UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

United Republic of Tanzania

January 2026

As of 31 January 2026, Tanzania hosts **214,593** refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Burundi 126,730 and the DRC 87,154, and 709 from other countries who live in two camps, while some refugees live in villages and three old settlements in Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora regions.

In collaboration with the Government, UNHCR and partners have been receiving asylum seekers fleeing violent clashes in the DRC. In January 2026, a total of **188** new arrivals were received in Tanzania, bringing the total number of arrivals to **4,131** since renewed violence in eastern DRC in January 2025.

UNHCR continues to provide **protection** and **assistance** to persons of concern. Some services, including primary health care and education, are also extended to the host community. In addition, UNHCR seeks **durable solutions for refugees**.

HIGHLIGHTS

20,460

refugees and Tanzanians in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps received health services in Kasulu and Kibondo districts.

34

emergency shelters were constructed to accommodate new Congolese asylum seekers in Nyarugusu Camp.

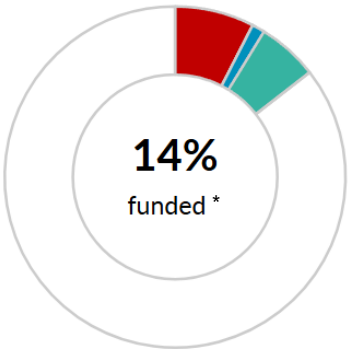
12,295

refugees repatriated to Burundi to the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Butanyerera, Cankuzo, Gitega, Kayanza, Karuzi, Kirundo, Ngozi, Makamba, Muyinga, Rumonge, Rutana, Ruyigi, Muramvya, and Mwaro.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2026)

USD 81.1 million

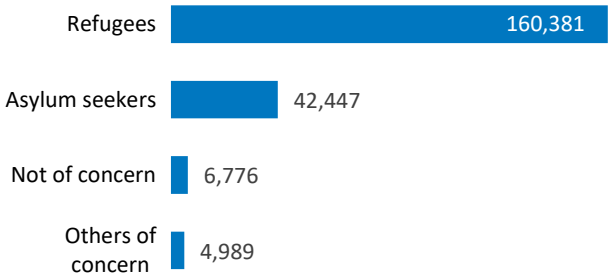
requested for the Tanzania operation.



** Figure may be adjusted subject to reconciliation.*

DRC Minister of State for Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity addressing Congolese refugees in Nyarugusu Camp during her visit to Tanzania. ©UNHCR/Maimuna Mtengela.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2026)



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

PROTECTION

- **DRC situation:** The Government of Tanzania and UNHCR continued to receive new arrivals from the DRC and recorded 188 individuals seeking safety in Tanzania this month. This brings the total number of arrivals since renewed violence in Eastern DRC in January 2025 to 4,131 individuals. In collaboration with the Government, UN agencies, and NGO partners, UNHCR provided the new arrivals with comprehensive protection and lifesaving assistance, including support to unaccompanied and separated children, shelter, food, core relief items, counselling, and medical care.
- **High-level DRC delegation visit:** From 12 to14 January 2026, Tanzania hosted a delegation from the DRC led by the Minister of State for Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity, H.E. Eve Bazaiba Masudi. The delegation was accompanied by Tanzania's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. James Millya and UNHCR Representative Ms. Barbara Bentum-Williams Dotse. The delegation met Congolese new arrivals in Kigoma and visited Nyarugusu Camp to review conditions and express solidarity with Congolese refugees. During the mission, the H.E. Masudi reaffirmed that any return must remain voluntary to safe areas and provided an in-kind donation of food and non-food items to support ongoing assistance efforts.
- **U.S. Government (USG) visit:** From 20 to 23 January 2026, a USG delegation from Nairobi and Dar es Salaam visited Kigoma, Nyarugusu Camp, and accompanied a repatriation convoy of 31 buses to the Burundi border to observe WFP and UNHCR operations, including food distribution, health and nutrition services, reception of new arrivals, and the voluntary repatriation process.
- **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training:** On 22 January 2026, UNHCR facilitated a refresher session on PSEA and Code of Conduct principles for 11 partner staff working at the Transit Centre in Kigoma. The training aimed to strengthen staff understanding of key principles guiding humanitarian work, ensuring all partner personnel uphold safe, respectful, and accountable services for refugees and asylum seekers.

