

# Annual Results Report

**2025**

**Burundi**

## Acknowledgements

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### **Note:**

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, Burundi's political and security environment remained relatively stable, allowing the Government to continue promoting the voluntary return and reintegration of Burundian refugees. Returns from the Eastern and Southern Africa region continued, though at a slower pace than in 2024, with 17,779 Burundian refugees returning during 2025.

The operational context shifted significantly due to the deteriorating security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). An initial influx of Congolese refugees was recorded in February 2025, Burundi, followed by a major wave in December when more than 100,000 people crossed into Burundi seeking protection. The Government maintained its open-door and asylum policy, facilitating access to territory and protection. However, the scale and suddenness of the arrivals placed considerable pressure on national systems and humanitarian capacity. An emergency was declared by the Government, contingency plans were revised, and a new refugee site in Busuma, Ruyigi Province was rapidly developed alongside a scale-up of emergency response.

The profile of the refugees also evolved. Most new arrivals were women and children, including significant numbers of unaccompanied and separated children, GBV survivors, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Many arrived in poor physical and psychological condition after exposure to violence and challenging journeys to safety, increasing needs for emergency shelter, protection, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and food assistance.

At the same time, Burundi's economic context remained difficult. Foreign currency shortages, fuel scarcity, and rising prices continued to affect operational capacities and increase costs. Funding remained critically low, with only 29% of requirements met, limiting the response to growing needs.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

All refugees and persons seeking international Protection enjoy their rights in Burundi

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.77%	100.00%
<b>1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.28%	37.28%

In 2025, Burundi continued to uphold access to asylum despite mounting contextual pressure, including two emergency declarations for refugee situations within the same year. Following the arrival of approximately 70,000 individuals from eastern DRC in February, the Government granted prima facie refugee status to Congolese fleeing violence, ensuring immediate protection, thus achieving a 100 per cent asylum space with no reported cases of refoulement.

The crisis escalated again in December, when over 100,000 individuals crossed into Burundi within three weeks. Around 65,000 were relocated to Busuma refugee site designated by the Government to host new Congolese refugees. The site now hosts thrice more than its capacity, while others remain in Cishemere and Makombe transit centers.

Overcrowding, delayed registration of new arrivals, and limited civil documentation have generated systemic protection risks, including weak vulnerability profiling, restricted freedom of movement, and barriers to assistance. Women and children constitute most new arrivals, with significant numbers of unaccompanied and separated children and women at risk. Gender-based violence (GBV) risks remain high due to insufficient water, lack of alternative cooking fuel, overcrowded shelters, insufficient lighting, reduced food rations, and limited confidential reporting mechanisms. People with specific needs, particularly the disabled and elderly face particular hardships at Busuma site

Despite the Government of Burundi's open-door policy, it continued to apply an encampment policy, hence freedom of movement remained restricted, including refugee sites of Musenyi and Busuma. However, UNHCR continues advocacy and coordination with authorities to reinforce asylum safeguards, strengthen community-based protection, and preserve the civilian character of asylum.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2027, all persons UNHCR serves enjoy their socio-economic rights and are included in national systems as per the Government of Burundi's relevant GCR pledges

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.24%	5.24%
Returnees	0.54%	0.54%

2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	82.82%	82.82%

UNHCR operated in a context of extreme poverty, limited national capacities and inadequate essential services. Results Monitoring Survey (2023) showed persistent vulnerabilities: only 5.24% of refugees and 0.54% of returnees lived in safe, adequately serviced settlements, while 87.35% of returnees remained below the poverty line.

Progress accelerated on refugee inclusion in the National Education System. Inclusion Strategy guided measures such as curriculum bridging, language catch-up, teacher training, community sensitization and diploma-equivalence support. Inclusion in national systems advanced further through the World Bank–UNHCR– (Institut National de la Statistique du Burundi) INSBU partnership, which strengthened integration of refugees and returnees into the National Statistical System. INSBU received support to include both groups in 2025/26 survey.

Health inclusion progressed as UNHCR, and Government authorities assessed health services in refugee camps and prepared a costed 2026 pilot project that seeks to integrate Nyankanda and Kinama refugee sites into district health systems. UNHCR ensured essential care in camps such as access to WASH services specifically clean water and provision of health services, maintaining very low mortality rates (0.15/1,000 adults; 0.21/1,000 children under 5).

Infrastructure investments improved safety and living conditions. Nearly 9,000 people forced to flee and over 11,700 Burundians affected by El Niño weather phenomenon received shelter support. Clean-energy gains continued through full briquette use in camps and the commissioning of the EU-funded solar farm, benefiting over 55,000 refugees. 3,956 returnees received solar lamps, enhancing their protection and resilience.

UNHCR advanced its transition to digital cash-based interventions via mobile money, improving efficiency, dignity and financial inclusion. Efforts intensified to link cash with livelihoods and national social protection systems, alongside sustained advocacy for the inclusion of refugees and returnees in emerging safety-net mechanisms.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**By 2027 all persons UNHCR serves, with a particular focus on women and youth, will be empowered to respond to their protection needs, including through national systems where possible, and attain greater gender equality.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
<b>3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	67.73%	65.58%
Returnees	82.56%	82.56%
<b>3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54.63%	48.71%
Returnees	22.86%	22.86%
<b>3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	91.13%	91.13%
Returnees	94.07%	94.06%

In 2025, the situation of refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees showed steady progress toward building empowered communities and advancing gender equality. The large-scale influx of Congolese refugees increased reliance on national systems, with the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons registering 92,021 asylum-seekers and identifying 22,955 refugees, while managing substantial numbers of people forced to flee in camps and transit centres.

Although refugees retain the legal right to work under Burundi's 2021 Law on the Regulation of Migration, the relocation of urban refugees to camps and persistent documentation gaps continued to limit full access to livelihoods. ONPRA made notable progress in issuing legal documentation, including 37,878 Cartes d'identité des réfugiés and 21,121 Proof of Identity documents, yet needs remained high.

Efforts to strengthen inclusion progressed, with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR and UNESCO-IIEP finalizing the Inclusion Strategy, which is already guiding practical measures to expand access to education. Education outcomes, however, remained mixed: primary enrolment declined for refugees (67.73% - 65.58%) and significantly for returnees (82.56% - 47%), while secondary enrolment dropped for refugees (54.63% - 48.71%) but held steady for returnees (22.86%). Perceptions of safety remained high, with 91.13% of refugees and 99.5% of returnees feeling safe walking alone at night, and access to decent work remained constant at 100%.

UNHCR reinforced community-based protection across camps, sites and urban settings, ensuring that women held 50% of leadership roles and actively shaped decision-making, referrals. Women further represented 58% of participants in livelihood cooperatives including Turikumwe while refugee- and women-led groups strengthened gender-based violence prevention and response through the Engaging Men through Accountable Practice and GirlShine initiatives.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

### More forcibly displaced and stateless benefit from a wide range of solutions by 2027

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3	0
<b>4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,519	386
<b>4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2	0
<b>4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed</b>		
Stateless Persons	0	0
<b>4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

During the period under review, there were, 386 individuals who departed from Burundi for resettlement, a representation of 2% of Burundi's 2025 Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN) estimated at 19,300. Compared to the last three years, this result was the lowest figure achieved. This was attributed to the United States (U.S) suspension of admissions in 2025, as 90% of the operation's submission for the past three years was made to the USA.

