

# Burundi

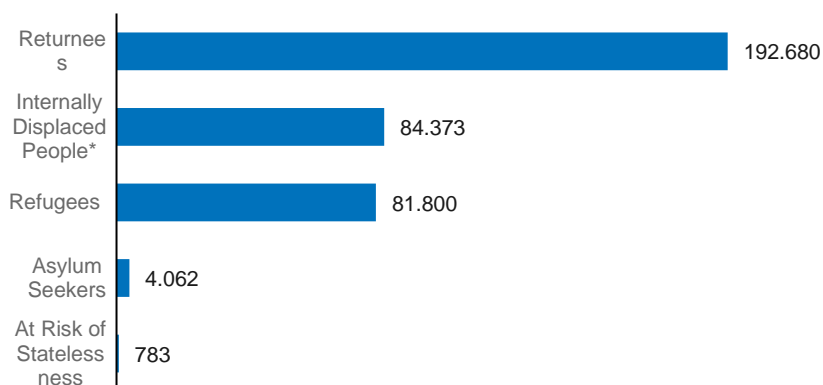
May 2022

In 2021, UNHCR facilitated the return of over **65,000** Burundian refugees from Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda and other countries. A total of **192,000** were repatriated since 2017.

Burundi continues to host over 85,000 refugees and asylum seekers, predominantly from the DRC, many of whom are in a **protracted displacement situation**, and with limited durable solutions prospects.

The **Joint Refugee, Returnee and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP)**- a resource mobilization and coordination framework co-led by the Government of Burundi, UNHCR and UNDP to sustainably reintegrate refugee returnees, required \$104 million in 2021 but was only 21% funded.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

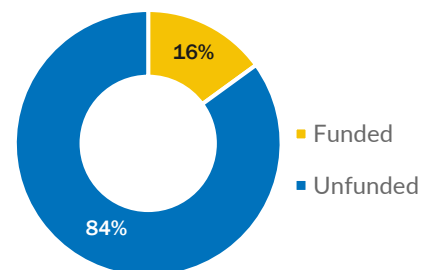


\* 92% displaced due to natural disasters while 8% are displaced due to other reasons. Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM, February 2022)

## FUNDING

**USD 80,5 million**

requested for the Burundi Operation in 2022



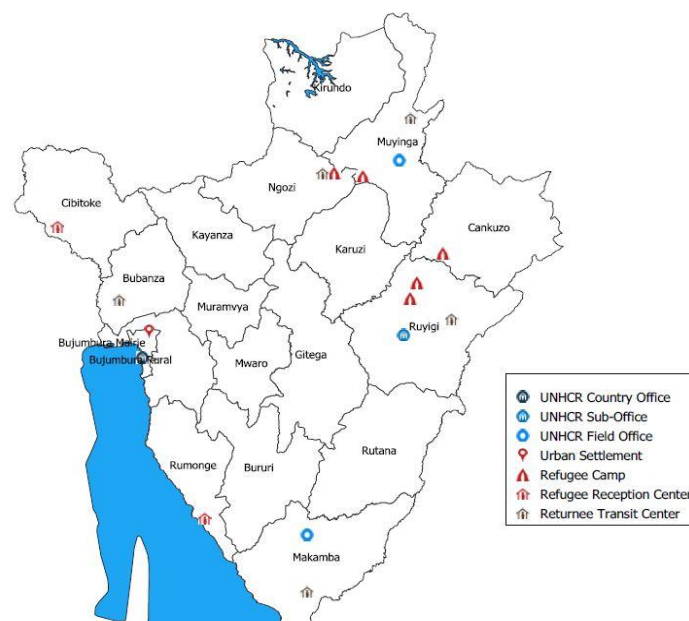
## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

126 National Staff  
33 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Bujumbura  
1 Sub Office in Ruyigi  
2 Field Offices in Muyinga, and Makamba



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR Burundi works closely with **the Government of Burundi, UN agencies and other humanitarian and development actors**, including national and international NGOs, as well as with **affected communities**.
- In the context of the interagency mechanism, UNHCR leads the protection sector and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and core relief items (CRI) clusters. UNHCR is also a co-facilitator of the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group and leads the newly established Cross-Border Livelihoods Working Group, bringing together humanitarian and development stakeholders to facilitate returnee reintegration.
- Through the **Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP)**, co-led by the Government of Burundi, UNHCR and UNDP and involving **24** partners, UNHCR supports return and reintegration activities to enable durable solutions for Burundian refugee returnees.

