



SOCIAL COHESION ACTIVITIES, ©IOM 2019/A.CHRISTINO

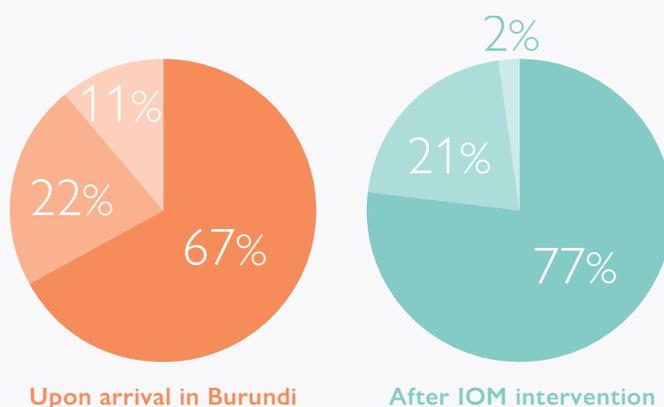
Between May and August 2019, staff from IOM's Transition and Recovery department conducted a "check-in" exercise with returning refugees from Tanzania. The team interviewed 230 returnee beneficiaries (150 women, 80 men) who participated in IOM's 2018 and 2019 reintegration programme in which returnees, 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.

The project aims to create opportunities for returnees and host community members to come together in a space of dialogue and exchange to identify needs and solutions for their communities. Returnees and host community members discuss their common needs during Community Dialogues and implement the solutions as Quick Impact Projects. The participatory and inclusive approach aims to foster bottom-up decision-making, community ownership and cohesion.

## SOCIAL COHESION

### Key

- Felt strongly reintegrated/ welcomed by host community
- Felt somewhat reintegrated/ welcomed by host community
- Do not feel reintegrated/ welcomed by host community



## ON THE RETURN SITUATION

**57%** returned to Burundi in 2018.

**85%** returned through the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees (VoIRep) and **15 %** were spontaneous returnees.

**96%** returned to the same commune they had left.

**92%** returned to their hill of origin. **8%** have not returned to the same hill. This is due to socio-economic tensions such as family separation, destruction or occupation of their former houses or properties.

**10%** plan to leave their current locality to move elsewhere. This indicates that returning to Burundi is not a one-stop process and may provoke secondary displacement within the country. Some are even thinking of going to neighbouring countries as they believe their quality of life will be much better than in Burundi. Others are ready to relocate shall insecurity arise again in their hills.

**49%** said that when they came back to the country, they did not find all the belongings they had left behind, which they believe have been stolen by neighbours or family members. **51%** said they found all their belongings thanks to family members who kept them.

## ON CASH-FOR-WORK AND QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS

**86%** of respondents thought the Cash-for-Work amount provided was sufficient.

**47%** were able to save some of their CfW salary, which is an important indicator for showing impact and sustainability. They plan to invest in purchasing land or livestock. Livestock also provide organic fertilizer that can be used in fields and eventually save them money.

**32%** have invested their money in savings groups.

**99%** say that the infrastructure rehabilitated by IOM has improved the lives of the community as whole.

## ON SOCIAL COHESION

**100%** expressed they were able to meet IDPs and host community members through the IOM activity.

**74%** said that following their participation in the IOM activity, they have started engaging much more often with IDPs and host community members on a daily basis. **25%** said they felt they engage somewhat more often with IDPs and host community members since the IOM project, and **1%** said there was no change. IOM activities seem to have had a positive impact on supporting the community to build new relationships and reinforce social cohesion.

**77%** of the returnees said they are certain that the host community members would help them, **16%** said they are not quite sure, and **7%** said they do not know if the host community would help them.

**66%** believe that the returnee youth have a very close relationship with youth from the host community and IDPs, **29%** said they are quite close, and **5%** think returnee youth do not interact with host community or IDP youth.

*Beneficiaries' perception of social cohesion between returnees, host community members, and IDPs has improved following IOM's reintegration interventions. However, the data also suggests that reintegration is a process and should be addressed using a multi-faceted and complementary approach.*

*The survey tool allows IOM to approach returnee beneficiaries before the start of the works, during the project and after the intervention has ended. It is designed to be an operational tool which enables IOM to follow the reintegration experience of beneficiaries from project start to finish and beyond.*



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