

BURUNDI

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN MID YEAR REVISION



JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017

CREDITS

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For more information on the Burundi crisis go to: [Burundi Information Sharing Portal](#)

Cover photo: UNHCR/E.Jalil

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TANZANIA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

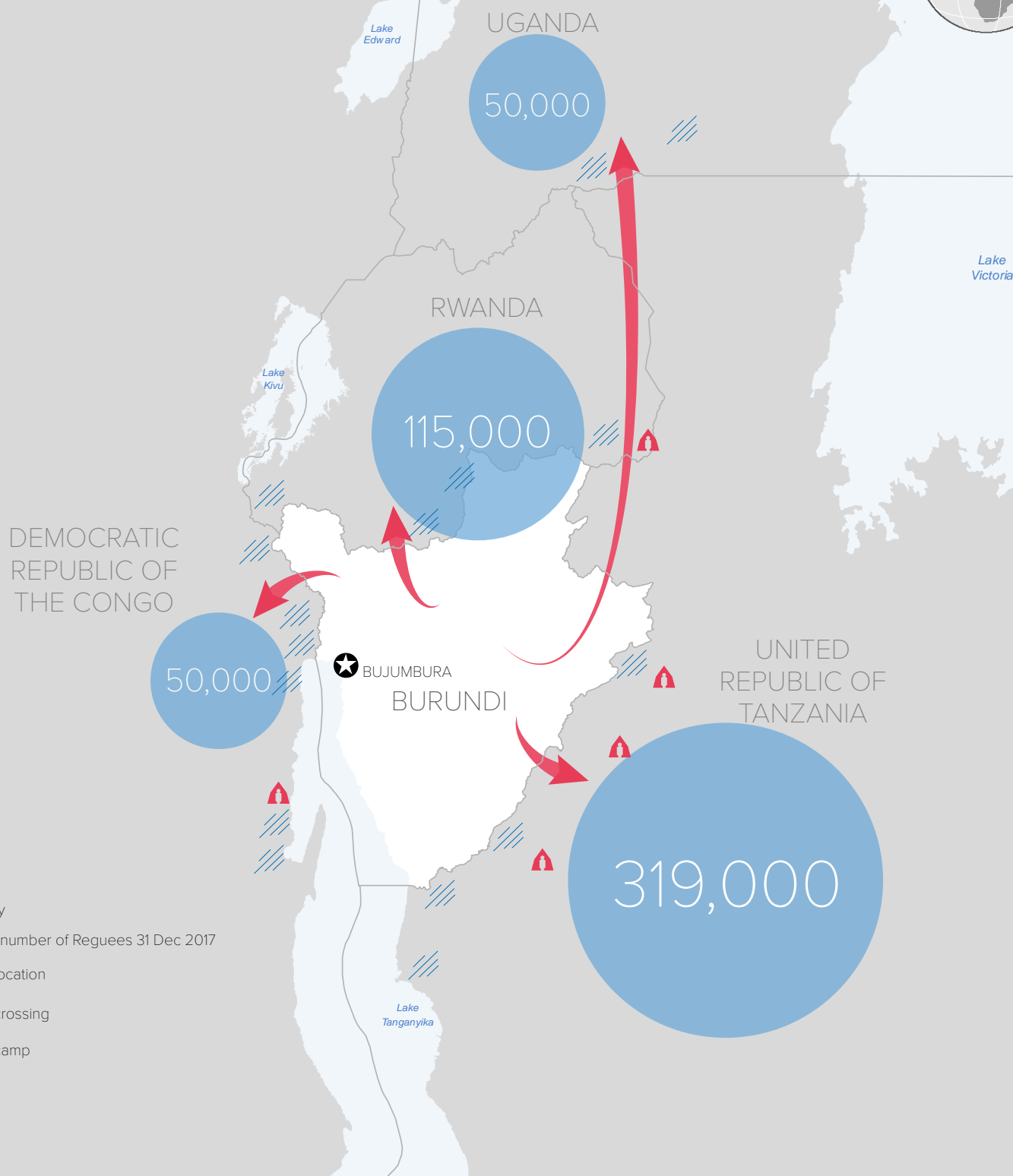
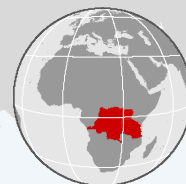
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ANNEX

