

BUILDING PEACE ACROSS BORDERS

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE GREAT LAKES CROSS-BORDER MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND



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The peacebuilding challenges facing the Great Lakes region are regional and require a comprehensive, concerted and coordinated approach across state boundaries.

Burundi is one of the five poorest countries in the world. Nearly 64.9% of the population lives below the poverty line. Most of the country's poor are small-scale farmers. Burundi's economy is heavily reliant on agriculture which employs 90% of the population, though cultivable land is extremely scarce.

The recent political crisis stemming from the 2015 presidential and legislative elections resulted in massive displacements and undermined its fragile economy. Over 400,000 Burundians (or 4.8% of the population) have fled the country in the last two years. According to the June 2017 Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report, an estimated 214,895 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) live across Burundi. 54% are women and girls, among them 28% are 6 -17 years old and 33% are 18-39 years old.

Of those who have left Burundi, 56.1% have relocated to Tanzania. As of 31 July 2017, Tanzania is hosting 351,400 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in 3 camps in Northwest Tanzania: Nyarugusu, Nduta, and Mtendeli.

The overcrowded conditions in all three camps hamper humanitarian efforts to provide basic and dignified living conditions and result in a variety of health and protection risks, Water provision in all three camps is below minimum standards.

The project "Preventing conflict and building peace through addressing the drivers of conflict and instability associated with forced displacement between Burundi and Tanzania" financed by the Peacebuilding Fund aims to promote concrete cross-border, human rights-based and multi-agency approaches to peacebuilding in line with Pillar 3 (Mobility) and Pillar 6 (Justice and Conflict Prevention) of the UN Great Lake Regional Strategic Framework adopted by the UN Security Council.

The project is based on a three-pronged strategy:

1. Strengthen cross-border protection monitoring: The rights of stranded, vulnerable migrants, displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers need to be better protected by immigration officials and other relevant authorities. IOM will ensure that the Humanitarian Border Management mechanisms on both sides of the border have the relevant technical and institutional capacities to ensure protection-sensitive

Total budget: \$1.999.981

Implementing agencies: UNDP, UNHCR and IOM in Burundi and Tanzania.

Implementing partners in Tanzania: Danish Refugee Council, Good Neighbours Tanzania and Women's Legal Aid Centre.

Implementing partners in Burundi: World Vision International, Cordaid, COPED, Réseau Burundi, the Burundian Red Cross.

Duration: 12 months, starting on 1 January 2018.



The Six Pillars of the UN GLRSF

1. Sustainable land and natural resources management
2. Economic integration, cross-border trade, food and nutrition security
3. Mobility
4. Youth and adolescents
5. Gender and sexual and gender-based violence
6. Justice and conflict prevention

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border management. At the same time, UNHCR, in collaboration with its national partners, will ensure efficient protection, as well as protection monitoring on both sides of the border.

2. Increase resilience:

While the situation in Burundi continues to raise protection and human rights concerns, voluntary returns spontaneously happen. There is a need to anticipate and prepare for the reintegration process. The main goal here will be to help strengthen the resilience of both displaced and host communities in Burundi.

With UNDP working in the Makamba province and IOM working in Ruyigi, displaced persons and members of host communities, especially women and young people, will have increased access to livelihoods opportunities and employment. Jobs will be created through cash for work initiatives, benefiting the most vulnerable members of the communities. Other income generating activities will be created through the support of community-based professional associations, small local craft industry and through the creation of local cooperatives for producers.

3. Improve conflict and grievances management

In an already tense sociopolitical context, the return process may aggravate existing tensions. Violence may escalate again in a country where the rule of law and

the judicial system are considerably weakened. This project includes activities aimed at better equipping local communities to prevent conflict and enhance social cohesion at the local level. Both Tanzanian communities surrounding refugee camps and potential communities of return in Burundi are targeted. The activities include access to trusted and efficient legal assistance and alternative resolutions of conflicts to settle displacement-related issues and disputes in a peaceful way.

In light of the current protection situation in the country, the project does not intend to promote voluntary repatriation. There are, however, a number of refugees who already wish to go back home. This project, implemented by UNHCR, UNDP and IOM, will allow these agencies to thoroughly prepare their response in anticipation as well as provide the foundation for the formulation of future scaled-up returnee response interventions.

About the Great Lakes Cross-Border MPTF

The Great Lakes Cross-Border Multi-Partner Trust Fund is the financial vehicle to support the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework in addressing some of the key conflict drivers in the region. The Framework stipulates that throughout the past decades, political and security developments in the African Great Lakes region, such as the continued activities of illegal armed groups as well as electoral crises, have provided significant challenges to civilians, communities, and governments.

PBF is the first contributor to this newly created regional Great Lakes Cross-Border Multi-Partner Trust fund. This timely, risk-tolerant and catalytic contribution, strengthens existing mechanisms applied in a cross-border context, is in line with PBF's mandate and strategic priorities for the 2017-2019 cycle.

ABOUT THE PBF

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. The PBF has allocated \$652 million from 2006 – 2016 to 35 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the Fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Business Plan. The PBF works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities; and catalyse processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.