OPERATIONAL UPDATE

United Republic of Tanzania

March 2024

Tanzania hosts **241,883** refugees (as of 31st March 2024) and asylum-seekers mainly from Burundi and DRC, who live in two camps, while some refugees from the 1972 Burundian population live in villages and three old settlements in Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora

In coordination with the Government, UNHCR and partners have been receiving asylum seekers fleeing violent clashes in DRC since March 2023. As of 31 March 2024, a total of **14,614** Congolese new arrivals were received in Tanzania.

UNHCR continues to provide **protection** and **life-saving assistance** to refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and the host community, as well as pursuing **durable solutions**.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,658 (As of 31 March 2024)

Burundians repatriated to Burundi with support from Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, UNHCR and partners.

05

Asylum seekers from DR Congo were received this month.

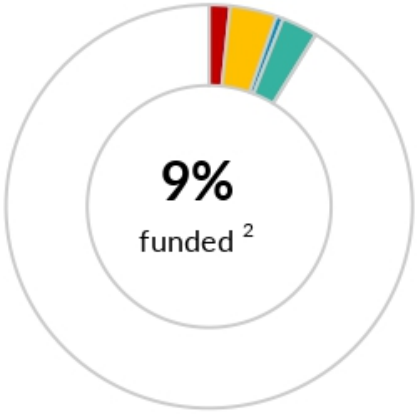
10

Schools in both camps (Nyarugusu and Nduta) were closed/consolidated as of 31 March 2024.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2024)

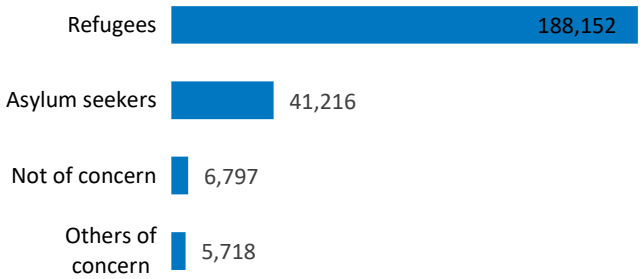
USD 114.6 million

requested for the Tanzania operation.



UNHCR in collaboration with UN agencies and partners working in Kigoma refugee operations, commemorated International Women's Day by visiting one of the orphanage centers in Kasulu © UNHCR/Maimuna Mtengela.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 MARCH 2024)



**Source: Government of Tanzania/UNHCR proGres v4*

PROTECTION

- **Gender Based Violence response**: A total of 126 new gender-based violence (GBV) incidents were reported and managed in Nyarugusu (70 cases) and Nduta (56 cases) refugee camps. These included denial of resources, opportunities, or services (47), physical assault (31), psychological/emotional abuse (26), rape (19), and sexual assault (3). All the survivors (111 women, 15 men) were provided with appropriate case response services according to assessed needs including health, legal, safety/security, and targeted material support among others. All survivors were provided with the necessary support and services.
- **International Women's Day**: UNHCR in coordination with partners commemorated the International Women's Day under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,". Various coordination meetings, pre-event and commemoration activities were conducted including meetings with community leaders, children/teachers in schools, women and Child Protection committees, Legal awareness, FGD with women at risk as well as other women and men groups, GBV awareness in hospitals and mass sensitizations on gender equality and GBV. A total of 1,754 (829 women, 510 men, 260 girls, and 155 boys) participated in the IWD activities.
- **Roundtable table discussion**: UNHCR Tanzania organized a 40-minute roundtable discussion which was aired on national television, Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC). The discussion was based on what UNHCR is doing specifically in empowering refugee women in the camps with support from partners (DRC) and the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Home Affairs. The refugee women shared their life experiences as refugees and the impacts of UNHCR women empowerment programs on their communities.
- **Community-Based Protection**: The Community-Based Protection (CBP) team participated in a meeting organized by the Regional Bureau (CBP) to review the progress of the Help Site initiative in Tanzania. During the meeting the Protection team provided an update on the ongoing Help Site Initiative information dissemination in the camps. Through this meeting, the Regional Bureau provided support to the country's operation in enhancing digital platforms to improve access to information for Persons of Concern (POCs).
- **Refugees Mass meeting with the Kigoma Regional Commissioner**: A mass meeting with the Regional Commissioner was convened in both camps. The primary directive communicated by the Regional Commissioner was the call for all Burundian refugees to voluntarily register for repatriation to Burundi as Burundi is now safe. The Regional Commissioner emphasized that the registration process is presently in its promotional phase, but as of 01st January 2025, refugee status would be rescinded, and transitioning into a cessation phase. The closure of Nduta camp by 31st December 2024 was also communicated by the Regional Commissioner to the refugees and partners.
- A townhall meeting was held on 21st March 2024, within the Burundian refugee community in Nyarugusu camp. The refugees were given an opportunity to ask questions on the issues affecting them, and UNHCR, MOHA, and other service providers in the camp provided answers and feedback. The most common issues raised were the need for a verification exercise, individual sessions for PWS who do not want to repatriate to Burundi, and access to medical referrals.
- **Child Protection**: The child protection unit participated in a meeting on Child labour, with the host community in Makere on 5th March 2024. The meeting was attended by representatives from DRC, UNHCR, and leaders from the host communities. During this meeting, key actions proposed/agreed upon, DRC to be providing urgent support/assistance/response to cases identified and reported by the host communities. Also, the host community recommended that humanitarian services such as food and NFIs be improved within the camp, as it is a first step to reduce child labour amongst refugee children within the host communities.