EDUCATION

- **Education in Emergencies (EiE) coordination meeting:** On 22 January 2026, UNHCR took part in a coordination meeting organized by Save the Children International together with education partners Baba Watoto, Caritas Tanzania, Jesuit Refugee Service, and education representatives from Kasulu, Kibondo, Kigoma Municipal, and the Kigoma Regional Education Office. At the meeting, a total of 25 participants discussed ways to strengthen collaboration and develop regional action plans for EiE preparedness in host communities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- **Health services:** UNHCR's health partners conducted 20,460 consultations for refugees and host communities at outpatient departments in the two camps (8,761 in Nduta, 11,699 in Nyarugusu). Around 8% of outpatient services were used by Tanzanians in both camps.
- **Comprehensive safe motherhood services:** A total of 985 live births were delivered in the camps, including refugees and the host community (287 in Nduta, 698 in Nyarugusu), with 99% of deliveries conducted by skilled healthcare workers. Out of the 985 live births, 51 live births were delivered by host community women inside the camps.
- **Nutrition:** UNHCR's partners and nutrition community volunteers identified a total of 60 children under five years old (32 refugees, 28 Tanzanians) with Severe Acute Malnutrition, providing all children with the necessary treatment.

- **Medical referrals:** A total of four health referrals (one from Nyarugusu Camp, three from Kigoma Transit Centre) were conducted this month to secondary and tertiary level referral hospitals through partners to save the lives of refugees and asylum seekers.

FOOD SECURITY

- **Food distribution:** Refugees residing in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps received 65% of the dry food rations in January 2026, provided by WFP. UNHCR's partner, Tanganyika Christian Refugees Services, continued providing hot meals for Burundian refugees repatriating and Congolese new arrivals residing at the departure and reception centres at 50% and 82% respectively.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- **Water:** Water supply coverage was at an average of 25.2 litres per person per day in Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps, which is above the global standard of 20 liters per person per day.
- **Sanitation:** The household latrine coverage was at an average of 59% in the refugee camps which is below the 85% global standard for household latrine coverage.

SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- **Emergency shelter**: UNHCR and partners constructed 34 emergency family shelters to accommodate new Congolese asylum seekers in Nyarugusu Camp this month.
- **Non-Food Items:** In January 2026, UNHCR and partners distributed buckets, 10-litre jerrycans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, and laundry soap bars to 64 new arrivals from the DRC.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- **Resettlement:** UNHCR submitted six refugees to Canada for resettlement.
- **Return:** The Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, UNHCR, and its partners facilitated the voluntary return of 12,295 individuals to Burundi this month to Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Butanyerera, Cankuzo, Gitega, Kayanza, Karuzi, Kirundo, Ngozi, Makamba, Muyinga, Rumonge, Rutana, Ruyigi, Muramvya, and Mwaro. This brings the total number of Burundian refugees repatriated to Burundi since 2017 to 198,717.
- **Medical screening for voluntary repatriation:** This month, UNHCR's health partners conducted medical screening for 12,310 Burundian refugees who were registered for voluntary repatriation (5,991 from Nduta, 6,319 from Nyarugusu). Out of 12,310 refugees, 440 individuals were identified with ongoing medical cases and were referred to health partners in Burundi.

ACCESS TO ENERGY

- **Energy:** On 22 January 2026, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), donated 18 electric pressure cookers to UNHCR to support clean cooking solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, helping reduce LPG costs, prevent deforestation, and lower cooks' exposure to indoor air pollution. The cookers will be used to prepare meals for

repatriating Burundian refugees at the Departure Center in Nyarugusu Camp and for Congolese new arrivals at the Transit Center in Kigoma.

GAPS AND NEEDS

The underlying shortage of funds continued to severely impact the lives of forcibly displaced people in Tanzania. Lack of therapeutic formula milk for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition poses a life-threatening risk for those admitted at the stabilization centres.

DONORS

UNHCR in Tanzania is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

UNHCR is additionally thankful for support received from the UN community, individuals, foundations, and companies worldwide, including UNEP, and the UN Tanzania SDG Acceleration Fund.

PARTNERS

Refugee Services Department, Ministry of Home Affairs | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education | President's Office, Regional Administration-Local Government (PO-RALG) | AIRD | Caritas Tanzania | Dignity Kwanza | FAO | HelpAge Tanzania | Kivulini Women's Rights Organisation| TCRS | TRCS | UN RCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UN Women | WLAC| WFP | WHO

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