

BURUNDIAN **REFUGEE** RETURNS



JOINT RESPONSE PLAN

SEPT 2017 - DEC 2018

BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

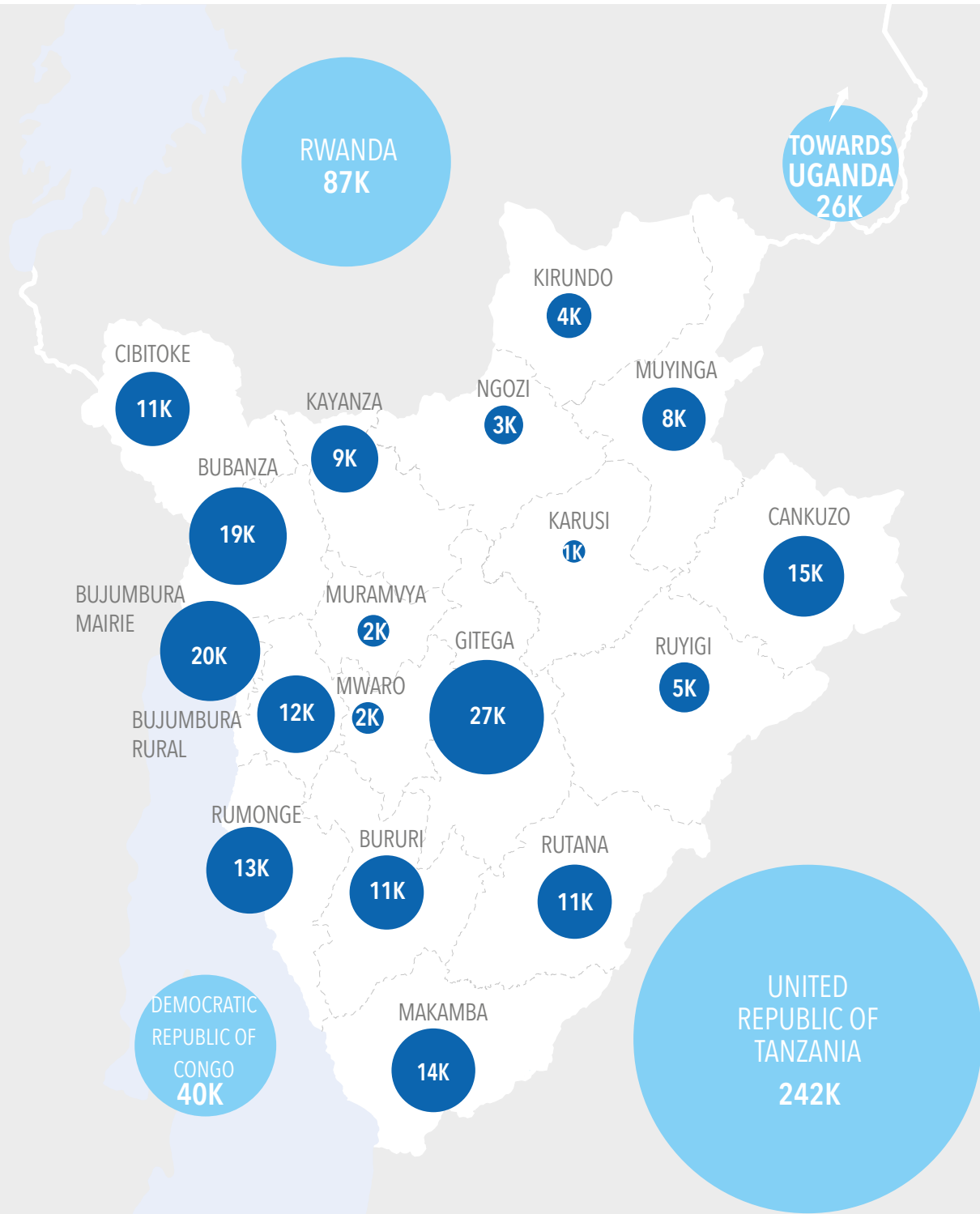
410K

IDPS

188K

POPULATION OF BURUNDI

11,6M



● # OF IDPS ● # OF REFUGEES

Number of IDPs and refugees are verified by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and UNHCR respectively. The DTM is coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

CONTEXT

The sociopolitical and economic situation stemming from the political crisis in 2015 in Burundi continues to impact the lives of the most vulnerable, leading to an increase of humanitarian needs as well as ongoing external and internal displacement.