Within the broader Burundi's Protection and Solutions Strategy, resettlement remained a central pillar of UNHCR Burundi Operation, serving both as a durable solution and a critical protection tool. The Operation underscores its importance for equitable responsibility-sharing and for reducing pressure on Burundi's limited resources, as the country of asylum continues to host a protracted and newly arrived refugee population, from the DRC.

Prospects for voluntary repatriation remained limited due to insecurity in eastern DRC, while local integration was not attainable given Burundi's encampment policy, land scarcity, and socio-economic pressures. In this context, resettlement provided a critical pathway to a durable solution and was strategically used to offer life-saving protection to refugees facing heightened risks, ease pressure on overstretched national systems, support responsibility-sharing, reduce strain on host communities, and help decongest the camps.

Despite its significance, recent indicator trends revealed a significant gap between needs and delivery. Against targeted resettlement needs, departures dropped sharply from 3,519 in 2024 to only 386, highlighting a dramatic decline. This decrease reflects limited resettlement quotas and operational constraints, while underscoring how far current efforts fall short of meeting protection needs - per projected resettlement needs.

Considering the wider "securing solutions" landscape - where voluntary returns remain minimal and local integration largely unavailable, this shortfall demonstrates growing pressure on the protection environment and reinforces the urgency of exploring other solutions and pathways to meet identified protection needs.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Burundi faced serious environmental risks such as the expansion of ravines affecting four refugee camps and requiring continued engagement with development partners to secure the substantial investments needed for mitigation and adaptation.

Burundian returnees in 2025 faced major difficulties accessing essential services such as health care, education, water, and social services particularly in provinces like Kirundo, Makamba and Ruyigi. These gaps hinder sustained reintegration. By June 2025, administrative restructuring by the Government from 18 to 5 provinces created disruptions in service delivery, affecting follow-up and support for returnees during reintegration. Returnees also had specific challenges in rebuilding livelihoods due to scarcity of jobs, limited capital, and weak local economies.

The influx of refugees from the DRC in 2025 strained Burundi's already limited capacity to support returnees. Humanitarian actors were overstretched due to increasing numbers of new arrivals requiring urgent assistance. While Burundi's socio-economic context remains fragile, the combined effect of stronger coordination, quality data, increased protection programming, and improved humanitarian infrastructure provides promising avenues to overcome current reintegration challenges. Durable reintegration will depend on sustained donor engagement, integration of humanitarian and development planning, strengthened local governance capacity, continued investment in protection and livelihoods and constructive community engagement to reduce tensions.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR 2024–2027 Multi-Year Strategy emphasizes strategic Public and Private Partnership through engagement with development actors such as the World Bank/IDA, the European Union (including regional projects targeting Burundian refugees and returnees), bilateral partners (e.g. ENABEL, AFD, JICA, KOICA) and private sector partners. In 2025, the operation continued to leverage these partnerships to expand durable solutions, improve access to basic services, and strengthen livelihoods and self-reliance. The Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025 highlighted that multi-stakeholder partnerships are a central pillar of the GRF implementation framework in Burundi. Through joint commitments across governments of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through the FONAREV foundation, (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, EU, local NGOs), private sector such as Finbank, Burundi benefits from shared financial and technical support consistent with GRF pledges to support during the Congolese refugees influxes in February and December 2025.

UNHCR's collaboration and partnership with the World Bank centered on strengthening national social protection systems for refugees and returnees, through the Cash for Jobs Project and integration of refugees and host communities. The Bank also provided direct financing to supported refugee-hosting areas including \$37 million from the Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR). Partnerships with the Government of Burundi also enhanced efforts to embed local community, refugee and returnee support into long-term development systems. Supporting local development and resilience initiatives; highlighting refugees' contribution to local economies and shared services.

Actors such as IFAD, KOICA, Japan, Switzerland, faith-based organizations aligned humanitarian and development responses, strengthen national systems for returnees and refugees in 2025 in Burundi. Local NGO Social Action for Development (SAD) supported by UNICEF delivered frontline protection and psychosocial services for Congolese refugees in Burundi. The Burundi Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan was developed jointly with the Government of Burundi, demonstrating national ownership and alignment with GRF principles of integrating refugee protection into national structures.

Experience and lessons learned from 2024 underlined the critical importance of agility in the face of fuel shortages, currency fluctuations and other operational shocks; the value of continuous monitoring and evaluation to detect gaps and adjust programming; and the centrality of private sector partnerships such as those with World Diabetes Foundation, Coop Italy and Latter-day Saint Charities in achieving tangible outcomes in education, health, shelter and livelihoods. These lessons continued to guide programme adaptation and partner engagement in 2025.

Monitoring frameworks were also strengthened, including plans for data quality assessments, multi-functional team visits, biennial results monitoring surveys and regular cash post-distribution monitoring for cash-based interventions, to better document outcome-level changes in people's well-being and to inform mid-course adjustments.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

All persons UNHCR serves have access to territory, are registered and assisted and have personal and administrative documents.

##### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.65%	100.00%	90.65%
Returnees	87.11%	95.00%	87.11%
<b>1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.92%	90.00%	78.92%

##### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23,126
<b>01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62,078
Returnees	17,779

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In line with its open-door policy, Burundi welcomed thousands of Congolese fleeing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during two refugee influxes, one at the beginning of the year and the other at the end. Following UNHCR's advocacy, the Government of Burundi issued a communiqué on 19 February 2025 granting prima facie refugee status to Congolese nationals fleeing the conflict.

Throughout 2025, UNHCR conducted several border monitoring missions, either independently or jointly with the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (ONPRA), before, during, and after the two influxes. These activities aimed to identify the most frequently used crossing points and potential risks; raise awareness among authorities about international obligations (including the principle of non-refoulement and access to asylum and strengthen cooperation with border authorities to facilitate

access to territory.

A total of 19,257 prima facie refugees were registered. To enhance the quality of national asylum registration and in preparation for the registration of prima facie recognized refugees, a training was organized for government, partner staff as well as temporary agents recruited to support the government team. This training strengthened their skills in the use of ProGres and BIMS, case management for protection issues (child protection, PBS and SGBV), dispute resolution, and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Registration was carried out throughout the year to record births, marriages, and deaths in line with established Standard Operating Procedures. Legal documents were regularly issued to refugees and asylum-seekers. The improved refugee card, introduced in 2024, that includes new identifiers (residential address for urban refugees, camp of residence for camp-based refugees, and marital status), was issued to refugees in 2025. In total, 37,878 refugee identity cards were issued, along with 21,121 registration certificates delivered or renewed, and 3,079 birth certificates.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

**By 2027, All PoC have access to a fair RSD procedure, interviews conducted, and feedback provided to PoC**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	329.00	40.00	0.32
<b>2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
<b>02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes	
Stateless Persons	Yes	

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Burundi, the asylum system and refugee status determination (RSD) are administered by government authorities. Most asylum-seekers—approximately 99% originate from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2025, Burundi experienced a significant influx of refugees from the DRC. Following advocacy by UNHCR, the Government granted prima facie refugee status to Congolese asylum-seekers, resulting in the registration of 19,257 individuals.