REFUGEE PROJECTION AS OF DECEMBER 2017



2017 PLANNED RESPONSE

534,000

REFUGEE POPULATION

429.3M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

30

PARTNERS INCLUDED
in RRRP

Regional Overview

INTRODUCTION

The protection environments in host countries, as well as in Burundi, has substantially evolved since the 2017 Regional Refugee Response Plan was developed. While the projected target population figures planned for in the 2017 RRRP appeared valid in July based on arrivals in the first part of the year and remain unchanged, new and additional financial requirements were identified at mid year. These additional needs arose due to a combination of factors including: congestion in camps as a result of limited land allocation; insecurity; lack of locally available shelter materials; shortages of water and food; and oversubscribed health and education services. While the needs have been identified and are reflected in this updated RRRP, deep funding shortfalls persist and are adversely and directly impacting Burundian refugees and their hosts. Despite these hurdles, innovative policies have been adopted throughout the region, seeking to promote greater inclusion and socio-economic self-reliance of Burundian refugees. The commendable efforts by host states and partners deserve to be recognized and supported with commensurate resources from the international community, not only to alleviate the growing plight of Burundian refugees but also to maintain asylum space, as well as peace and security in the Great Lakes and East Africa region.

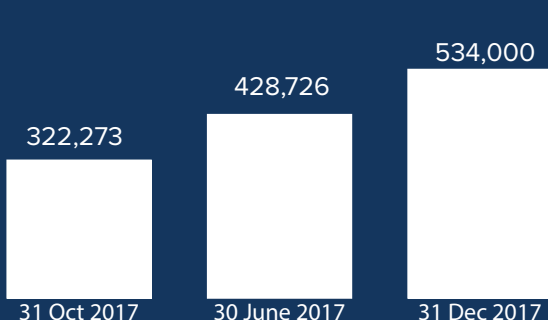
Since the outbreak of civil unrest in April 2015, thousands of Burundians continue to seek refuge in neighboring countries, as well as into Southern Africa. Arriving Burundian refugees and asylum seekers have expressed fear of persecution due to affiliation with the opposition, killings, extortion of money, and looting by militia groups. Many attest to being targeted and living under fear of widespread intimidation by the

Imbonerakure, the ruling party's youth wing. Men have specifically cited fear of forced recruitment by the Imbonerakure as the main protection concern. From April 2015 to June 2017, more than 416,000 Burundian refugees fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Joint verification exercises conducted by the Government of Burundi, UNHCR and partners in areas of return showed an estimated 38,000 Burundians have also returned spontaneously. The majority of returns have occurred from Tanzania to Makamba, Rutana and Rumonge provinces in Burundi.

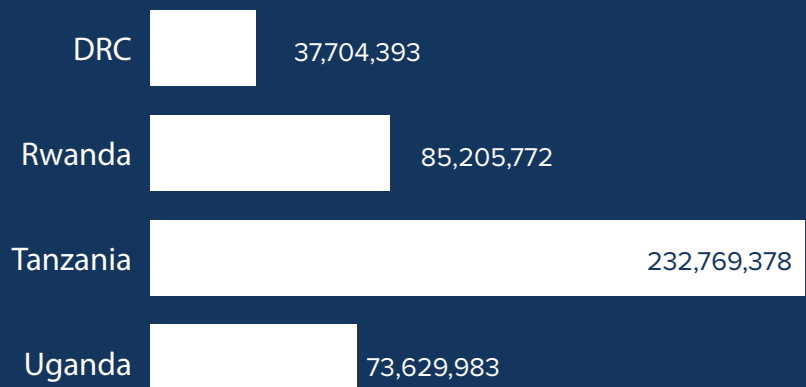
The Inter-Burundian dialogue mediated by the East African Community (EAC) and its appointed facilitator, former Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa, remains at an impasse since the Arusha meeting held in February 2017. Despite its stated commitment to the EAC facilitated process, the Government has initiated a parallel national dialogue led by a National Commission for the Inter-Burundian Dialogue (CNDI). The CNDI was established by presidential decree in October 2015 and started a dialogue process that explicitly excludes leaders of the opposition and civil society organizations in exile. The CNDI led dialogue process is at loggerheads with the EAC brokered inclusive approach and therefore lacks legitimacy with the opposition and large segments of civil society. The fact that it undermines the Arusha Peace Agreement, including by removing presidential term limits, represents another major stumbling block. The resulting polarization of the Burundian political landscape has further deepened the crisis, perpetuating insecurity and refugee outflows.

The Burundian Government has also suspended cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), withdrawn from the Rome

POPULATION TRENDS



FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS (USD)



Statute of the International Criminal Court, and rejected deployment of a UN civilian police contingent mandated by the Security Council. As cited in the February 2017 Report of the Secretary-General on Burundi, OHCHR has received and documented allegations of hundreds of enforced disappearances, violations of the right to life, and arbitrary arrests in a climate of impunity. In December 2016, Ligue Itaka, a long standing national human rights organization established since 1991 was permanently banned by the Burundian authorities. Restrictions placed on civil society have curtailed protection monitoring and assistance capacities of national and international actors, including in areas of return.