To date, over 410,000 Burundians have fled to neighboring countries. Tanzania hosts more than half of the Burundian refugees in the region, while the rest are mainly in Rwanda, DRC and Uganda. Following Tanzania's revocation of the *prima facie* policy in January 2017, the number of asylum seekers who have been able to cross the border has reduced considerably.

The Government of Burundi has encouraged the return of all Burundian refugees. On 31 August 2017 in Dar es Salaam, the Governments of Tanzania, Burundi and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees held a Tripartite Commission meeting and agreed to work together to assist the voluntary repatriation of over 12,900 refugees who had by then registered their desire to return.

A first phase started on 7 September and ended on 31 October 2017, through which 6,888 refugees were assisted to return in an organized manner. For the second phase, from 1 November to 31 December 2017, another estimated 6,032 refugees will be assisted. For 2018 inter-agency partners are planning for an estimated 60,000 returns, mainly from Tanzania with the possibility of smaller numbers of returns from other asylum countries.

It should be noted that although the UN has acknowledged some positive developments in Burundi in recent months, UNHCR is not yet at the stage of promoting returns pending conclusion of the ongoing political dialogue process. At the same time, UNHCR is ready to assist those refugees who expresses the desire to return to Burundi, as long as the decision is voluntary and based on a free and informed choice.

In the current socio-economic and political situation, it is critical to work jointly to support a sustainable integration of those refugees who have chosen to return. The UN system, NGOs and other partners will work together and in cooperation with the Government of Burundi to ensure that refugees return voluntarily, in safety and dignity, and that they enjoy the same rights as other citizens. Partners will support the reintegration process for those refugees who are assisted to return, as well those who have already or may opt to return on their own.

Conditions for Return

Refugee returns are taking place against a backdrop of very challenging conditions in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world, with some of the most acute and chronic needs and where currently more than 3 million Burundians are in need of humanitarian assistance: one out of four Burundians is expected to be at emergency levels of food insecurity by the end of the year; malaria affects most of the country with 6.2 million cases in a country of 11.6 million people, and which has caused 2,700 deaths thus far; one out of four Burundians has no or limited access to water; the delivery of basic services like health and education are under risk due to severe reductions in the state budget and protection concerns including the safety of minors and gender-based violence have increased in a context of socio-economic decline. The majority of the emergency affected population are children (39%), while 32% are women. Women endure extreme hardships, such as increased violence and insecurity (including "survival sex"), restricted mobility and additional domestic and livelihoods responsibilities. In addition, the trauma on women and girls represents a serious concern and a social destabilization risk.

At the same time, Burundi continues to register high levels of displacement: the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) recorded in the country amounts to nearly 190,000. Some 35 per cent of these IDPs have been displaced for social and political reasons, while 65 per cent were forced out of their homes due to natural hazards or socio-economic reasons. Almost two out of three have noted severe food insecurity as a reason for leaving their homes.

Refugee returns and further displacement will put additional pressure on already extremely vulnerable and fragile communities. Resentment of the assistance received by returnees could increase social tensions, conflict and protection risks. For these reasons, it is essential that the resilience of the host communities and IDP populations is reinforced in order to support the sustainable integration of the returnees. This includes access to the most essential services for all at community level. Failure to do so could lead to an increase in conflict, protection risks, epidemics, further internal or external displacement and a new spike in urgent humanitarian needs. Particular attention must be given to the protection challenges faced by returning and other emergency affected women and girls.