While most cases were processed under the prima facie framework, a few individual determinations were conducted in 2025. Among them were Congolese who had arrived in 2024 and previous years, as well as former asylum-seekers whose cases had been reactivated, asylum-seekers of other nationalities such as Rwandan and Afghan, and cases under appeal procedures.

In 2025, the first-instance Eligibility Commission held 12 sessions, reviewing 146 households (421 individuals) and recognizing 137 households (388 individuals) as refugees. All rejected applicants had access to appeals, with the Appeals Committee convening 12 sessions to examine 58 households (140 individuals), granting refugee status to 23 households (47 individuals). The Bujumbura Bar Association, UNHCR's legal partner, provided legal assistance to 58 households (140 individuals) in appeal procedures, conducting interviews and preparing applicants for ONPRA's interviews as well as defending the case before the committee.

With respect to 2025 achievements, the indicator "Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision" of 125 days meets the established standard. The standard processing time is 270 days. The projected target is 40 days, considering that the government applies the simplified procedure in 99% of cases. Even if the target is not met, the standard is met. This gap is attributable to the extensive involvement of DSR staff in the registration process for refugees recognized on a prima facie basis. This has caused delays in the processing of individual cases.

All asylum seekers whose claims were rejected at the first instance had access to an appeal process as well as legal assistance from the Bujumbura Bar Association. UNHCR advised ONPRA on applying the principle that allows asylum seekers whose claims were definitively rejected to submit new applications if new circumstances in their country of origin threaten their safety. This guidance was particularly relevant for Congolese applicants who arrived before 2025 and had their appeals rejected.

UNHCR supported ONPRA through technical exchanges with caseworkers before files were presented to eligibility committees, helping guide complex case assessments with country-of-origin information. It also contributed actively to both the first-instance Eligibility Commission and the Appeals Committee, offering legal and protection-based advice to strengthen decision-making.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**An inclusive national protection framework for all forcibly displaced and stateless people is in place and operational.**

**By 2027, all stakeholders will have a better understanding and application of the international protection framework and thus better protect refugees and stateless persons.**

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol</b>			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment
<b>3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</b>			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness</b>	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
Returnees	Yes
Stateless Persons	Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, Burundi remained fully compliant with international refugee standards established by the 1951 Convention. This stability is explained by the strength of national legal instruments, which continue to meet the essential requirements for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. The latter benefit from Burundi's adherence to the 1951 and 1967 Conventions, thereby ensuring their legal protection.

From a legal perspective, Burundi's national legislation has incorporated the core principles of refugee protection, recognized the rights and responsibilities of refugees, and established institutions responsible for their protection. Nevertheless, while robust measures are maintained in line with the 1951 Convention, further legislative adjustments are required to achieve full compliance with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In addition, progress is still needed in the socio-economic sphere, particularly in relation to education, health, and social protection.

Regarding stateless persons, current nationality legislation allows a child to acquire the nationality of his or her Burundian mother only if the father is unknown. A child whose father is known but has not legally recognized him or her remains at risk of statelessness. Moreover, under the current Family Code, the deadline for declaring births to obtain a birth certificate is limited to 15 days. Beyond this period, birth declarations are subject to payment, which may discourage vulnerable segments of the population from prioritizing the process of obtaining birth certificates when financial costs are involved.

Although the legal framework to combat statelessness remains below the desired objective, progress has been made. Ongoing legal reforms aim to strengthen the prevention and reduction of statelessness. The revision of the Family and Nationality Code (currently underway) introduces positive changes regarding nationality transmission and birth registration. Previously, only fathers could declare a birth, but the new provisions allow mothers to do so, leaving the section reserved for the father blank if necessary. In the context of repatriation, verification processes enable children at risk of statelessness to obtain a birth certificate confirming their nationality.

The legislative revisions have partially addressed statelessness, but further efforts are needed to fully align Burundian law with the 1961 Convention. Progress achieved so far reflects strong collaboration between UNHCR, national authorities, and civil society, creating momentum toward a more inclusive national protection framework that responds to challenges.

Regarding the legal framework for internally displaced people (IDP)s, the draft law on the ratification of the Kampala Convention has been reviewed and approved by the Council of Ministers. This draft law has been transmitted to the National Assembly for study and approval. After the National Assembly stage, the draft is expected to be forwarded to the Senate. However, there have been blockages at the National Assembly level due to political considerations.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**Risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse are identified and addressed and protection mechanisms strengthened.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services</b>			
IDPs	85.15%	100.00%	85.15%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.25%	100.00%	85.25%
Returnees	77.15%	100.00%	77.15%
<b>4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women</b>			
IDPs	54.43%	100.00%	54.43%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.20%	100.00%	69.20%
Returnees	65.43%	100.00%	65.43%
<b>4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.43%	100.00%	91.89%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36,200
Returnees	1,640

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

While advancing Gender Based Violence (GBV) outcomes, UNHCR provided strategic direction, technical oversight, and financial support to partners implementing prevention and response activities. The overachievement of several refugee-related indicators is primarily (4.1.1) due to two major DRC influxes, which significantly increased the caseload beyond initial planning. This sudden growth overstretched GBV services, resulting in slightly lower satisfaction levels among survivors (4.3). In contrast, returnee indicators remained below target as resources were redirected toward the emergency refugee response. Indicators 4.1–4.2 show no variation because the perception data were last collected in 2023 through the Result Monitoring Survey and will only be updated in 2026.

UNHCR also strengthened GBV referral pathways and adherence to survivor-centered standards through inter-agency coordination. UNHCR's investment in community-based programming, such as Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLA) groups, women's empowerment initiatives, Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP), and Girl Shine initiatives allowed interventions to expand beyond counselling, in sites, camps and urban areas. Continuous monitoring, capacity building of authorities, and follow-up on case management ensures quality and accountability of services.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Save the Children International (SCI) served as the primary implementing partners for GBV programming throughout 2025. Their contributions covered refugee camps,

transit centres, spontaneous sites, and urban refugee communities, ensuring comprehensive and continuous service delivery across all locations. Their contributions included full GBV case management, including intake, follow-up, psychosocial support, and remote case management (1,320 cases supported, of which 155 remote cases); large-scale community sensitization sessions, reaching 34,317 individuals on GBV prevention and available services. 437 individuals were also supported through group therapy sessions. 150 VSLA participants, 135 women as well as 130 adolescents through the Girl Shine approach were also supported in recreational and life-skills activities. 90 men were supported through the EMAP approach. A total of 240 participants including police officers, GBV focal points, sector committees, and VSLA committees received relevant training. Other program activities included the identification and referral of survivors needing legal, medical, or safety services, as well as outreach to vulnerable groups in urban and non-camp settings to ensure service continuity beyond structured camp environments.

