2022 CBDH/VICAR ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SECURITY AND SOCIAL, HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL SITUATION OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION SOUTHERN AFRICA

Each year the Burundian Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Living in Refugee Camps produces an annual report based on the security, social, health and educational situation of Burundian refugees in refugee camps in the Great Lakes region of Southern Africa.
During the year 2022, we have seen some positive changes in some camps and negative ones in other camps depending on the area. The refugee camps in Tanzania have suffered a lot. We have witnessed a lot of displacement of refugees who leave certain refugee camps to other camps. There were also returnees who are still fleeing because of threats from local authorities, and Imbonerakure.
This year there have been allegations of bribery and corruption against agents regarding resettlement.

I.SECURITY AND SOCIAL

During this 2022 year, the security and social situation in some refugee camp continued to deteriorate because of the different kind of acts of violations of the rights of refugees

I.1 NDUTA and NYARUGUSU refugee camps

The security and social situation in Tanzania continued to deteriorate. During this year abduction and killing had been diminished during this year but others kind of violations of the rights of refugees such as arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, Refusal of refugees seeking asylum, destruction of refugee culture.
All those act of violation where activated by Sudi Mwakibasi the Director of Refugee Services in the Ministry of Home Affairs who visited these three refugee Camps four times with one message to intimidate the Burundian refugee to go back in their mother country.
. During this year, CBDH/VICAR has been able to know 6 case of torture and 4 cases of rape 10cases of torture more than 245 cases of arbitrary arrests. The arbitrary arrests become a commercial act because the police officers create pretexts to arrest the refugees and charge them with heavy charges and finally ask them for money to be released.
In August, the Tanzanian intelligence service in the commune of Kibondo, where two Burundian refugee camps are located, recognized these killings by reporting that 137 Burundian refugee intellectuals had been killed in six years.
CBDH/VICAR was also able to identify several families who were refouled and other involuntary returnees on Thursday, November 3, 2022. Remegius Pesambili the director general of the Migration Office in Kigoma region announced that Tanzania has taken a decision to push back 1,048

Burundians. They are former refugees who have returned to exile in the past two years after being repatriated to Burundi. Some families decide to flee Tanzania for Kenya.

During the year of 2022 The Tanzania Government ordered to destroy houses, shops for Burundian Refugees. Many of shops were burned in NDUTA and NYARUGUSU refugee camps. Burundian refugees who opposed this destruction were arrested by the police. That's a form of forcing repatriation;
Tanzania destroys several crop fields of Burundian refugees.
It has already been noticed that the Tanzanian government, via the UNHCR officers in charge of protection at the camps, are helping refugees who have often accused of being included in the violation of Burundian refugees opposing the Government of Burundi to be resettled to the third countries and ignore the real refugees who need protection.

I.2 Nakivale (UGANDA)
In General there is security in refugee Camps during this year in Uganda; CBDH/VICAR noted 1case of killing, 1 case of disappearance.
During this year, there was the reduction in monthly ration assistance for refugees which caused who caused the appearance of bandits armed with knives stealing from refugee households.
In october2022 the Ugandan police has interrupted and disturbed the Burundian refugee cultural group and arrest some of them and seized they drums. Burundi embassy was behind this incidence.
Another challenge that cannot be ignored is that it is difficult for refugees in Uganda to find refugee travel documents.

I.3 KAKUMA Refugee Camp in KENYA
During this year, CBDH/VICAR has been able to know 2 Burundian refugees killed and 8 who have been injured. This insecurity in KAKUMA Refugee Camps caused fear among the refugees. There were also significant decreases in the amount of food without being informed.
Security in Kenya is not as total because there are still envoys of the Government of Gitega who often infiltrate the camp to monitor all the movements of political opponents and members of civil society living in the camp There have also been cases of theft of motorcycles belonging to the refugees, which also frightens the refugees living in Kakuma Camp.
Refugees believe that the slowness in granting certain documents has serious economic and psychosocial consequences. They claim they can go a month or more without finding a document that should be issued in less than two hours

I.4 LUSENDA and MULONGWE refugee camps in DRC

During this year 2022, the security and social situation of Burundian refugees in the refugee camps in the Congo continued to deteriorate. The

refugee camps of LUSENDA and MULONGWE are located in an area where there is often insecurity, and there are many rebel groups in the locality that are the basis of this insecurity. During this period, CBDH/VICAR recorded at least 4 women raped, 1refugee killed The Burundian refugee Tutsis ethnic are hunted down by the MaiMai and the group BABEMBE ethnic, these Tutsis accused to be similar with Banyamulenge, Many of those refugees don't leave the camp to outside.
The alleged perpetrators of these despicable acts are rebel groups, Congolese soldiers, and police, sometimes local Congolese who take advantage of the poverty of refugee women and girls to sexually harass them. The Burundians in these refugee camps experience fear and panic because of the deployment of Burundian Military in DRC and installed in the location which near the Burundian Refugee Camps
The security situation in eastern DRC remains unstable. The country still faces challenges in consolidating peace throughout its territory. The eastern regions of the DRC have consistently experienced high insecurity and repeated incidences of violence; they continued presence of armed groups, the situation of the refugee camps in the Congo is not good; the LUSENDA and MULONGWE refugee camps are in the environment where there is often insecurity.

