

Press Release

Gitega, 10 May 2023

Representatives of the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are meeting in Gitega to analyze the situation of voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees living in Tanzania.

Representatives of the Burundi and Tanzania governments and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are meeting in Gitega, Burundi, from today May 10 to 12, 2023, at the Tropitel Hotel. The meeting is the 27th of the Technical Working Group (TWG), which is taking place today and tomorrow (May 10th and 11th), and the 23rd Tripartite Commission (TC) of the Burundi-Tanzania-UNHCR, which will take place on May 12th.

The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate the ongoing voluntary return of Burundian refugees from Tanzania and their successful reintegration back into Burundi.

Delegations will be examining the issue of repatriation in its various facets. They will specifically analyze the outcomes of the voluntary repatriation since the last Technical Working Group's meeting on February 16, 2022, in

Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, and the implementation of the Tripartite Commission recommendations from the previous meeting.

UNHCR and its partners have assisted over 210,000 refugees to return to their country voluntarily and safely with dignity, with 146,000 returning from Tanzania. This has been achieved through repatriation facilitation efforts.

There are currently around 259,000 Burundian refugees in the area, with 126,000 residing in Tanzania.

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