In addition to UNHCR's implementing partners, the Association des Femmes Médecins Burundaises (AFMB) contributed significantly to the advancement of GBV outcomes, particularly in Musenyi refugee site. AFMB implemented two critical community-based empowerment programmes: EMAP involving 10 men, focused on transforming harmful gender norms and improving positive masculinities; Girl Shine reaching 50 adolescent girls (25 between 0-17 years, 25 of over 18 years) with a structured approach to safety, empowerment, and life-skills development; Maman Championnes involving 50 women to mitigate and prevent cases of GBV in Musenyi.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

**Children are protected from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination and have access to child friendly procedures and inclusive national services**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.73%	100.00%	23.19%
<b>5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes</b>			
IDPs	6.77%	50.00%	6.77%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.43%	50.00%	3.43%
Returnees	1.48%	50.00%	1.48%
<b>5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.33%	100.00%	5.26%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,235
Returnees	506

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, significant progress was made in strengthening the protection environment for refugee and returnee children. Increased involvement of operational partners helped reinforce child protection (CP) mechanisms in camps, transit centres, and return areas, leading to improved identification, referral, and support for children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). This contributed to a tenfold increase in participation. However, the rise in the number of children at risk identified—without a commensurate increase in case workers resulted in a decline in BIP coverage.

Community-based structures—CP committees, children’s forums, youth clubs, mobilisers and leaders—received training and support, increasing awareness, reporting and inclusion of children in protection systems. New child-friendly spaces were established at Musenyi and in transit centres, while “Ideas Boxes” in long-standing camps were strengthened, resulting in a ten-fold increase in children’s participation in protection mechanisms. Joint refugee-host activities, including quarterly exchanges and sports events, further promoted social cohesion.

Birth registration and certification services were expanded for both new arrivals and refugees in protracted displacement, improving legal identity and access to national services.

UNHCR played a central convening, technical and operational role. The Office collaborated with the national CP Group under the Child Protection Directorate to ensure alignment with national systems and harmonized approaches, particularly during emergency responses. Via funded partners, Save the Children (SCI) and IRC, and non-funded partners, the operation ensured continuity of identification, referral and specialized support for children at risk across both protracted and newly arrived refugees in 2025. The Office also trained refugee and host structures, via SCI and IRC, in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), child safeguarding, psychological first aid, referral pathways and feedback mechanisms, with accompaniment to strengthen responsiveness. In addition, the operation built the capacity of partners in Best Interest Procedures (BIP), supported CP committees and facilitated rollout of national CP tools. UNHCR also identified and supported alternative caregivers for UASC and provided essential material assistance through partners. Together with UNICEF, partners and the line ministry, facilitated birth registration in Musenyi and certificate issuance in protracted camps. Specialized protection services provided at transit centres for 142 returnee children (79 UASC), with follow-up coordinated through government DPDFS structures Provincial Directorate for Family and Social Development (DPDFS) by SCI.

Contributions of other stakeholders included the Child Protection Directorate that led national coordination, ensured adherence to standards and facilitated follow-up of returnee children. UNICEF supported birth registration, strengthened national systems, and provided technical guidance. With support from ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross, family links were reestablished, and family reunification was enhanced. SCI and IRC delivered case management, psychosocial support, alternative care, community mobilization and safe spaces.

Community structures also identified and referred cases, organized inclusive activities and raised awareness.

Other humanitarian actors provided complementary services supporting CP outcomes.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

**By the end of 2027, refugees living in the five camps and urban areas in Bujumbura and Rumonge will be more engaged in community participation and women will be more empowered**

## Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.</b>			
IDPs	Extensive	Extensive	Limited
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Moderate
Returnees	Extensive	Extensive	Limited
<b>7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms</b>			
IDPs	90.25%	100.00%	90.25%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	100.00%	90.00%
Returnees	90.00%	100.00%	90.00%
<b>7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures</b>			
IDPs	50.40%	60.00%	50.40%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	50.00%	50.07%
Returnees	50.00%	50.00%	52.08%

## Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
<b>07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,064	
<b>07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback &amp; response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,754	
<b>07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	101,341	

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

From the beginning of 2025, Burundi faced multiple large-scale influxes from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Over 100,000 individuals arrived within weeks in February and December 2025 - with more than 85,000 relocated to the overcrowded Musenyi and Busuma sites. At the same time, increasing Burundian refugee returns from Tanzania further strained the available limited protection systems.

Women, children and youth who form majority of the forcibly displaced people were disproportionately affected by overcrowding, weak documentation, limited services and heightened risks of gender-based violence. To stabilize the protection environment in the dual emergency and protracted context amid severe funding constraints, strengthening community empowerment was essential.

In 2025, Burundi Operation continued to reinforce community-based protection structures across camps, sites, transit centres and among urban refugees by ensuring meaningful representation of women and youth in committees and outreach networks. It is worthy to note that women represented 50% engagement in leadership roles and actively participated in decision-making, awareness-raising and referral mechanisms at Musenyi site, the five old refugee camps and urban settings.

Furthermore, women represented 58% of participants in livelihood projects such as the Wamama Amuke, Turikumwe projects and other co-operatives while they also maintained a 50% participation in Refugee Led Organizations (RLOs). The women's empowerment initiatives, Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP), and GirlShine, allowed interventions to expand further and refugee led and/or women led organizations played active roles in the prevention and response to GBV through pilot projects in Musenyi, Muyinga and Bujumbura.

Recognizing risks linked to lack of opportunities to engage in positive productivity and trauma, the Operation promoted youth-led initiatives that build skills, resilience and social cohesion. By positioning women and youth as active protection actors rather than passive recipients of assistance, UNHCR Burundi and its partners contributed to safer, inclusive and resilient communities across forcibly displaced and stateless people.

However, in 2026, the Operation's prospective is strengthening community based protection by increasing women's and youth participation in community structures and enhancing their capacities. UNHCR will expand Women and Girls; and Youth Safe Spaces and continue EMAP and GirlShine programming, while increasing support to women led and youth led RLOs to reinforce GBV prevention and survivor support.

Additional youth safe spaces and structured skills-building and psychosocial activities will be introduced to reduce risks linked to idleness and trauma (SSSA1). The Operation will also provide small grants and capacity-building to RLOs to strengthen their role in protection monitoring. Finally, mobile registration and documentation campaigns will be expanded.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**By 2027, UNHCR Burundi will have a predominant CBI (Cash Based Intervention) system where the cash transfer will be done via mobile money instead of the cash-in-hand and vouchers distribution systems currently in place in the refugee camps.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items</b>			
IDPs	72.25%	50.00%	0.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.34%	100.00%	73.45%
Returnees	95.83%	100.00%	80.49%
<b>8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology</b>			
IDPs	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.61%	100.00%	0.61%
Returnees	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81,394
Returnees	17,779
<b>08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71,934
Returnees	11,195

**08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options**

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70,814
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## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, Burundi Operation continued working to ensure that people we serve accessed timely, dignified and efficient assistance that strengthened basic needs, protection and sustainable return. This was enabled by a fully mobile-money-based cash delivery system, which remained the backbone of UNHCR's Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), allowing rapid, secure and flexible support for people we serve.

