



Communes received motorbikes to improve land services ©IOM 2022/ Laetitia Romain

Displacement causes an abrupt disruption to the livelihoods of risks such as the loss of their homes or the dispossession of affected communities, who are likely to become exposed to risks such as the loss of their homes or the dispossession of their lands. Displaced persons are often forced to start their lives over in new locations, living in the shadow of eviction, and therefore struggling to plan for their future, which is particularly challenging without security of tenure.

IOM seeks to examine and address issues related to immovable property rights- in the context of an emergency response - through integrating HLP concerns in programming; understanding the land & property-related context in the areas where it operates; conducting tenure due diligence; and developing activities to strengthen security of tenure.

In Burundi, land is the primary source of income and livelihoods creation. Indeed, access to land is not only crucial for housing needs, but also for agricultural activities, which sustain approximately 90 per cent of the population. Households that are unable to access and secure land are thus exposed to limited livelihood opportunities and are at a higher risk of eviction, human trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV). This is particularly true for returnee households, who often cannot reclaim their previous homes (2/3 of cases) and women-led households (especially for non-formally married women) as patriarchal land heritage customs put them at a disadvantage. The expected return of 300,000 Burundian refugees in the coming years is only set to increase the pressure on land and resources in the country. Acknowledging the significance of this issue, the Government of Burundi (GoB) has made it a priority to address land tenure.

KEY FIGURES (JANUARY 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022)

- 36,050 people** attended HLP sensitization sessions
- 9,069 community members** (at hill level) were sensitized on the importance and procedures of land certification
- 7,533 land certificates** were issued.
- 1,975 community leaders** participated in 66 sensitization sessions on HLP focusing on the importance and the administrative procedures of land registration as well as GBV related to land.
- 238 community members** participated in discussion groups including returnees, people from minority groups, and community leaders.
- 48 communal land agents** were trained on the techniques of topographic surveying of parcels, on the land code, and on filing and archiving techniques.
- 48 motorcycles, 25 computers, 24 GPS, 48 compasses** and other office equipments and supplies were distributed to the communal land services.
- 24 communal land services** were equipped with office and IT equipment, orientation guides on land certification processes, land registers and motorbikes.
- 24 discussion groups and community dialogues** were organized.
- 2 exchanges of experience and study visits** were organized in the communes most experienced in land certification
- 2 plea workshops targeting 52 communal council members** (37 men and 17 women) were organized to advocate for the prioritization of communal land services in the communal budgets.

IOM BURUNDI AND HLP

To address these challenges, the GoB and IOM Burundi have been working jointly in Muyinga, Ruyigi, Kirundo and Cankuzo - provinces of high return among refugees-to engage communities on HLP issues and raise awareness on challenges pertaining to land access. Activities have included discussion groups and community dialogues held between returnees, minority groups, and community leaders; sensitization sessions involving key stakeholders, such as local administrators, elected communal councils, community leaders and hill recognition committees; and equipment donated to communal land services

NATIONAL HLP WORKSHOP

In March 2021, a two-day National Workshop organized by IOM Burundi and the Ministry of Interior, Community Development and Public Security gathered key actors in the field of land tenure. It was an opportunity to develop priority areas for short, medium and long-term solutions, to optimize the Government's strategic national response alongside international standards and thus to ensure that the Burundian population has access to land security. In total, 99 people from the government, NGOs, the UN and civil society, attended the workshop, including the Minister of Interior, the Mayor of Bujumbura, the UN Resident Coordinator and several other notable attendees. An additional 50 people attended the workshop online.

MAIN PARTNERSHIPS

IOM Burundi is working in close cooperation and coordination with the Government of Burundi through the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security; the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing; the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender; and the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.



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THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

