



From
the People of Japan

Joint Press Release



The Government of Japan grants \$1.5 Million to UNHCR Burundi in support of urgently needed assistance to Burundian refugees returning in an organized manner in safety and dignity

Bujumbura - The Government of Japan announced the contribution of \$1.5 million conferred to the Representation of UNHCR in Burundi. The grant will be used for UNHCR Burundi to continue providing assistance to Burundian refugees wishing to return to Burundi and help them doing so in safety and dignity.

“We are extremely grateful to the Government and the people of Japan for this funding which is of utmost importance to our Burundian refugees’ return operation”, said Ms. Gogo Hukportie, UNHCR Representative in Burundi.

The project aims not only at ensuring Burundian returnees’ transportation from camps to their communes of origin, but also at improving returnees’ overall health. It will be used to provide the returnees with core relief items and a cash allowance, as well as for maintaining an effective and efficient protection monitoring network in the areas of return. Furthermore, it will be used to enhance registration, documentation and data management.

Mr. Miyashita, Ambassador of Japan said, “the Government of Japan has been committed to promote social stability and peace in the region, Burundian refugees’ return in safety and dignity is critical for this goal, therefore we thank UNHCR and its partners for implementing this important project”.

Burundian refugees in Tanzania began returning in an organised manner in September 2017, as decided at the 19th Session of the Tripartite Commission held in Dar es Salaam on 31 August 2017. As such, over 26,000 Burundian refugees have since been assisted by UNHCR to return home.

“Assisting the returnees in addressing their immediate needs as well as making their repatriation fully sustainable by orientating it towards a durable reintegration is UNHCR’s priority”, said Gogo Hukportie.

In the past, UNHCR and its partners have assisted more than 500,000 former Burundian refugees to voluntarily return home. The Government of Japan has been supporting such operations of UNHCR as one of the major international donors.