17,779 Burundian refugees who returned voluntarily received unrestricted cash grants for immediate reintegration, along with \$20 per person for secondary transport, aligned with transfer values set in 2023–2024. UNHCR also assisted 3,446 spontaneous returnees through transportation support and, when eligible, complementary reintegration cash grants. These measures harmonized support across return pathways, ensuring all returnees could begin rebuilding their lives with comparable assistance.

The context shifted with a major influx of Congolese refugees in early 2025. Through a cash-first emergency response, more than 11,700 new arrivals at the Musenyi site received immediate support to meet urgent needs such as food, household items and basic services. Beyond the emergency phase, UNHCR maintained monthly cash and voucher assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in camps and Musenyi, reaching more than 81,000 individuals, to help meet hygiene, energy and other essential needs while reducing harmful coping mechanisms.

Unrestricted transfers improved protection outcomes, enabling households to prioritize spending, avoid borrowing or selling assets, and strengthen their own safety and agency. Cash also indirectly facilitated better access to services, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities.

Local markets benefited significantly from the liquidity injected through mobile-money transfers. Increased demand in areas of return and around Musenyi refugee site improved the availability of goods and stimulated local economic activity, demonstrating the broader community-level impact of cash assistance.

Progress in the CBI programme was driven by UNHCR's leadership and strong partnerships. The operation managed programme design, transfer calibration, accountability systems, registration and protection services, and post-distribution monitoring, ensuring harmonized approaches across return, reintegration and refugee responses. Operational and funded partners played essential roles in camp management, protection, community engagement and verification, ensuring safe and well-coordinated distributions, especially during peak arrivals. FINBANK, the Financial Service Provider, ensured secure mobile-money delivery and troubleshooting. Local authorities facilitated access to transit and reception centres, supported registration and enabled outreach to communities. Vibrant local markets and transport cooperatives were equally crucial in translating cash support into tangible improvements in well-being for refugees and returnees.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**By 2027 all persons UNHCR serves in Burundi can meet their shelter and settlement needs in a safe, dignified and sustainable manner, wherever they live, in accordance with international protection standards and principles.**

## Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing</b>			
IDPs	3.21%	30.00%	3.21%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.03%	50.00%	10.03%
Returnees	9.23%	30.00%	9.23%
<b>9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting</b>			
IDPs	69.94%	80.00%	69.94%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	91.04%	100.00%	91.04%
Returnees	74.80%	85.00%	74.80%

## Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16,526
Returnees	600

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR provided shelter assistance to approximately 33,715 forcibly displaced people, including 30,715 refugees and more than 3,000 Burundian returnees.

In the five camps located in the East and North of the country, shelter support focused on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing structures. A total of 227 shelters were rehabilitated or reconstructed, benefiting 1,115 refugees. Following the massive influx of Congolese refugees in February 2025, UNHCR installed 515 transitional shelters, 2,500 family tents, and 113 community hangars, providing shelter for more than 15,000 individuals. The most recent influx from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in December 2025 led to the development of the Busuma site, where 3,107 family tents were installed for nearly 14,600 refugees.

With financial support from KOICA, UNHCR distributed 600 shelter kits, providing urgent, life-saving assistance to more than 3,000 vulnerable returnees. These kits helped families build new houses, repair or rebuild damaged homes, restore privacy and dignity, and stabilize their living conditions upon return. The intervention played a crucial role in strengthening community resilience, particularly for households with heightened protection risks, including female-headed families, and persons with disabilities.

Several community infrastructures were constructed and/or rehabilitated across the camps and return areas. Throughout the year, communal facilities were regularly repaired and maintained. The new Busuma site was developed in 2025 to accommodate newly arrived refugees, and temporary community infrastructures including health centers, distribution centers, and listening centers were established. The main access road to the site was graded to ensure accessibility, supported by funding from the European Union. At the Musenyi site, a Multimedia Center was installed with assistance from UNDP.

UNHCR Burundi relies on two funded partners - Conseil pour l'Éducation et le Développement (COPEDE)

and Tracecogel to carry out construction and infrastructure works across camps and return areas.

Regarding energy for lighting, the camps in the North and East were connected to electricity, except for a few community infrastructures still pending connection. Electrification contributed to a reduction in gender-based violence, a decline in theft, and improved study conditions for children in the camps.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**By 2027, all persons UNHCR serves have full access to healthcare services, mental health, and psychosocial support services**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.00%	80.00%	63.00%
<b>10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services</b>	
Host Community	14,810
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	148,087
Returnees	3,609
<b>10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,342

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR and its health partners ensured that refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and host communities had full access to supported health services across primary, secondary, and tertiary care levels. A total of 169,661 consultations were provided to refugees, representing 110% of the 154,179 consultations planned, along with 15,057 consultations for nationals. Additionally, 2,586 patients were referred to higher-level hospitals out of 3,280 planned, achieving 78.8% of the target due to financial constraints. The management of common illnesses remained effective, resulting in low mortality rates among adults (0.13 per 1,000 per month) and children under five years (0.32 per 1,000 per month).

UNHCR also supported 11,552 individuals with non-communicable diseases, ensuring continued access to essential care. In addition, 5,765 people in need of mental health and psychosocial support received appropriate assistance. Health services also reached 3,609 returnees, surpassing the planned target at 103%.

In the nutrition sector, 1,973 children with acute malnutrition were treated, achieving an 89% recovery rate

with nearly zero mortality. All 2,329 recorded births were attended by skilled health professionals, contributing to a low neonatal mortality rate of 7.3 per 1,000 live births, although two maternal deaths were unfortunately reported.

HIV/AIDS services, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission and antiretroviral therapy, reached 362 individuals, exceeding planned targets. UNHCR also conducted Mpox awareness campaigns targeting health workers, partners, students, staff, and refugees, and initiated the construction of seven isolation centers in five camps and two transit sites.

Following the Congolese influx in December 2025, the operationalization of the Ndava, Gatumba, Makombe, and Rusuma transit centers enabled the provision of 10,733 consultations, facilitated 412 referrals for complicated cases, and supported 110 deliveries.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

**All refugee children and youth have access to ECD, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.65%	7.00%	0.33%
<b>11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.01%	15.00%	15.56%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	29,145
Returnees	38,021

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite persistent gaps in 2025, Burundi made measurable progress in ensuring access to education for refugee children and youth across all levels - early childhood development, primary, secondary, and tertiary.

A major milestone was the inclusion of refugees into the national education system. In 2025, 21,553 refugees benefitted from education programmes supported by UNHCR and partners, while 2,879 refugee learners attended public schools in urban areas. In Musenyi, 4,713 refugees were enrolled in national schools compared to 655 in 2024.

Academic performance remained high, with a 91% primary school pass rate. Of 1,605 candidates, 1,474 passed the national primary examination. At secondary level, 234 of 367 refugee students succeeded, representing a 64% pass rate. However, a regression in tertiary educated was recorded - 0.65% in 2024 to 0.32% in 2025, due to a growing cohort of tertiary-age youth and limited scholarship with only DAFI

Programme being available and supported 73 youths.

UNHCR played a catalytic role through service delivery, advocacy, and system strengthening for more than 29,000 refugee learners. Support included school kits for students and assistance to 389 teachers (253 refugees and 136 Burundians) through training and educational materials. The Operation also engaged the Ministry of Education to simplify diploma equivalency processes and facilitate refugee enrolment, including 37 children with disabilities.

