



IOM International Organization for Migration

BURUNDI

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTION FOR EXPELLED MIGRANTS

Background

Between 2013 and 2014, in addition to IDPs and returnees, 45,533 Burundian migrants (51% women, 49% men), who had never regularized their stay in Tanzania, were deported by the Tanzanian Government due to the recent immigration law.

Due to the rapid expulsion of Burundian migrants from Tanzania to Burundi, many left without belongings or in some cases, even their spouses. They arrived in an environment, in particular in communes with high rates of returns, where resources were already stretched.

Expelled migrants are often not able to avail of the most basic services such as: medical services, potable water, livelihoods or education.

Objectives

The proposed project will provide both group and one-to-one counseling

and psychosocial accompaniment to 3,000 (a minimum of 60% will be women) expelled migrants, while ensuring a community-based support system is being developed.

IOM proposes to assist 3,000 beneficiaries, living in the Rutana and Makamba provinces.

IOM will ensure that particular focus is put on vulnerable groups, such as separated households, children, female headed households, the elderly, and expelled migrants in situation of extreme distress. Particular attention will be paid to the special needs of expelled migrant children.

To establish community protection mechanisms, 50 networks households (G50) are formed in the target project provinces. To constitute the G50s, it is first sought to identify the number of households that are in the hill area and the number of hills that comprise that area. Ten households are

grouped under five heads for then a network of 50 households to be grouped according to proximity.

Taking into account the principle of inclusivity, a Community Systems Strengthening approach involves the formation of G50 enabling to incorporate psychosocial support interventions and strengthen social cohesion on the hill.

At the onset of the project, a mapping was conducted in communities using a questionnaire in order to obtain information, mainly related to psychosocial problems, in the target area and structures that assist in solving these problems.

WE WORK WITH

The main activities of the project will include:

- Provision of psychosocial first aid
- Provision of one to one support and referral to appropriate services for specific cases (i.e. SGBV)
- Community mobilization activities
- Access to lifesaving essential information
- Establishment of Protection Committees
- Identification of community based protection mechanisms

SUCCESS:

Committees are set up to facilitate communication and a solid understanding of community psychosocial care for those in need. Beneficiaries have appreciated the exchanges to promote community awareness on psychosocial problems as they have noted these problems are not resolved, which often contribute to mental illness. This project is considered timely by communities and favorably supported by beneficiaries to support this project.

LESSONS LEARNED:

The testimonies of Burundian migrants expelled from Tanzania during community education-sensibilization sessions have shown that they have many psychological wounds that must be healed.

Locations where beneficiaries have long lived did not allow them to integrate easily into the host community and also integrate Burundian culture in their lifestyle. Although the beneficiaries of this project, through other projects, received material support, the psychosocial component is recognized as a critical element which will enable them to achieve mental well-being to resume their lives and better plan for the future.

Equally, beneficiaries have cited the fact that what they are now learning will help them more positively reintegrate in Burundian society. Moreover, beneficiaries report that learning will help them reintegrate positively and especially a manner acceptable to Burundian society.



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WE ASSIST:

- Returned migrants
- Host Communities



MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

International Organization for Migration

27A/29 Avenue Rusama
Kinindo Bujumbura
Burundi
Email: kmejo@iom.int

Website: <http://ronairobi@iom.int>

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