I.5. Mahama Refugee Camp in RWANDA
During the 2022, Burundian refugees generally live in safety in the Mahama refugee camp except that CBDH/VICAR identified one Burundian refugee who was in Kabuga in kicukiro the murder of this person where arrested. We observed an increase in the number of cases of thief in all the villages that make up the Mahama refugee camp
We also realized the remarkable reduction in food rations because the refugees are divided into categories, so the refugees who are in the 3rd category are not entitled to food aid. This cut in rations has made things bad in Mahama camp because of some refugee in 3rd categories are living in bad situation. . The refugees in 3rd categories go on to suffer from hungry many of them decided to return home because of hungry.
In this year, many Congolese refugees from others refugees camps have been transferred to Mahama. Burundian refugees, who live in Mahama camp from 2015, welcomed their new refugee neighbors and live in harmony together.
I.6. DZALEKA refugee camp in Malawi
In general, during 2022 year, there is sometime security other time in insecurity in this refugee camp even if the refugees have a good relationship with the Malawians, Refugees in Dzaleka camp in Malawi speak out against growing crime and banditry unidentified people ambush.
Burundian civilian guards
Ezechiel Butoyi and Jonathan Uwamahoro, two Burundian refugees from the Dzaleka camp who worked as civilian security agents have not been found since Friday June 3, 2022.
In November,There is a grenade explosion injured 15 refugees. This grenade was thrown on Wednesday night by unidentified people in the

Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi. A bistro of a Burundian community leader was targeted.
Another major problem is that the refugees have nothing to eat, they are malnourished. Refugees can go 2 months without food aid, during this year the government of Malawi tried to send refugees who work in the cities to the DZALEKA camp. There are several cases of unwanted pregnancies due to the poverty that threatens the refugees. This leads many of them to travel to neighboring cities or countries to seek work without permission, as the camp only grants permission for three days. This puts the refugees in danger, as they are often arrested and imprisoned in very poor conditions by beating them and subjecting them to forced labor. During this year in the Dzaleka camp in Malawi, the police had arrested refugees considered responsible for the movement which caused damage. Refugees report at least 100 of their peers in detention.

1.7. MAHEBA Refugee Camp in ZAMBIA
During this year, it was observed that refugees were generally safe except for specific cases of arbitrary arrests by Zambian police and intimidation by some refugees who collaborate with the ruling party in Burundi.
Refugees also try to go to the cities to look for food for their families, but sometimes the migration police stop them and make them return to the camp.
Burundian refugees from 2015 are threatened by Rwandan refugees from 1994, many of whom are still living in the Maheba refugee camp in Zambia.
Zambian police raided the city of Lusaka, Zambia's political capital, in the first quarter of this year. The people targeted are Burundians and Rwandans. more than 200 people were arrested

II. HEALTH

This area of health has been characterized by the various problems in the various refugee camps in the region, in particular the lack of medicines, poor care and few health centers and also the diseases from which the health professionals of the host country have renounced themselves, the treatment outside the host country takes a long time, cases of death in the different refugee camps have been reported due to the lack of rapid intervention, because there are cases where the patient's file can pass even more than two years after the validation of its transfer outside the host country by the medical commission.

II. 1. MTENDELI, NDUTA and NYARUGUSU refugee camps
Malnutrition and related diseases threaten children under five in Burundian refugee camps. More than two thousand children suffer from illnesses linked to malnutrition in the Burundian refugee camps in Tanzania. This limits their mental and physical development, according to specialists.

These figures are given by Dr. Tumaini Nyundo. He is in charge of monitoring malnutrition-related diseases in the Burundian refugee camps of Nyarugusu and Nduta.

II.2 Nakivale (UGANDA)

During this year, there was a lack of medicines in all the health structures in the camp. Consequences are already being observed in the Nakivale camp in Uganda the patients were lamenting, they were paying themselves the drugs those who did not have money have a big problem

II.3 LUSENDA and MULONGWE refugee camps in DRC

In the domain of health, these camp have faced with the challenges of lack of medicines, hospital which can help refugee, they also have the problem of ambulance, pregnant women and children under 5years traveled more than three km to get vaccines outside the camp, it's very difficult for refugee to get transfer to hospital, there is also a bad treatment, the refugees decide to go to buy medicines in the pharmacy.