Collaboration with the Ministry enabled progress in policy inclusion, curriculum alignment, recognition of refugee qualifications, and the inclusion of refugees in national schools. Infrastructure improvements included 131 classrooms, one laboratory, four administrative blocks, and 38 latrine blocks constructed in return areas with KOICA and other donor support.

While gaps persist at secondary and tertiary levels, Burundi is progressing to move from a parallel refugee education model to inclusion in the national system, with UNHCR as the primary convenor and technical lead alongside government and development partners.

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**By 2027, all persons UNHCR serves have access to sustainable water, sanitation, and Hygiene services**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.66%	100.00%	97.66%
Returnees	61.25%	75.00%	61.25%
<b>12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet</b>			
IDPs	80.76%	95.00%	80.76%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.67%	100.00%	92.67%
Returnees	77.29%	90.00%	77.29%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71,298

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector activities included the construction of water ramps and laundry basins, water quality testing, and the maintenance of water supply infrastructure. Interventions also covered the construction and rehabilitation of temporary or household latrines, de-sludging of latrine blocks, emptying and maintenance of waste pits, and the implementation of hygiene promotion activities.

The camps of Kavumu, Nyankanda, Kinama, and Musasa each received one durable latrine block comprising six stances. In Bwagiriza, 50 temporary latrines were rehabilitated. At the Musenyi site, 23 latrine shower blocks were constructed, while at the Busuma site, 40 temporary latrine blocks and 30 temporary shower blocks (each with 10 stances) were built.

In 2025, the water supply capacity at the Musenyi site was strengthened through the installation of two water reservoirs (100 m<sup>3</sup> and 50 m<sup>3</sup>) and the development of an additional spring catchment. At the Busuma site, water supply is currently ensured through water trucking.

Awareness sessions were conducted across the camps on the use of water points and water conservation.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

**People we serve, including Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and hosts, enjoy economic rights and have access to livelihood opportunities**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</b>			
IDPs	23.76%	70.00%	23.76%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.71%	60.00%	32.71%
Returnees	20.18%	40.00%	20.18%
<b>13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year</b>			
IDPs	6.93%	30.00%	6.93%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.51%	40.00%	7.51%
Returnees	6.82%	30.00%	6.82%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,395
Returnees	1,243

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR advanced economic inclusion for the people we serve by expanding access to formal finance, strengthening productive assets and skills, and progressively linking participants to national systems. UNHCR's role remained catalytic, improving targeting, accountability and programme quality, and de-risking access to credit. Through the UNHCR–FinBank Guarantee Fund, implemented with World Vision International (WVI), 3,955 applications were received (777 refugees; 3,178 returnees), 770 business plans evaluated, and 31 businesses approved (23 refugee-led; 8 returnee-led), with Burundian Franc (BIF) 718 million allocated for disbursement.

WVI supported 853 people: 420 trained in business plan development, 303 assisted through pig-based

agro-pastoral activities, and 130 through other income-generating activities. WVI distributed 68 pigs to seven cooperatives (303 members), provided 38 sewing machines to five cooperatives, and delivered start-up kits to four soap cooperatives. Additionally, 259 people were trained in Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) methodology and 62 couples (124 people) in gender-responsive financial education. Digital inclusion and employability were strengthened through ICT training for 67 youth, online learning for 23 refugees, and internships for 12.

Towards the end of the year, asset transfers scaled through WVI and Safe Inclusion, reaching over 20 community groups and more than 800 individuals with 961 animals (800 laying hens, 136 goats, 25 pigs), 380 kg of cereal seeds, mushroom seed, organic manure, poultry feed and tools. IFAD's PRODER programme supported 400 returnee entrepreneurs in Makamba and Ruyigi to launch income-generating activities.

Monitoring confirmed positive income pathways: among 51 supported associations, 66.7% reported increased income, 94.1% improved confidence in business management, and 86.3% applied acquired skills. UNHCR strengthened programme integrity through tightened credit due diligence, improved accountability in livelihood kit delivery, and investments in learning and data. A Self-Reliance and Resilience Pilot Study in Kinama and Musasa surveyed 560 households, informing refined targeting and reduced duplication risks.

World Bank programmes provided scale and complementary pathways. MERANKABANDI supported 7,876 refugees (including 4,366 women) and 11,611 host community members, with 23,008 people reached through job-focused interventions. Under PACEJ, 7,558 youth (5,518 women) began apprenticeship training, and 40 refugee youth received entrepreneurship training. PRODECI reached 26,098 refugees among 613,777 beneficiaries, supported 872 microenterprises (38.1% refugee-led; 40.9% women-led), engaged 11,602 households in nutritious food production, and trained 16,952 people in food safety and nutrition. The Human Capital Development Project advanced systems ensuring refugees' access to free healthcare, while PRETE progressed Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) finance structures inclusive of refugee-owned enterprises, though beneficiary numbers were not yet reported.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**Returnees are socially and economically reintegrated into their communities of origin.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
Returnees	89.62%	95.00%	89.62%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR Burundi continued supporting the government to facilitate birth conversion and registration for returnee children. From October 2024 to mid-2025, 95% returnee children were provided with birth certificates in the 4 transit centres. UNHCR provided equipment and training staff for the transit centres. The process of digitization of certificates also began during the first semester of 2025 in the 4 transit centers.

Civil registration agents were trained by Direction Générale du Rapatriement, de la Réintégration et de la Réinsertion (DGRRR) in Nyabitare and Gitara transit sites in July and September 2025 respectively.

The European Union funds this very important project that enhances returnees' access to documentation. The Government of Burundi, through the DGRRR, facilitates the process, including the training of civil registry officers and their deployment to the transit centers.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Refugees at heightened-protection risk benefit from limited opportunities for resettlement and Complementary Pathways by 2027**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,636	4,200	151
<b>15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0	0

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Considered as the only durable solution pursued for refugees in Burundi, resettlement and complementary pathways continued to be a key priority within the strategic protection framework. Congolese refugees, majority of whom originate from the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) living in protracted situations, remained a target group for resettlement consideration in 2025.

However, opportunities for resettlement dwindled though advocacy, and innovative pathways remained essential to ensure that refugees with the greatest protection needs could access safe and sustainable solutions. Considering reduced quotas by resettlement states, significant progress was made to improve mechanisms for the identification, referral, and processing of individuals with heightened protection needs

particularly with the use of proGres v4.

UNHCR's resettlement efforts were significantly supported by funding from Canada following suspension of resettlement programme by the USA, the major traditional resettlement country. A total of 151 submissions for resettlement were made with an allocated quota of 100 to Canada and unallocated quota to France, New Zealand and Australia.

Although this record demonstrated a successful achievement in meeting the target for the year 2025, this was interpreted as the lowest submission achieved compared to the 4,636 submissions made in 2024 and 5,857 individuals submitted in 2023. This was also in contrast to the Operation's projected global resettlement needs of 19,300 refugees for 2025.