The humanitarian and socio economic situation in Burundi has also deteriorated, further compounding reasons for refugee flight. In 2016, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Burundi increased from 1.1 million to at least 3 million, representing 26 per cent of the total population; displaced women, children and youth were the most affected. According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report in June an estimated 214,895 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) live across Burundi with 33.1 per cent of IDPs displaced for socio-political reasons and 66.5 per cent as a result of natural disasters – occurring both before and after the events of April 2015. Only 8,745 of the total number of IDPs were living in camps and displacement sites, with the rest living among host communities. There has been a four-fold increase in the number of people who are food insecure in Burundi – from 730,000 to 3 million – owing to the rising prices of basic food items, the seasonal rain deficit during the 2016 agricultural season, poor harvests, and chronic poverty.

Against this backdrop, even as some refugees may consider return, the arrival of new Burundian refugees to neighbouring host countries of Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and to Uganda has continued. Arrival trends in the first half of 2017 validated the projected figure of more than half a million Burundian refugees (534,000) by the end of the year as planned for in this 2017 RRRP for the Burundi situation. While some refugees may opt to return this year, their numbers are small enough and their departure late enough in the year that it does not significantly affect the overall population planning figures or budget requirements for the year.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS & GAPS

In the first semester of 2017, major [achievements](#) included:

- All new arrivals have been registered and 91 per

cent of the population received documentation;

- While food has been provided on a regular monthly basis to refugees in all asylum countries (95 per cent of regional target), it is important to note that Tanzania, where the majority of refugees are, experienced significant ration cuts down to 60 per cent of the full ration;
- The Global Acute Malnutrition rate is below the 5 per cent emergency threshold in Tanzania (2 per cent) and Uganda (0 per cent) but equal to 5 per cent in Rwanda and DRC;
- In several countries targets for enrolling children in school have been largely met (75 per cent of regional target) but initial targets only represented a portion of school aged children and many of those attend school in over crowded and under resourced classrooms;
- Similarly, while almost all refugees have access to basic health services, those facilities and services are often severely oversubscribed.

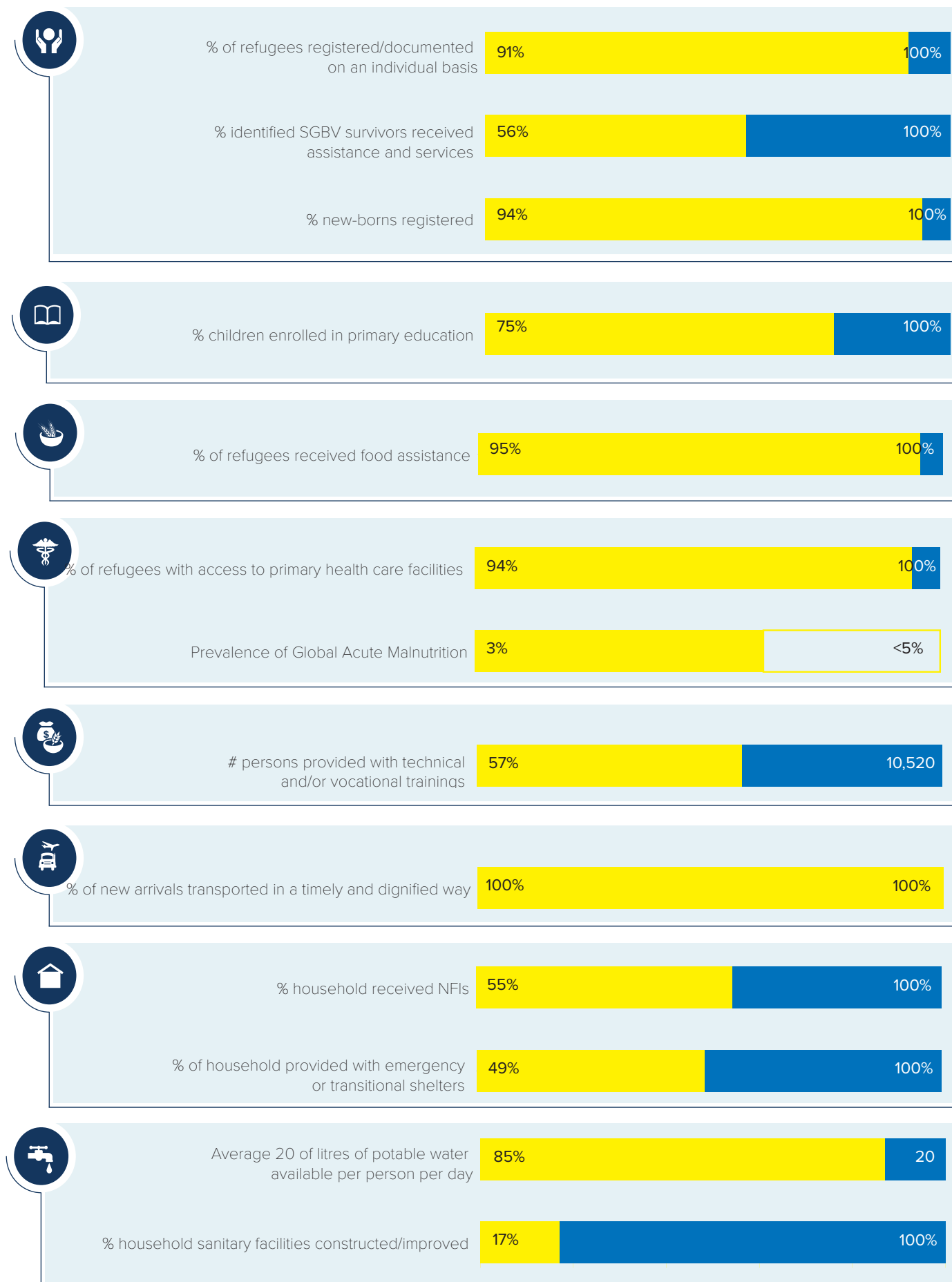
The most significant [gaps](#) in the regional response have been:

- Only 56 per cent of identified SGBV survivors received assistance and services;
- While emergency shelters have been provided they have quickly deteriorated, with significant numbers of refugees still stuck in mass housing in reception and transit facilities;
- Only 55 per cent of refugee households received Non-Food Items (NFI);
- Provision of water is adequate in only 2 of the 4 countries, and in a number of locations there is a need to move away from water trucking to more sustainable solutions;
- Only 17 per cent of refugees has an upgraded family latrine.;
- In all countries, targets for livelihood activities were not fully met due to the need to prioritize extremely limited funds (57 per cent of the target).

REGIONAL PROTECTION & HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The regional protection environment for Burundian refugees continues to be uncertain and volatile.

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS & GAPS - JAN TO JUNE 2017



Refugees are leaving Burundi for numerous reasons, including the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation and resulting decline in economic opportunities. While all countries of asylum continue to accept and host new arrivals, in the first half of 2017, Tanzania, Uganda and DRC all stopped granting refugee status on a prima facie basis; Rwanda continues to do so.

Chronic underfunding for the 2017 RRRP for the Burundi situation is severely hampering reception capacities, straining asylum space, and the quality of protection rendered by host countries. Provision of protection and assistance in the region has not yet reached acceptable standards despite the efforts of UNHCR and partners since the beginning of the emergency. The operational constraints and protection gaps due to funding shortfalls are elaborated in the revised country chapters. The evolving context in asylum countries, especially in Tanzania, increases the likelihood of secondary movements of Burundians within East Africa and further afield into Southern Africa.

A relatively small number of Burundian refugees have already undertaken to return spontaneously, predominantly from Tanzania. Smaller numbers from the DRC and Tanzania have indicated a provisional desire to return contingent upon receiving assistance to do so. UNHCR worked with the respective governments to organize the first small-scale return convoys in late August and early September 2017. A ministerial tripartite meeting was concluded between UNHCR and the governments of Burundi and Tanzania at the end of August 2017. Modalities have since been put in place to assist an estimated 12,000 Burundian refugees to return to Burundi from Tanzania in the last quarter of 2017. While conditions for large-scale organized repatriation under conditions of safety and dignity are not yet in place, and informal intentions surveys indicate that the vast majority of Burundi refugees in countries of

protection needs of Burundians writ large. Burundian refugees still have a need for continued international protection and with the number of Burundian refugees in host countries continuing to increase, it is vital that funding for the refugee response increase and that improvements made to refugee service delivery also benefit host communities. Building on the commitments made during both the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, and the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in New York in September 2016, efforts are ongoing to roll out the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, including to increasingly integrate refugees into national support systems, allowing them to contribute to the society they live in and increasing their level of self-reliance.

The regional refugee response is underpinned by a multisectoral protection strategy aimed at addressing key challenges that hamper the effective delivery of physical protection and assistance to Burundian refugees as enumerated below.

Maintaining Access to Asylum - Access to territorial asylum for Burundian asylum seekers and refugees is being jeopardized by a combination of factors including attempts to politicise the act of granting asylum, incidents of refoulement, threats to the civilian character of camps by armed groups, and dwindling support by the international community to address the Burundian refugee crisis. While well within the rights and responsibilities of the governments concerned, the revocation of prima facie refugee status by Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, has practically presented a new set of challenges to render protection and quality assistance to new arrivals.

All Burundian refugees who fled to Tanzania since the political crisis in April 2015 were initially recognized as refugees on a prima facie basis. However, since 20

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