II.4. Mahama Refugee Camp in RWANDA

Mahama refugee camp is one of the camps that organized this domain of health; however there are challenges in transferring patient as soon as possible in Kigali or outside of the country.

II.6. DZALEKA refugee camp in Malawi

The refugees in the DZALEKA camp face serious health problems, this camp does not have sufficient health centers, the refugees don't have good treated, to have a good service you give the money, there is no medicine, the refugees do they arrangement how to get medicine. Since last August, the Dzaleka camp in Malawi has already registered 15 pregnant women who have died. They died during childbirth. the lack of or neglected assistance.

II.7 Maheba Zambia

The health centers which are in the camps do not function well one often indicates lack of medication, there is a problem of transfer, even if one finds a transfer it is difficult to have an ambulance, because the camp of refuge of Mahera only has one ambulance.

III. EDUCATION

The Domain of education in the refugee camps has experienced a big problem as have other areas, such as lack of classrooms, lack of school materials, programs which are vague. Etc

III.1 MTENDELI, NDUTA and NYARUGUSU refugee camps

In domain of education, Tanzania experienced many problemes. During this year the Burundian Government stated not accepts de degree from the Tanzania refugee camp when these refugees go on in the francophone system.

The Tanzanian refugee ministry said these tests must now be done in the country of origin this must be denounced it’s a violation of their rights. Several refugees called the announcement by the interior minister responsible for refugees unrealistic. Yet it has been in effect since 2020. The Tanzania authorities said that there is no need to organise tests here as voluntary repatriation is preceding its normal course. The consequence is that some students have dropped out of school to get married .Another challenge is that there is a lack of classrooms and teachers are not paid regularly

III.2 Nakivale (UGANDA)

In the domain of education, in Uganda Since 2018, the school dropout rate has quadrupled. More than 30% of children drop out of school and 25% of school-age children stay at home every year

According to our source, poverty in refugee households is a major cause of dropouts and non-enrolment. The thesis is also supported by an official from one of the villages of Nakivale.“It is very alarming the number of children currently not going to school. In every household of a Burundian there is a child of school age who stays at home.

III.3 KAKUMA Refugee Camp in KENYA

Education in Kakuma refugee camp has the same challenges as some others refugee camp, there is the lack of classroom; some parents try to pay the private school which are very expensive at their level. Most children lack school materials when teachers display disgust due to a lack of motivation.

III.4. Mahama Refugee Camp in RWANDA

Mahama refugee Camp tries to manage well the domain of education except the problem of lack of classrooms,

III.5 LUSENDA and MULONGWE refugee camps in DRC

This year, the field of education was characterized by the implementation of the decision to suspend school fees for the children of Burundian refugees settled in the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). This decision has caused a lot of trouble as few parents are able to afford their children's school fees. For this, several children had to drop out of school and those who were able to finish the school year did not have access to school reports for not having paid the school fees

These refugee camp face also with the lack of classroom, school materials and the problem of the salaries of the teacher who can pass 5 mount without paid. The teachers give lessons at the Mulongwe refugee camp. It is located in the territory of Fizi, in the province of South Kivu (eastern DRC). The non-payment of their wages persists for months.

III.6 Maheba Zambia

Domain education in this refugee camp has also challenges, the children of secondary school are not supported by the UNHCR, and their parents have to pay the school fees of their children in private schools which are very expensive. Some students of secondary school dropped out of school due to a lack of school fees, the consequences are therefore so many.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMANDATION

Even if the killing and abduction have diminished during this year, the persecution and repression against Burundian refugee continue, especially insecurity acts arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, rape. The refugee camps which are in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the most threatened compared to the others.

There is always collaboration between the government of Burundi and certain authorities of countries host especially Tanzania and DRC, those countries facilitate the Imbonerakure, National service Intelligence from Burundi to infiltrate very easy the refugee camps.

In domain of education if nothing is done, the future of refugee children will be bad.

Therefore, CBDH/VICAR recommend to

Host countries

-To secure all the refugees who are on their soil, and respect the conventions signed and ratified.

- To conduct a thorough investigation and punish those who violate the rights of refugees.

- Take measures that facilitate the education of any refugee child

To the Government of Burundi

-Take measures of appeasement which assure the Burundian refugees in the end that they return to the Country

- Stop continuing to blame insecurity in refugee camps, especially in Tanzania