Further to the current return of refugees and in order to ensure sustainable reintegration, UN agencies and NGOs in collaboration with the national authorities will carry out participatory needs assessments in communities of return. This will allow partners to identify short to mid-term needs. A multi-sectoral and gender-response plan based on these participatory assessments will respond to identified risks and support the prevention of potential conflicts. Returnee protection monitoring will be undertaken so as to identify potential risks and needs for immediate response and that will feed into the design of longer term social cohesion and conflict prevention activities at the community level. Protection monitoring at borders will also be enhanced.

OBJECTIVES

Through this plan, the humanitarian and development community, in collaboration with the Burundian authorities, will work to meet the following needs with priority attention given to women, children, young and marginalized people:

- Ensuring a dignified and efficient reception of **returnees** including registration, profiling, support at the border and the transit centers, transport, as well as the provision of immediate assistance for the most vulnerable.
- Creating a **safe environment and ensuring access to essential services** including food, safe and adequate shelter, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education, and **protection** as well as critical infrastructure and income generating and self-reliance opportunities. This includes supporting service provision in the communities of return.
- Ensuring **durable solutions** for displacement-affected populations, including IDPs, in the areas of return.
- Supporting and reinforcing existing social capital assets that can facilitate mediation and **conflict resolution** efforts for the peaceful coexistence of communities.

PRINCIPLES

The UN and humanitarian community will ensure the assistance provided respects the following principles:

Voluntary return

The decision by refugees to return to Burundi is voluntary, based on a free and informed choice, returns need to take place in safety and dignity and returnees should enjoy the same rights as other citizens.

“Do no harm”, prevention and humanitarian principles

“Do no harm” and prevention or minimization of suffering remain underlying principles for humanitarian action. In the case of Burundi, and in line with the UN Secretary-General’s Human Rights Up Front initiative, prevention includes protection, strengthening social cohesion and human rights monitoring targeting both returnees and host communities, providing early warning of large scale population movements across the country as well as heightened communal tensions, bringing any violation of human rights to the attention of authorities and

seeking redress. Minimizing suffering entails all UN agencies working

together to address the basic needs of Burundians while taking into account the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Furthermore, UN agencies will seek to address the identified vulnerabilities, comprising but not limited to, human security, violence including sexual and gender based violence, political instability, as well as conflict related to property and land issues.

Targeting the most vulnerable groups

Including children of school-going age, victims and survivors of sexual and gender based violence, pregnant women, the elderly, and chronically sick, who will require specific assistance and protection. Access to education, health services and social services will be prioritized, including through construction and rehabilitation of related infrastructure.

AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE

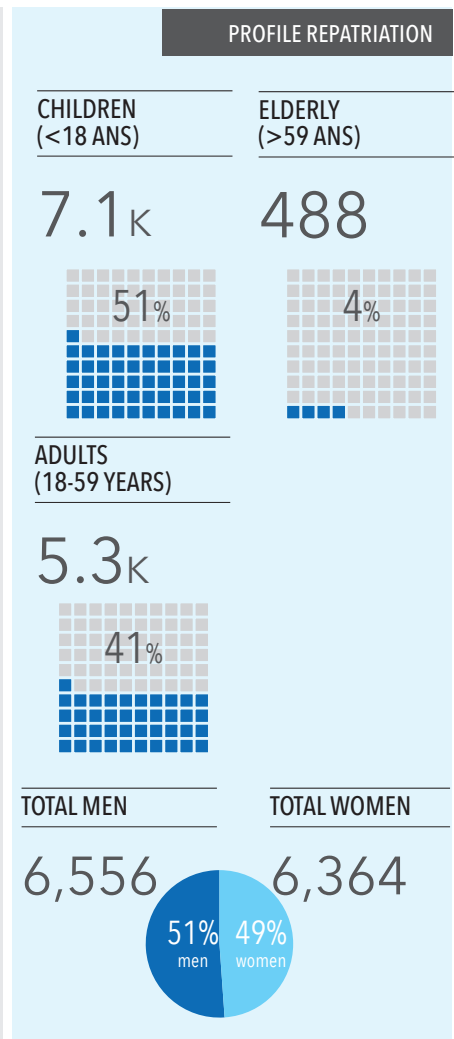
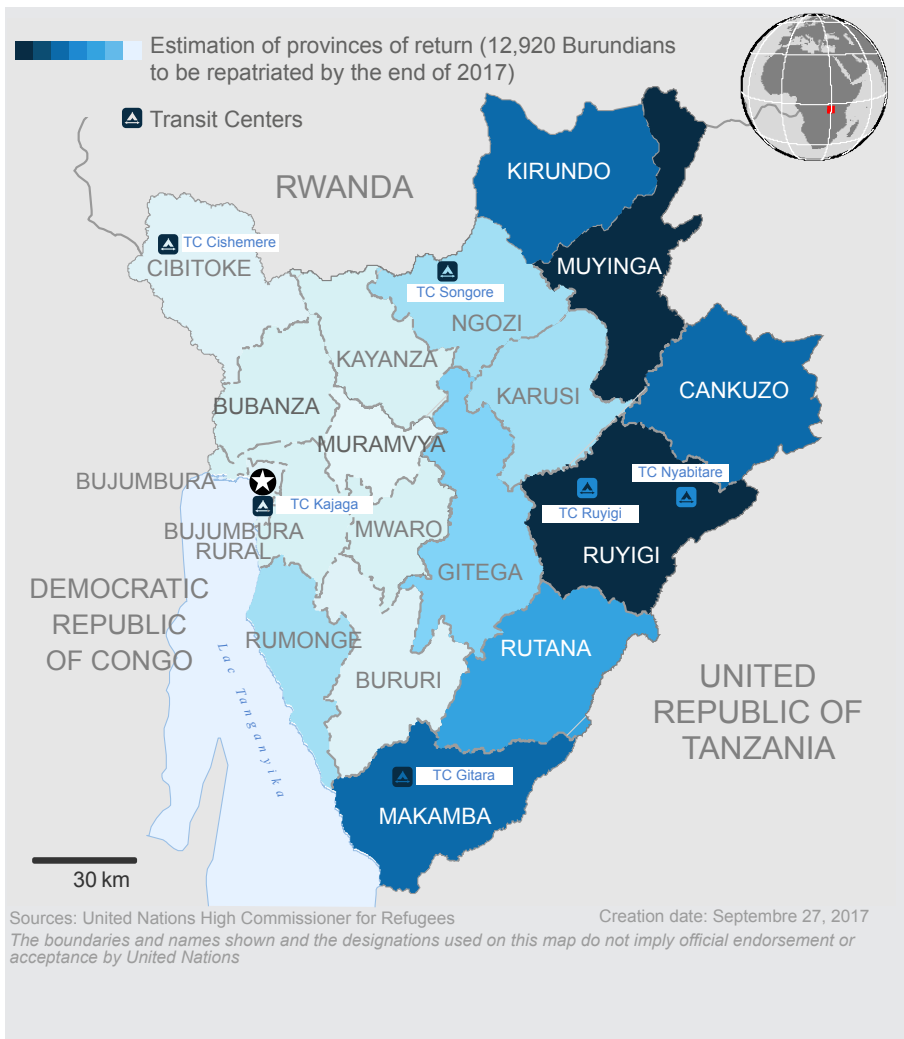
Linking Humanitarian, Development and Prevention

The present plan ensures an integrated view, planning and response by the UN and the Humanitarian Country Team to the overall needs triggered by the return movements.

The plan aims at responding to the most urgent humanitarian needs, preventing further conflicts, risks and needs and looking into solutions which are durable, despite the difficult context.

The needs identified and included in this Response Plan will be added to the 2017 overall Humanitarian Response Plan and those for 2018 will be reflected in the HRP which is being prepared for 2018. The reintegration needs will be included into the Resilience/Prevention framework planned for Burundi 2018 and will be reflected in the 2017-2018 Joint UNDAF Workplan.