## Strategic Direction

- UNHCR's strategic directions and operational priorities in Burundi are:
  - ✓ To ensure the protection and provision of basic services to refugees, returnees, internally displaced people and local communities, through a coordinated response, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.
  - ✓ Promote the inclusion of people of concern to UNHCR in national systems, enhancing their self-sufficiency, and supporting their attainment of durable solutions.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- In Burundi, UNHCR provides **protection and assistance** to refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, people at risk of statelessness, Burundian refugee returnees, and vulnerable local community members.
- In line with its protection mandate, UNHCR promotes access to asylum, supports registration and refugee status determination, and helps build the protection capacity of government and other partners.
- UNHCR also provides sectorial assistance in the areas of civil documentation, legal interventions, health and nutrition, WASH, education, shelter, self-reliance,

and environmental protection. Furthermore, UNHCR supports durable solutions through promoting local integration, facilitating repatriation, and organizing third country resettlement for the most vulnerable.

- UNHCR manages **five refugee camps** in the eastern and northern parts of the country, while also providing support to the urban refugee population. UNHCR is intending to build a **sixth refugee camp** in Rutana province.
- UNHCR has established three reception centres to temporarily accommodate asylum seekers in Cibitoke, Rumonge and Ruyigi provinces. In addition, UNHCR manages six returnee transit centers in Makamba, Ruyigi, Bujumbura, Muyinga and Ngozi.

### Repatriation, protection monitoring and returnee reintegration

- UNHCR facilitates the safe and dignified repatriation of Burundian refugees who make a free and informed decision to return home. Since September 2017, UNHCR and partners facilitated the return of over **192,000 Burundian refugees** from Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda and other countries.
- Upon arriving to the transit centres in Burundi, returnees are tested for COVID-19, provided with a cash grant (\$150 for adults and \$75 for minors), a core relief item package, counselling, as well as a three-month food ration provided by WFP. UNHCR also undertakes **community-based protection monitoring** for returnees to assess their needs and promote returnees' access to basic services, the results of which are available on UNHCR's protection monitoring dashboard.
- Through **the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP)** co-led by the Government of Burundi, UNHCR, UNDP and partners, UNHCR supports return and reintegration activities to enable durable solutions for returnees, and mitigate the impact on communities in return areas. However, reintegration efforts are curtailed by chronic underfunding, with the 2021 JRRRP only 21% funded, hindering efforts for a comprehensive response. The 2022 JRRRP appeals for \$107.3 million to address the critical needs of 300,000 returnees and 260,000 local community members.

### Education

- UNHCR advocates for the **inclusion** of refugees and returnees into the national education system, on par with other Burundians. In addition to managing primary and secondary schools in the five refugee camps through partners, UNHCR supports vulnerable urban refugees with school kits, school fees, language classes, and vocational training. Resources allowing, UNHCR also rehabilitates and expands camp school infrastructure, and builds the capacity of refugee teachers.

### Health

- UNHCR through partners runs **five primary healthcare facilities** which provide free services to camp-based refugees and host community members. Refugees in urban centres have limited access to national health services, with UNHCR ensuring the provision of free healthcare to urban refugees with specific needs. UNHCR continues its advocacy efforts for refugee inclusion in national health services.
- In terms of the COVID-19 response, UNHCR has reinforced the national capacity for testing and treatment centres by donating COVID-19 related equipment to the Ministry of Health, and by financing the construction of a **national COVID-19 treatment centre** in the city of Cankuzo. Meanwhile, UNHCR-managed facilities are equipped with testing centres and isolation units.