Following a drastic reduction of resettlement quotas, complementary pathways become a more significant avenue for international protection, helping expand options beyond traditional resettlement. Education pathways steadily increased partnerships with universities and scholarship programmes with prospects to enable more refugee students' access higher education abroad.

Furthermore, efforts to improve protection safeguards and accountability were made through feedback and response mechanisms that became more accessible, allowing refugees to report concerns safely. UNHCR Burundi will continue investing in capacity building, advocacy, and innovative pathways will be essential to ensure that refugees with the greatest protection needs can access safe and sustainable solutions.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**Refugees are socially and economically integrated into host communities and stateless persons are supported to acquire Burundian citizenship**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.37%	30.00%	2.37%
Returnees	16.33%	30.00%	16.33%
<b>16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.93%	30.00%	1.93%
Returnees	22.10%	30.00%	22.10%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people</b>	
IDPs	Limited
Others of Concern	Limited
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Limited
Returnees	Limited
Stateless Persons	Limited
<b>16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures</b>	

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0
Stateless Persons	0

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The socio-economic integration of refugees in Burundi is a major humanitarian, economic and political issue. It aims to enable refugees to become self-reliant, participate in economic life, and coexist peacefully with host communities.

UNHCR, through its partner World Vision International Burundi, has provided vocational training to refugees and income-generating activities to reduce dependence on humanitarian aid (which is deteriorating overnight) and consequently promote their self-reliance.

Handicraft activities such as embroidery and soap making, agricultural projects, livestock farming, and small trade were carried out in 2025 either in the form of a cooperative or individually. This year saw the birth of six refugee cooperatives, including 3 from the camps (agriculture, food shop and carpentry) and 3 from urban refugees (sewing and soap making), which is a success because until 2024, no refugee cooperative without a host population was accepted. At the same time, 7 other mixed cooperatives (refugees and host population) have been created and work in the fields of agriculture, livestock and soap making. This not only allows the refugees to earn an honest living but also strengthens social cohesion between the two population groups.

In the same year, the Merankabandi programme provided refugees in the camps with cash transfers and entrepreneurship support with a positive impact on the living conditions of the refugees, the majority of whom were able to engage in small income-generating economic activities such as petty trade, livestock rearing, etc.

For refugees living in urban areas, the majority try to integrate economically through trade, especially small-scale food trade, while few apply for travel documents to obtain supplies from countries such as Uganda and Tanzania.

Despite the initiatives made, the socio-economic integration of refugees remains a complex process due to multidimensional challenges.

### Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	840
Returnees	477

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

The Operation made notable progress in strengthening community participation and women's empowerment, advancing Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) implementation across protection, assistance and solutions. A large-scale protection monitoring exercise was conducted in all six camps, Musenyi site and among urban refugees. Of the 4,909 households targeted, 78% of respondents were women, and

results showed continued gains in women's leadership, with 54% of refugee women participating in community structures.

The operation held multiple focus group discussions and delivered direct assistance to 3,502 persons with specific needs, 2,209 women, 831 men, 223 boys and 239 girls—making women 63% of those assisted. Quarterly protection committee meetings for people with specific needs (PSNs) strengthened representation of women, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly and minority groups in decision-making. Women's engagement in livelihoods increased, with 30% female participation and three refugee-led organizations (RLOs) headed by women, contributing to improved self-reliance and reduced gender disparities.

Accountability to affected populations was reinforced through transparent communication via meetings, posters, brochures, community volunteers and monitors. Multiple feedback channels—including hotlines, suggestion boxes, email and protection desks—supported safe two-way communication, with feedback used to adjust programming. Women provided 69% of all feedback, men 23% and youth/PSNs 12%.

Despite these gains, a fluctuating displacement environment driven by the Congolese refugee crisis and accelerated returns from Tanzania created dynamic and diverse AGD needs. Sectoral funding gaps across all sectors also limit the reach of AGD-sensitive services.

Nonetheless, strengthened data systems, inclusive planning and participatory mechanisms enabled meaningful advancements for women, men, girls, boys, the elderly and people with disabilities, ensuring that forcibly displaced and stateless people increasingly access their rights and participate in decisions affecting their lives.

## Section 3: Resources

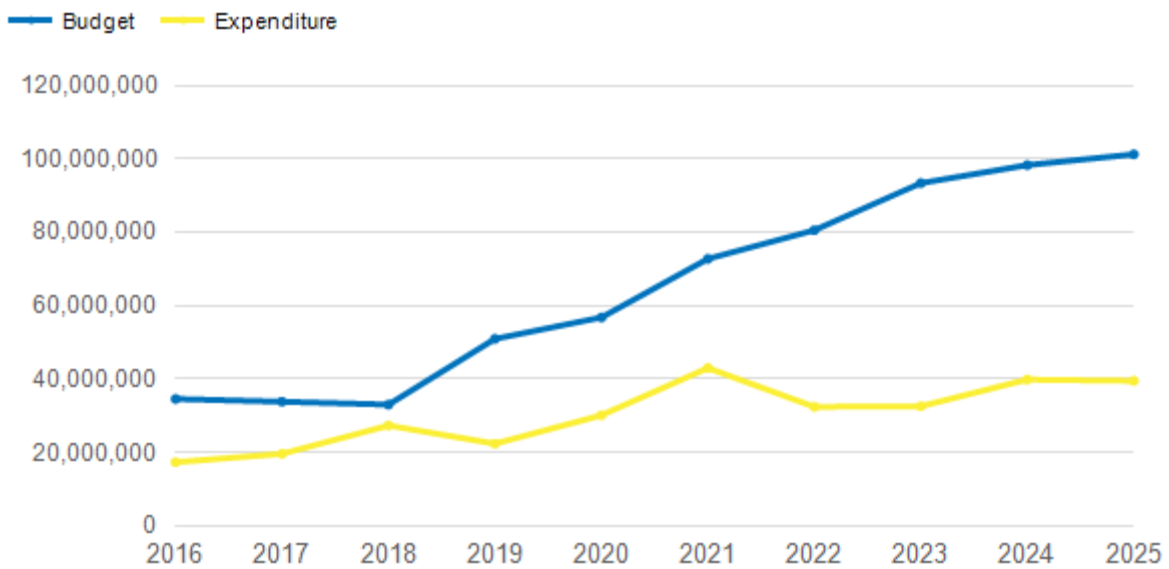
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