	2017	2018
Estimated number of assisted repatriations	13,000	60,000
Estimated number of self-organized returnees		30,000
Host communities and IDPs		200,000
People targeted		303,000



ESTIMATED	2017	USD	2018	USD
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS		4.1M		16M

ESTIMATED	2017 - 2018	USD
REINTEGRATION NEEDS		15.4M

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

TRANSPORTATION and LOGISTICS

BUDGET	USD
	3,228,346

Beneficiaries: 73,000

Objective: ensuring a safe return of refugees from the border to their final destination in Burundi, assisting with reception, transit and onward transportation in a dignified, humane and protected manner.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Partner	2017	2018	Amount (USD)
1.1. Escort including orientation	UNHCR and IOM	60,000	100,000	160,000
1.2. Ensure secondary transportation of persons and goods for all returnees from the transit centers to their respective areas	IOM, UNHCR and IRC	350,000 UNHCR and IRC	2,648,346 IOM	2,998,346
1.3. Transportation coordination and management	IOM	0	70,000	70,000
Total		410,000	2,818,346	3,228,346

06

PROTECTION MONITORING

BUDGET	USD
	2,400,000

Beneficiaries: 103,000

Indirect beneficiaries (all population in border provinces¹): 3,700,000

1. Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana, Ruyigi

Objective: as agreed at the Tripartite meeting, monitoring the developments and conditions along the border as well and a close follow up of the return is essential so as to ensure that the return takes place in a safe and dignified manner as well as to assess the protection situation in the areas of return, in order to identify and reduce protection risks at the border and return areas, prepare a fully sustainable reintegration process and to ensure returnees' access to durable solutions. This will include the strengthening of the capacity of local authorities and actors as well as follow up of the situation of returnees in the host communities, as well as the monitoring of compliance with international norms and standards.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Partner	2017	2018	Amount (USD)
2.1. Monitor the situation of returnees through a network of monitors	UNHCR	250,000	1,000,000	1,250,000
2.2. Post distribution monitoring at community level/screening and referral at community level	WFP	150,000	0	150,000
2.3 Monitoring and support of protection actors along the border (part of the reintegration process)	UNHCR	200,000	800,000	1,000,000
Total		600,000	1,800,000	2,400,000

TRANSIT CENTERS

BUDGET	USD
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2,907,000

Beneficiaries: 73,000

Objective: receive nearly 73,000 returnees in a dignified and safe manner, undertaking biometric registration, profiling, as well as the provision of immediate assistance in terms of protection, including for children, people with disabilities and survivors of GBV, health screening and assistance, including reproductive health, and food support for the most vulnerable. Five transit centres (Gitara, Nyabitare, Ruyigi, Songore and Kjaganitoring) will be upgraded, rehabilitated or reconstructed in compliance with international norms and standards to host the planned amount of returns as well as future arrivals.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Partner	2017	2018	Amount (USD)
3.1. Rehabilitation of 5 transit centers	UNHCR	590,000	300,000	890,000
3.2. Medical screening for each returnee	UNHCR, GVC	35,000	100,000	135,000
3.4. Provision of hot meals	UNHCR	60,000	140,000	200,000
3.5. Special assistance for PoC with specific needs provided	UNHCR	45,000	200,000	245,000
3.6. Logistic and Supply for the facilitation of the repatriation programme	UNHCR and partners	150,000	350,000	500,000
3.7. General management of the repatriation programme (i.e. data verification...) coordination and communication	UNHCR	212,000	350,000	562,000
3.8. Integrated package for children in transit centers (child protection, WASH)	UNICEF and NGOs	100,000	250,000	350,000
3.9. Contribute to addressing the immediate needs of GBV survivors and reproductive health of women during the repatriation process	UNFPA/CRB/CDFC/IRC	0	25,000	25,000
Total		1,192,000	1,715,000	2,907,000

RETURN KITS

BUDGET USD
11,238,250

Beneficiaries: 73,000

Objective: *in order to facilitate their return, targeted families will be provided with a return package composed of a cash grant (40USD per adult and 20USD per minor), NFIs and a 3-month food ration. In addition, households in need for temporary shelter support will be assisted with a shelter kit. Women, girls and babies' needs will be supported through dignity kits and other key items.*

