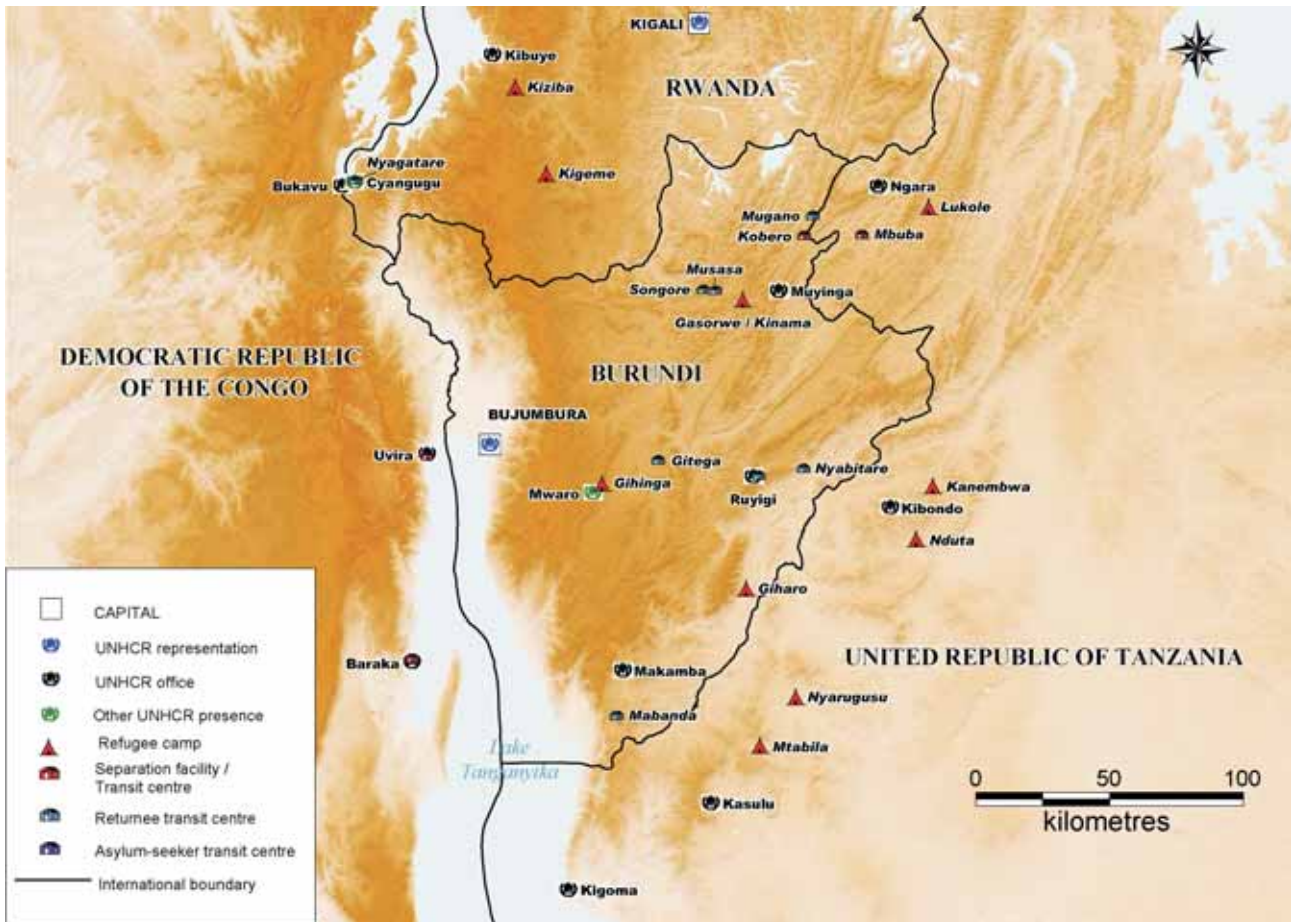


# Burundi



## Working environment

### The context

Burundi continues to confront serious political and social challenges. The country has faced 13 years of civil strife and ranks 169 out of 177 in UNDP's 2006 Human Development Index. However, following two conferences held in 2007 in Bujumbura, international donors have expressed strong support for the Government's Priority Plan of Action for Poverty Reduction. The plan, which runs from 2007 to 2010, could improve the situation in areas of return.

The political situation in Burundi remains uncertain. The country's last rebel group, the *Front National de Libération* (FNL), signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government on 7 September 2006, but later withdrew from peace talks. This sparked fears of renewed armed conflict in the second half of 2007. Renewed violence in Western Burundi raised concerns of a general deterioration in security conditions.

Burundi hosts 10,550 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). They live both

in camps and in urban areas. Stability in the DRC's South Kivu province could convince many of these refugees to repatriate voluntarily. If conditions in the DRC deteriorate, however, the refugee influx into Burundi will continue.

