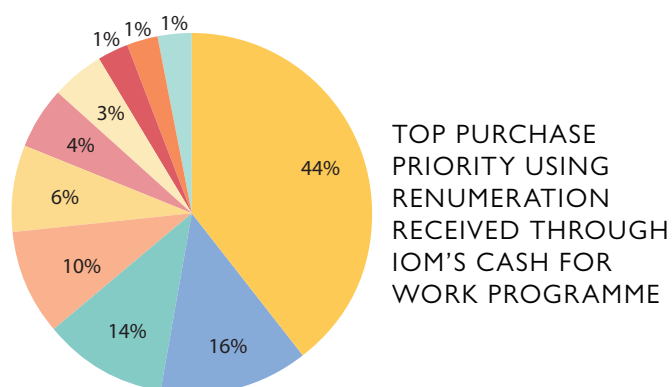


## COMPARISON OF PURCHASE PRIORITIES BEFORE & AFTER IOM INTERVENTION

The Cash for Work assistance has allowed beneficiaries to purchase goods and services outside of their basic needs, giving them the opportunity to make investments into their future. The following are the first, second and third priorities for goods and services that the beneficiaries purchased with their income, before receiving Cash for Work support:



Following the IOM intervention, beneficiaries have been able to diversify their purchases and invested in goods and services that were either of lower importance in their listed three priorities, or that they simply did not list as among their three priorities. With the remuneration received through the Cash for Work programme, they have been able to purchase livestock and seeds for farming, repair their houses, acquire land for farming, prepare their children for school and repay debt.



Beneficiaries have also indicated that they have been able to do some financial planning for their future. This shows that the Cash for Work remuneration supported them to become more resilient and economically self-sufficient:

**47%** have been able to save some of the Cash for Work remuneration

**45%** have been able to invest in savings and loans groups



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