CORE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Partner	2017	2018	Amount (USD)
4.1. Food support for 3 months	WFP	500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000
4.2. Cash	UNHCR	720,000	2,690,000	3,410,000
4.3. Targeted NFI and shelter kits	IOM	88,750	2,337,500	2,426,250
4.4. NFIs	UNHCR	493,000	1,900,000	2,393,000
4.5. Dignity Kits (babies, pregnant women and girls)	IRC/UNHCR/UNFPA	100,000	409,000	509,000
Total		1,901,750	9,336,500	11,238,250

08

BORDER MANAGEMENT

BUDGET USD
370,000

Beneficiaries: 103,000

Objective: *this component aims to improve border management by helping the Government of Burundi to strengthen the administrative structures, operational systems, and human resources necessary to respond effectively and sensitively to these returnees.*

CORE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Partner	2017	2018	Amount (USD)
5.1. Training on border registration system	IOM	0	60,000	60,000
5.2. Training on countering trafficking and working with vulnerable populations	IOM	0	30,000	30,000
5.3 Installation of additional equipment and materials	IOM	0	80,000	80,000
5.4 Establishment of mobile immigration unit	IOM	0	80,000	80,000
5.5 Border management coordination	IOM	0	120,000	120,000
Total			370,000	370,000



REINTEGRATION

PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

BUDGET	USD
	15,402,688

Beneficiaries: 303,000

Objective: The reintegration phase will ensure that returnees' living standards are not below the host communities due to the losses they have experienced in displacement to and from Tanzania. Both returnees and members of the host communities including IDPs with a specific attention to women, children, young and marginalized people will have increased access to essential social services and livelihood and employment opportunities.

In addition, the reintegration phase will aim to strengthen the resilience of both returnees and host communities based on the national reintegration strategy based on durable solutions, and will prevent potential community violence and conflicts that displacement, return, and reintegration could trigger in an already weakened socio economic environment. Community members will also be engaged in peaceful ways to resolve conflicts and grievances, and became key actors of peace and development in these communities.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Partner	Amount (USD)
9.1. Health		1,026,688
Coordination	WHO	25,000
Surveillance, alert and response to diseases	WHO	20,000
TC Health Services	WHO	5,000
Support 15 health centers and services	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, AHA, PNSR	500,000
Health Social Mobilization on communicable diseases	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA	50,000
Strengthening Capacity and monitoring	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA	426,688
9.2. Nutrition		1,291,000
Ensure in areas of return adequate case management of SAM and deworming	UNICEF, PRONIANUT, HEALTH CENTERS	591,000
Blanket feeding and supplementary feeding programme in targeted areas of return	WFP, WVI, BPS, CONCERN, GVS, CRS	700,000
9.3. Food security		500,000
Provision of kits of inputs for agriculture activities	FAO	500,000
9.4. Education		2,090,000
Support learning opportunities for out of school children (returnees, IDPs and host communities)	UNICEF	350,000
Support school feeding programmes in targeted areas of return	WFP, BPE, CARITAS	1,740,400
9.5. Support to spontaneous returnees		3,000,000
Return kits (NFIs, Dignity Kits, Cash)	UNHCR	3,000,000
9.6. Protection (child protection and GBV)		400,000
Provide children with adequate child protection services (PSS, CFS, GBV and reintegration)	UNICEF, UNHCR, IRC, PI	250,000
Training on PSS and GBS for CFDC members, and grassroots community org and CSO	UNFPA	150,000
9.7. WASH		500,000
Support affected population in host communities with provision of potable water, NFI and hygiene promotion	UNICEF, BRC	500,000
9.8. Community resilience, Livelihoods, social cohesion and mobilization		6,595,000
Reintegration/ needs assessment mission in return zones/livelihood	Ministry of Interior, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR, UNWOMEN	500,000
Community dialogue, peace and social cohesion	Ministry of Interior, Youth Ministry, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, UNDP	800,000
Support women cohesion spaces /multipurpose centers	UNWOMEN	750,000
Legal support	UNDP	450,000
Support reintegration and coordination mechanism at national and local level	UNDP, IOM	95,000
Quick impact activities through cash for work and income generating activities; professional training; work small entrepreneurship	FAO, UNDP, IOM, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNHCR	4,000,000
Total		15,402,688