### The needs

Needs already identified by UNHCR in 2007 were reconfirmed by the results of participatory assessments, surveys by other UN agencies and a study conducted by Burundi's National Institute for Statistics. Burundian returnees suffer from a dearth of social services, jobs and other economic opportunities. Primary health care and educational facilities are inadequate, especially in rural areas. Furthermore, returnees experience problems with the repossession of their properties upon return.

The Burundian Government has not provided refugees from the DRC and Rwanda with proper documents, which seriously limits their movement. Refugees are not able to leave the camps with the identification provided by UNHCR and face possible arrest at police checkpoints. Further, the lack of land, either for camp extension or agricultural uses, impedes camp maintenance and self

reliance. Indeed, it is a challenge to uphold adequate standards in all sectors.

Access to anti-retroviral treatment is available to refugees and returning Burundians only in urban areas. Malaria-prevention programmes, reproductive-health services and malnutrition interventions need to be reinforced for all groups of concern. UNHCR's standard procedures to reduce sexual and gender-based violence are being implemented and need to be monitored and evaluated.

**Total requirements**  
**2008: USD 21,833,225**  
**2009: USD 19,647,769**

## Main objectives

- Ensure the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in safety and dignity.
- Help the socio-economic reintegration of returnees.
- Provide international protection to refugees and asylum seekers and assist camp-based refugees.
- Facilitate the voluntary return of refugees from the DRC.
- Support new government bodies responsible for returnees and refugees.

## Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- 80,000 Burundians (45,000 in 2008) return voluntarily; they receive transport assistance and an improved returnee package containing a cash grant, food rations for six months and non-food items.
- Returnees receive identity documents and birth certificates.
- Returnees benefit from programmes to reduce sexual and gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS.
- 10,500 families with specific needs (6,000 in 2008) receive construction materials to build their own homes.
- 80 per cent of identified property disputes are resolved peacefully through mediation in legal clinics.
- Mwaro camp is closed in 2009 and the remaining refugees are transferred to Gasorwe and Giharo camps.
- Food and non-food items are distributed regularly to refugees in camps and urban areas in accordance with UNHCR guidelines.
- Urban refugees with specific needs are identified and assisted.
- Camp-based refugees, especially women and girls, are helped to conduct income-generating activities.
- Primary-school enrolment among refugee children rises to 30 per cent.

## Strategy and activities

### Returnees

UNHCR will continue to promote voluntary repatriation to Burundi, mainly from Tanzania, in conditions of safety and dignity. Some 45,000 Burundians are expected to repatriate in 2008, and another 35,000 in 2009.

Returnees will be medically screened at reception centres and counselled on issues such as HIV and AIDS and sexual and gender-based violence. Local welcome committees will help returnees recover their property and reintegrate into their communities. All returnees will be given an assistance package before being transported to their communities of origin. Families with specific needs will benefit from a housing scheme and/or receive construction materials to rebuild their houses. UNHCR will monitor returnees throughout the country and work with its partners to help resolve conflicts, especially over land.

Under a cash grant scheme introduced in 2007, every returnee from Tanzania is given USD 50 to support their reintegration in Burundi. UNHCR will pay the grant to all assisted returnees in 2008 and 2009.

### Refugees

UNHCR will continue to protect and assist the 10,000 camp-based DRC refugees in Gasorwe, Gihinga and Samvura. It will also aid 216 Rwandan refugees in Giharo camp. Refugees in Bujumbura will be provided health care and legal assistance and helped to conduct income-generating activities.

Depending on the security situation in areas of return, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees and search for durable solutions for those unable or unwilling to repatriate. Since the latter's prospects for local integration are meagre, some with protection or medical needs will be submitted for resettlement.

UNHCR will support the national asylum system by helping to build the capacity of the planned Refugee Commissioner's Office, a structure under the Ministry of the Interior.

### Constraints

Extreme poverty in return areas is a major impediment for returnees, most of whom are subsistence farmers. Refugees may also be reluctant to return because of fear of renewed conflict. Furthermore, unfavourable climate conditions have led to poor harvests and food scarcity



UNHCR/C.L. Grayson

UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the 10,500 Congolese refugees in Burundi, if the security situation permits, while continuing to search for other durable solutions.

in recent years, hampering repatriation and even leading to new displacement.

UNHCR's work has been hampered by the volatile security situation and consequent restrictions on staff mobility. The Office lacks the resources to ensure sustainable returnee reintegration and will encourage other actors to undertake projects to improve socio-economic conditions in areas of return.

Increased pressure from the Tanzanian Government on landless refugees to return may lead to social tensions in Burundi. This is of special concern to those refugees who left Burundi in 1972, as many of them have lost all ties with their communities of origin.

### Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008-Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	DRC	10,100	10,100	9,300	9,300	8,600	8,600
	Rwanda	450	450	1,000	1,000	1,400	1,400
Asylum-seekers	DRC	11,600	11,600	9,600	9,600	7,900	7,900
Returnees <sup>1</sup>	Burundi	65,000	65,000	45,000	45,000	35,000	35,000
IDPs		11,000	11,000	9,000	9,000	8,000	8,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>98,150</b>	<b>98,150</b>	<b>73,900</b>	<b>73,900</b>	<b>60,900</b>	<b>60,900</b>

<sup>1</sup> Planning figures only reflect the number of refugees who returned during the reporting year. However, UNHCR supports reintegration of returnees in Burundi for up to two years. In 2008, the Office will assist a total number of 110,000 returnees; in 2009 a total number of 80,000 returnees.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	5	5
Total staff	139	134
International	28	26
National	98	95
UNVs	10	10
JPOs	3	3

### Coordination

UNHCR works in close collaboration with the national authorities, its implementing partners and donors, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) and sister UN agencies. The main governmental counterparts are the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security (asylum issues) and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender (returnees and reintegration). The Office works closely with a number of special government agencies, such as the *Commission nationale des terres et autres biens*.

UNHCR's partnerships with other UN agencies ensure that the latter incorporate the needs of refugees and returnees into their programmes. The Office supports the UN Peace Building Commission in Burundi and participates in the *Commission ad hoc intégrée pour le Rapatriement et la Réintégration*. Set up in June 2007, the commission manages and coordinates repatriation with the support of key ministers, heads of UN agencies and donors.

Regular cross-border meetings will be held with UNHCR Tanzania to assess the progress of repatriation.

## Partners

### Implementing partners

**Government agencies:** *Ministère de la Solidarité nationale, des Droits de la Personne humaine et du Genre (Projet d'Appui au Rapatriement et à la Réintégration des Sinistrés - PARES)*, *Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique (Police de l'air, des frontières et des étrangers and Centre national d'identification)*.

**NGOs:** African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, African Humanitarian Action, *Association des Femmes Juristes*, FENACOBU, *Handicap International France*, International Rescue Committee, Ligue Iteka, Norwegian Refugee Council, Stop SIDA, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization / Health Net International, World Outreach International.

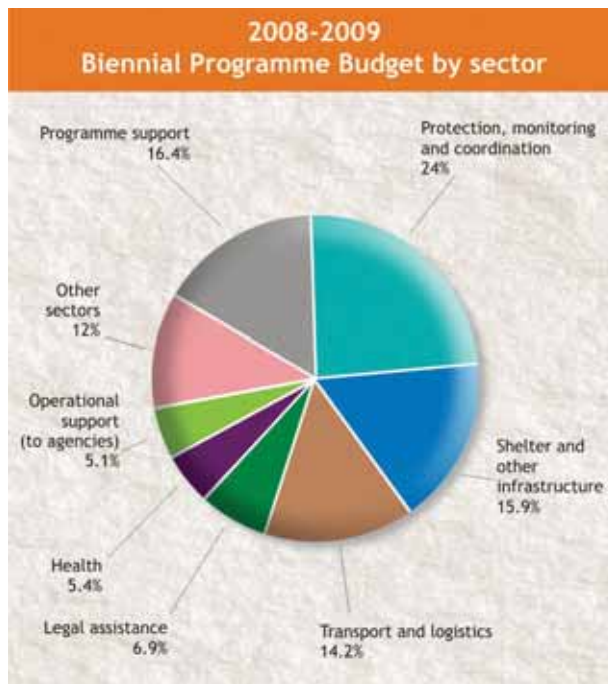
**Others:** *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*.

### Operational partners

**Government agencies:** *Centre national de la lutte contre le SIDA*.

**NGOs:** Norwegian Refugee Council, *Solidarité*.

**Others:** BINUB, FAO, ICRC, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.



Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	6,116,212	5,337,456	4,630,712
Community services	353,602	586,000	640,000
Crop production	105,970	70,000	70,000
Domestic needs	1,140,203	505,000	635,000
Education	188,110	318,000	550,000
Fisheries	0	30,000	30,000
Food	53,199	36,000	55,000
Forestry	220,833	190,000	300,000
Health	866,967	1,007,000	1,230,000
Income generation	339,363	180,000	450,000
Legal assistance	816,283	1,576,000	1,300,000
Operational support (to agencies)	942,464	950,000	1,146,031
Sanitation	88,620	30,000	90,000
Shelter and other infrastructure	6,350,813	4,062,000	2,550,000
Transport and logistics	2,037,976	3,400,000	2,498,969
Water	194,604	60,000	155,000
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>19,815,219</b>	<b>18,337,456</b>	<b>16,330,712</b>
Programme support	3,977,188	3,495,768	3,317,056
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,792,407</b>	<b>21,833,225</b>	<b>19,647,769</b>