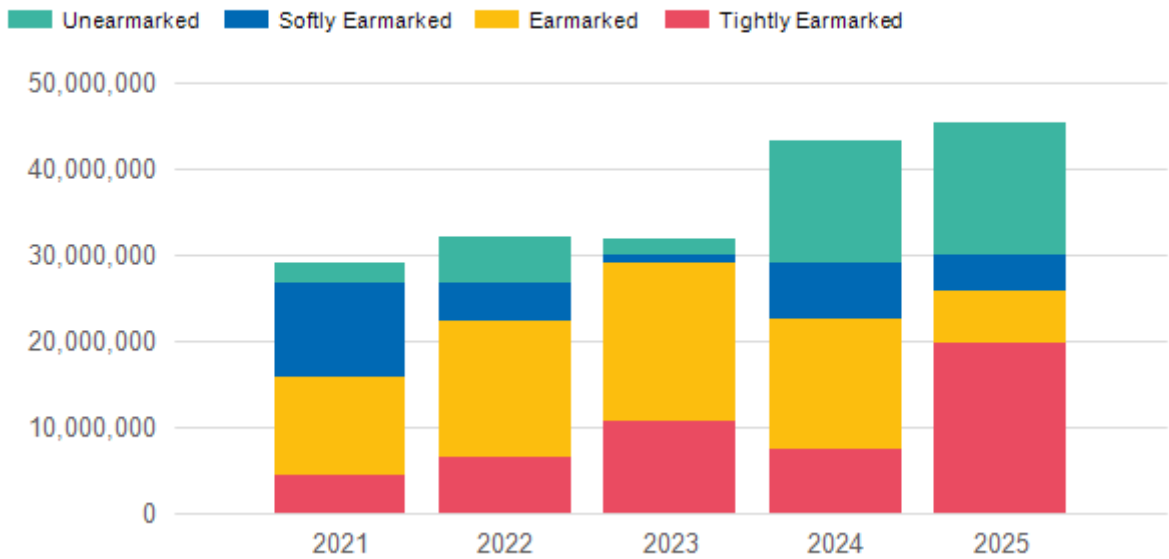
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	9,855,501	3,839,364	38.96%	3,338,210	86.95%
IA2: Respond	50,697,455	32,657,495	64.42%	28,809,805	88.22%
IA3: Empower	20,262,002	3,524,879	17.40%	3,099,211	87.92%
IA4: Solve	20,381,572	4,255,756	20.88%	4,255,756	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,196,530</b>	<b>44,277,494</b>	<b>43.75%</b>	<b>39,502,981</b>	<b>89.22%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	3,218,176	1,633,149	50.75%	1,208,469	74.00%
OA2: Status	1,048,824	974,344	92.90%	974,344	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	1,829,500	353,274	19.31%	276,800	78.35%
OA4: GBV	2,497,519	581,138	23.27%	581,138	100.00%
OA5: Children	1,261,482	297,459	23.58%	297,459	100.00%
OA7: Community	1,766,768	599,787	33.95%	230,905	38.50%
OA8: Wellbeing	11,738,821	4,523,294	38.53%	4,523,294	100.00%
OA9: Housing	12,660,553	7,117,833	56.22%	4,158,544	58.42%
OA10: Health	11,735,432	1,976,773	16.84%	1,976,773	100.00%
OA11: Education	8,962,735	833,611	9.30%	776,826	93.19%
OA12: WASH	8,758,699	1,207,748	13.79%	610,835	50.58%
OA13: Livelihood	9,532,499	2,091,480	21.94%	2,091,480	100.00%
OA14: Return	18,288,647	3,833,539	20.96%	3,833,539	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	1,277,357	224,309	17.56%	224,309	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	815,568	197,908	24.27%	197,908	100.00%
EA18: Support	5,803,951	17,831,847	307.24%	17,540,359	98.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,196,530</b>	<b>44,277,494</b>	<b>43.75%</b>	<b>39,502,981</b>	<b>89.22%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

In 2025, UNHCR Burundi operated under severe underfunding, mobilizing only USD 29.6 million (29%) of its USD 101.2 million requirements. The resulting USD 71.9 million gap sharply limited protection, basic assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for refugees, returnees, and internally displaced people (IDPs).

Critical sectors received less than 10% of required funding—WASH (6%), education (4%), livelihoods (9%), housing (7%), community engagement (5%), resettlement (1%), undermining resilience and conditions for safe returns. Reintegration is the most affected, funded at only 4%, leaving a \$56.3 million gap that

jeopardizes sustainable returns and heightens risks of secondary displacement.

By donor category, UNHCR mobilized USD 29.6 million, largely from governments (USD 17M) and inter-governmental partners (USD 6.9M). Of this, \$ 1.1 million are 2024 acknowledgements but contributing to the 2025 operation. The earmarking profile remained highly constrained. Approximately US\$21.2 million (69%) of funding is tightly earmarked; US\$6.3 million (21%) is earmarked, and only US\$3.1 million (10%) is softly earmarked. As a result, nearly 90 per cent of resources available to the Burundi operation were subject to some form of earmarking, leaving only one dollar in ten with limited flexibility. Burundi's chronic underfunding and high earmarking levels require a shift towards multi-year, softly earmarked funding from core donors, alongside diversification to new public and private partners.

In 2025, nearly half of Implementing Partner funding is channelled to national partners (49%), followed by international partners (43%), with government institutions receiving the remaining 8%, reflecting a strong emphasis on localization alongside continued support to international and state actors.

Funding coverage varies sharply across pillars: the IDP response was only 11% funded while the refugee response and reintegration program were 36% and 4% funded, respectively.

Budget execution shows strong prioritization of essential assistance: IA2 absorbs 75% and is over-implemented (114%), while IA1 (Protect) is under-implemented (72%). IA3 (Empower) and IA4 (Solve) exceed 120–180% due to increased demand and in-year funding. Following the two refugee influxes in 2025, interventions were prioritized by severity of needs and risk, focusing on high-risk areas and cost-effective, resilience-building actions with integrated protection, gender, and inclusion.

Overall, the 71% funding gap disproportionately affected operations, forcing strict prioritization in WASH, shelter, education, livelihoods, and basic needs, and placing refugee assistance, reintegration, and IDP support at critical risk.

Staffing and related support costs are already at a minimum, leaving very limited space for further reductions. The main operational risk is the ability to sustain an effective field presence without adequate resources to deliver meaningful programme results. Future resource mobilization efforts should therefore emphasize the tangible consequences of operations underfunding and advocate for more flexible contributions to safeguard programme delivery and operational continuity.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2025, UNHCR Burundi operated in a complex environment marked mainly by renewed refugee influxes from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The arrivals in February and the larger influx in December highlighted the need for operational agility and preparedness to respond to sudden displacement while sustaining support for durable solutions for returnees.

The SMR session held on 16 March 2026, which brought together UNHCR, implementing and operational partners, and donors, highlighted the critical importance of maintaining flexible planning frameworks and scalable response mechanisms. During 2025, the operation was required to rapidly adjust priorities and reallocate resources to respond to the urgent protection and basic needs of newly arrived refugees—predominantly women and children—while simultaneously sustaining reintegration support for returnees.

This experience reinforced the value of robust contingency planning, pre-established coordination mechanisms, and strong collaboration with national authorities and partners, which enabled the operation to respond effectively to evolving needs without compromising ongoing programmes.

The response also underscored the importance of strong partnerships. Close collaboration with government counterparts, UN agencies, NGOs, and donors enabled a more coordinated emergency response despite funding constraints and logistical challenges. Community-based protection approaches, and regular monitoring further helped identify evolving risks and ensure that assistance remained responsive to the needs of refugees, returnees, and host communities.

Overall, while Burundi maintained its open-policy despite the influxes placing significant pressure on reception capacity and essential services, 2025 reaffirmed that preparedness, operational flexibility, and strong coordination with national systems are essential to effectively manage displacement and ensure protection and assistance in a resource-constrained environment.



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