EDUCATION

- **Congolese New Curriculum Training**: in collaboration with IRC, UNHCR, and inspectors from the Ministry of Education-Congo, conducted a five-day training on the new curriculum for 41 preschools (24 female, 17 male), 110 primary schools (26 female, 84 male), and 48 secondary schools (1 female, 47 male) Congolese teachers as Trainers of Trainers on lesson delivery approaches. The training is aimed at equipping the teachers with knowledge on planning effective lessons, understanding student learning objectives, developing effective teaching methods, and employing interactive teaching strategies in line with the current Congolese curriculum.
- **Camp-Based Examinations for the academic year of 2023/2024 update**: Students in schools in both Nyarugusu and Nduta camps sat for second-term examinations. All student results will be recorded as continuous assessments (CA) in their bulletins for smooth re-integration in different education levels and countries.
- **School consolidation**: As at the end of this month a total of 10 schools have been consolidated. While 5,223 students were affected in 4 schools in Nyarugusu camp and 3,376 were affected in 3 primary schools and Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) in Nduta. A total of 8,599 students affected by the closure of schools have been transferred to other schools to continue accessing education.

HEALTH

- **Health services:** UNHCR's health partners conducted 35,081 (Nyarugusu – 22, 239 and Nduta – 12,842) consultations for refugees and host communities at outpatient departments in Nyarugusu and Nduta camps. The crude mortality rate (CMR) for this month is 0.29 while the Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR) is 0.61 which is within the sphere standard. In this month, five health posts are still closed in Nyarugusu camp and 2 health posts in Nduta due to underfunding.
- **Nutrition Services:** 27 children 6 - 59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were newly admitted to Stabilization Centre while 44 children of the same age group with SAM were treated through an Outpatient therapeutic feeding program While 90 children of 6 – 59 months were admitted in therapeutic supplementary feeding program from the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in Nyarugusu and Nduta health facilities. Complementary food was distributed to 355 POCs who had NCD under WDF Funds in the Nduta camp.
- **Comprehensive safe motherhood services:** A total of 686 (Nyarugusu – 562, Nduta - 124) live births were delivered in the camp including the host community with 98% of deliveries conducted by skilled healthcare workers.
- **Referrals to refugees:** A total of 36 referrals (Nduta – 17, Nyarugusu – 13, and NMC – 6) were conducted during this month to secondary and tertiary level referral hospitals through partners to save the lives of the POCs.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- **Food distribution:** The refugees residing in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps received dry food rations at 62% of the total ration size for the 3rd cycle in 2024. UNHCR's partner DRC continues to provide hot meals for the Burundians who are ready to repatriate at the reception centre and Congolese new arrivals residing at the reception and departure centres.

WATER AND SANITATION (WASH)

- **Water supply:** Water supply coverage has been kept above the SPHERE recommendation at Nduta camp whereby the net supply coverage is 24.56 l/p/d, while that at Nyarugusu camp is 22.9l/p/d which is above the UNHCR recommended standard. Tap coverage (person per tap) stands at 108 persons/tap in Nyarugusu, and 64 p/tap in Nduta. Maintenance and replacement of taps have been ongoing; 27 taps were replaced/installed during the reporting period in both camps.
- The latrine coverage ratio currently stands at 5.2 people per latrine and 5.3 persons per latrine in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps respectively. The coverage of households with household latrines remains below standard, where is at an average of 79% across the two camps.

SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- **Shelter Construction/ Maintenance**: A total of 92 emergency family shelters for Congolese asylum seekers were built and 8 were maintained in Nyarugusu camp, while 129 shelters were maintained in Nduta camp.
- Persons with special needs Non-food Items distribution was conducted in Nyarugusu camp for both 162 Burundians and 236 Congolese. The items distributed include personal hygiene kits, sleeping mats, solar touch, baby kits, and school kit bags. chool shoes were also distributed to 131 PSNs (children) with albinism.

RESILIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE

- **Support to home/kitchen gardening:** Through the backing of the European Union, the DRC, in partnership with UNHCR, has effectively enrolled 3,023 individuals (comprising 2,237 females and 786 males) in comprehensive theoretical instruction and practical training sessions on kitchen gardening. These sessions are conducted both at the Farm Training Centre (FTC) and within household backyard gardens and communal garden areas. Targeted households receive seeds and tools to establish gardens near their residences. This initiative is designed to enhance dietary diversity and alleviate the impact of reduced food rations, particularly among vulnerable households identified for assistance.
- **Periodic review meetings with camp-level government officials:** DRC participated in scheduled program review sessions with camp-level government officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) in Kasulu on March 15th and 16th, 2024. The meetings prioritized strengthening collaborative partnerships with MoHA in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps across various sectors, with particular attention given to the livelihoods program, acknowledged as pivotal in achieving sustainable solutions for refugees. DRC has consistently emphasized that its initiatives slated for 2024 are strategically designed to propel lasting resolutions within this sphere.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- **Resettlement** is a vital long-term solution for refugees in Tanzania, particularly Congolese who have been living in a protracted situation for many years. UNHCR projects that resettlement needs will continue to grow, thus, advocacy with resettlement States for increased quotas remains a priority for the operation. As of the end of March, UNHCR has submitted 1,369 refugees to various countries for resettlement consideration. 2,111 refugees have since departed to Australia, Canada, Finland and the United States.
- **Voluntary repatriation for Burundian refugees**: A total of 942 families comprising 1,658 individuals Burundians were facilitated to voluntarily return to Burundi in the provinces of Rumonge, Makamba, Cankuzo, Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Ruyigi, Rutana, Muyinga, Kayanza, Karuzi, Ngozi, Muramvya, Kirundo and Bururi.

ACCESS TO ENERGY

- 121 home visits were conducted in the camp and host community to promote best cooking practices to save energy during cooking. 9,530 individuals from 3,372 households acquired knowledge and skills on the use of cooking energy-saving techniques.
- Firewood operations aiming to support the PWS and institutions with fuelwood for cooking included procuring 1,144 CBM of firewood from the host community; distribution of firewood to 2,257; and 34,660 kg distributed to institutions such as police, departure centers, and some health facilities.
- Initiatives to promote the adoption of energy-saving cooking practices were implemented in the camps and host community. 5,637 individuals from 2,148 households acquired skills to self-fabricate fuel-efficient stoves. 1,055 fuel-efficient stoves were fabricated demonstrating the willingness of beneficiaries to adopt the technology.
- 63 environmental meetings in both communities brought together 6,057 participants to deliberate on the myriad of environmental challenges and propose solutions to address such issues for better environmental and natural resources management.

GAPS AND NEEDS

Shortage of funds continued to severely impact the lives of the persons we serve in Tanzania. Soap distribution and household latrine coverage are below minimum standards. Food rations have been reduced to 60% leading to negative coping mechanisms. Dilapidated classrooms in schools cannot be repaired. Alternative cooking energy sources cannot be scaled up to the larger refugee population, exposing them to protection risks while collecting firewood in the host community. Lack of enough stock of plastic sheeting to support all the construction of shelter activities for the year. The implementation of WASH-related activities such as improving the water supply system, coverage of household latrines, and other WASH improvements at schools, and constructing bathing shelters, drainage improvements, and distribution of hygiene enables NFIs. Shortages of Medicines and Medical supplies including deworming for ANC women. Inadequate supply of family planning commodities and Insecticide-treated Nets (ITNs)for pregnant women and Under 5 children from the vertical program.

DONORS

UNHCR in Tanzania is grateful for the support of Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Japan, and the United States of America.

And is thankful for the additional support received from the UN community, individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide, including Swedish Postcode Lottery, UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UN Tanzania SDG Acceleration Fund, World Diabetes Foundation, World Food Programme, and private donors from Denmark and the United Kingdom.

PARTNERS

Refugee Services Department, MoHA | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education | President's Office, Regional Administration-Local Government (PO-RALG) | African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) | | Church World Service | DRC | FAO | Good Neighbours Tanzania | HelpAge International | ICRC | IOM | IRC | Jesuit Refugee Service | Medical Teams International | MSF | NRC | Plan International | Relief to Development Society (REDESO) | Save the Children | Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service | Tanzania Red Cross Society | UNDP | UNFPA | UNICEF | Water Mission | WFP | SIDO

LINKS

'Hope Away from Home' Campaign Launch | UNHCR data portal | X | Instagram | Facebook

Refugee mother in Tanzania uses tragic experience of contracting HIV/AIDS to protect others | UNHCR Africa

CONTACTS

Bahia Egeh, External Relations Officer, Dar es Salaam, egehb@unhcr.org

Maimuna Mtengela, Communications Associate, Kasulu, mtengela@unhcr.org