SNAPSHOT

- Between 7 September and 17 December, 13,100 Burundian migrants were assisted to return to Burundi from Tanzania under the inter-agency Voluntary Repatriation Programme and government agreements.
- 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.
- 54,000 Burundians are estimated to be in need of return assistance in 2018 with assistance of IOM and in partnership with inter-agency partners.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The United Republic of Tanzania is hosting approximately 220,000 Burundian asylum seekers who have arrived in the country in several waves since April 2015. The significant influx of Burundians into Tanzania prompted the Government of Tanzania (GoT) to open additional refugee camps to address overcrowding. To date, over 410,000 Burundians have fled to neighbouring countries due to the effects of natural disasters and socio-political reasons. Tanzania hosts more than half of the Burundian refugees in the region. Following Tanzania’s revocation of the prima facie policy in January 2017, the number of asylum seekers who have been able to cross the border has reduced considerably. In July 2017, the Government of Burundi issued a call encouraging Burundians in the camps to voluntary return, promising to help rebuild the economy in Burundi.
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 asylum seekers that have expressed their intention to return. As of 12 January IOM has assisted 13,104 Burundian refugees (4,516 households) to return from Tanzania to Burundi under the inter-agency Voluntary Repatriation Programme and government agreements.

Within the context of the Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan, a planning figure to provide assistance to 54,000 individuals requiring transport assistance was agreed upon. In addition to this, IOM will be offering pre-departure medical assistance to 22,000 individuals.

There are three refugee camps in Tanzania: Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu—all within the Kigoma region. For this voluntary repatriation process, Nduta camp is designated as the departure point for all returnees. IOM will continue to provide transport to Nduta camp from the other two refugee camps. Subsequently, transportation assistance will be provided following a three-day, pre-departure logistical preparation window. IOM Tanzania will continue to carry out support operations for return assistance: On the first day, IOM operations and medical teams at the departure center will support the arrival of returnees and their belongings. Movements will be conducted through IOM transportation (buses); On the second day, IOM medical teams on the ground will conduct “fitness to travel” verifications. After border agencies have conducted luggage checks, IOM operations’ teams will ensure the luggage and belongings of returnees are sealed and secured. Manifest lists will be shared with all relevant operational partners, taking into consideration strict data protection principles.

On the day of return to Burundi, IOM will provide water for all returnees and ensure their dignified transportation. Separate convoys with buses and trucks to transport luggage will depart one hour before the convoy with returnees. After crossing the Burundian-Tanzanian border, returnees will arrive in the transit centres in Burundi. After registration by UNHCR, IOM Burundi in close coordination with local authorities will prepare for onward transportation to the communities of origin within Burundi.

IOM aims to provide pre-embarkation checks and medical services to at least 33,000 individuals. The pre-embarkation checks will ensure that the refugees are fit to travel, and those in need of further medical assistance will be referred to appropriate services in their communities of return. If a returnee is found to be severely malnourished during pre-medical checks, they will be referred to dedicated organizations for further assistance.

On 31 August 2017 in Dar es Salaam, the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees held a Tripartite Commission meeting and agreed to work together to contribute to the achievement of a durable solution through the voluntary repatriation of an initial 12,000 asylum seekers who had by then registered to voluntarily return to Burundi.

From 7 September to 22 December 2017 UNHCR, IOM and partners assisted 13,104 refugees to return in an organized manner. For 2018, inter-agency partners are planning for an estimated 84,000 returns, mainly from Tanzania with the first convoy of returnees starting on 25 January 2018.

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**TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Funding required</th>
<th>$1,875,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target no. of individuals</td>
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**HEALTH AND NUTRITION SUPPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding required</th>
<th>$150,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target no. of individuals</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>
IOM has been present in Burundi since 2010 and has, since its inception, provided a wide range of services to internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, refugees and other vulnerable migrants. Currently, IOM is decommissioning the four IDP camps in Burundi and providing comprehensive relocation and re/integration assistance to more than 4,000 of Burundi’s most vulnerable IDPs. IOM has extensive experience in strengthening post-crisis rehabilitation and conflict prevention capacity through community stabilization initiatives, which have been designed to promote social cohesion and re/integration of IDPs. In addition to reinforcing border management for safe and dignified migration, IOM is also able to effectively respond to the vital emergency humanitarian needs of Burundi’s displaced populations by providing comprehensive humanitarian and development aid packages. Through its extensive experience in migration management, IOM is well-positioned to facilitate the return of thousands of Burundians seeking to reestablish themselves in their country of origin.

**SUSTAINABLE REINTERGRATION**

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 mutually benefiting 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, and quick impact projects (QIPs) in coordination with other reintegration activities as outlined in the Burundi Return Response Plan. Returnees and host community members will be engaged 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. Furthermore, these information sessions will include data collection that will feed the needs analysis for the QIPs, needs for individualized counselling and specific reintegration assistance for the most vulnerable.

Finally, over two to three months, the QIPs will also provide an opportunity for local community members and returnees to receive skills building and on-the-job training through Cash-for-Work. Cash-for-Work labour for the QIPs will include members from the local community and returnee population, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable provinces of return including Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi.

**SHELTER**

At the final destinations in the communities, repair shelter kits and rental assistance grants will be provided to the most vulnerable households and/or individuals in need of temporary shelter support. This will be targeted and determined by means of a thorough shelter assessment.

IOM intends to provide shelter support to returnees. Each month, households will receive shelter assistance based on a transparent needs assessment conducted in the commune of return. In the first quarter of 2018, the returnees of Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba, will be targeted.
IOM will provide support to the Government of Burundi to cope with the upsurge of border movements and the processing of the returnee convoys. This support will focus on streamlining administrative processes, upgrading operational systems and building the capacity of border management staff to respond effectively to the needs of the returnees.

Activities in this domain will include providing refresher training to border staff on humanitarian principles and administrative processes applicable to returns, raising awareness towards the needs of special cases (vulnerable population, victims of trafficking (VoT), unaccompanied minors, etc.), installation of basic equipment needed for more effective border management, and the establishing of a mobile immigration unit to respond swiftly to punctual increases in movement at the border.

Funding required
$370,000
Target no. of individuals
103,000

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DIGNIFIED BUS EMBARKATION, QUEUE PRIORITY GIVEN TO WOMEN, CHILDREN AND RETURNEES WITH DISABILITIES, BURUNDI. © IOM 2018

UPON ARRIVAL IN THE TRANSIT CENTRE IN BURUNDI, RETURNEES' BELONGINGS ARE SORTED. © IOM 2018

CONVOY WITH RETURNEES LEAVES FOR BURUNDI, EX-TANZANIA. © IOM 2018

CONVOY WITH RETURNEES LEAVES FOR BURUNDI, EX-TANZANIA. © IOM 2018