#### Water and sanitation

- UNHCR and partners carry out WASH activities aimed at maintaining water infrastructure and ensuring the supply of potable water in the refugee camps and in the transit centres, with surrounding communities also benefiting from these facilities. UNHCR also builds and rehabilitates latrines and showers, regularly distributes hygiene items including soap and dignity kits, and trains WASH agents.

#### Infrastructure and shelter

- A core part of UNHCR's response is to provide adequate access to shelter and other infrastructure. UNHCR builds, maintains and rehabilitates shelter in refugee camps, and provides shelter kits to the most vulnerable returnees. UNHCR also contributes to the emergency shelter response for internally displaced people.
- The Government of Burundi has granted UNHCR a site to build a **sixth refugee camp** in Rutana province, to accommodate growing refugee numbers. This project is currently on hold due to severe underfunding.

#### Access to energy

- To meet refugees' cooking needs, UNHCR provides refugees in camps with briquettes on a monthly basis. Moreover, UNHCR distributes multifunctional solar lamps to both refugee and returnee households, and along with WFP, distributes cookstoves to refugees. For a more sustainable solution, UNHCR is setting up cookstoves production centres both in refugee camps and in the transit centres. As of 2021, UNHCR began using solar power to electrify the community infrastructure in refugee camps.

#### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Refugee community self-reliance and access to livelihoods have been curtailed by increasing restrictions on freedom of movement. UNHCR continues to advocate

for expanding refugee freedom of movement in line with national legislation and international protection instruments.

- UNHCR supports refugee and returnee self-reliance through community micro-finance, vocational and entrepreneurship training, as well as support to income-generating activities, in collaboration with development actors, particularly the World Bank.

#### **Social cohesion**

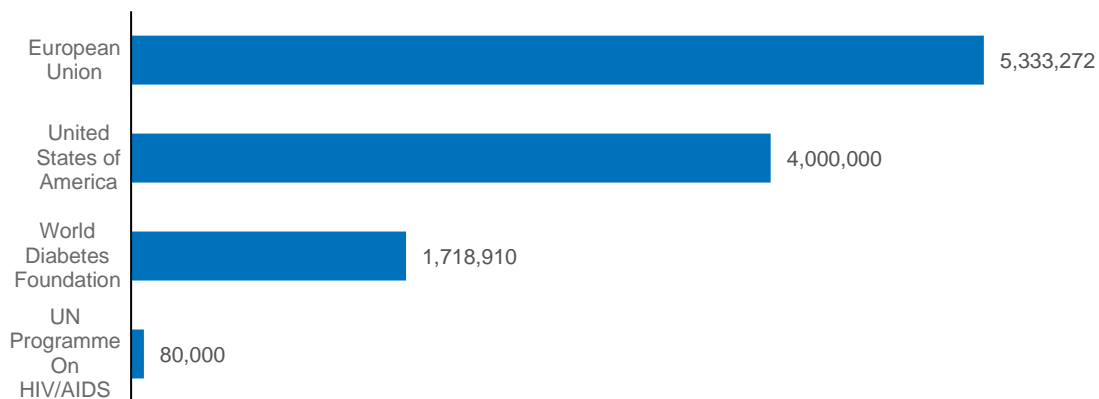
- Promoting social cohesion between people of concern to UNHCR and local communities is a key priority. In this vein, UNHCR, UNDP and the Government of Burundi are constructing five rural integrated villages for vulnerable returnees, internally displaced people and local populations. Overall, UNHCR strives to include local community members in all its activities.

## Financial Information

As of May 2022

UNHCR Burundi is grateful to all donors for the critical support provided with earmarked and unearmarked funding.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD



### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD

United States of America 14.5 million

Norway | Private donors

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>5</sup> | USD

Sweden 95.2 million | Norway 72.5 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27 million | Private donor: France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Japan 14.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Morocco | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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## LINKS

Operational portal - UNHCR Burundi page - Twitter -