

Malawi

June 2023

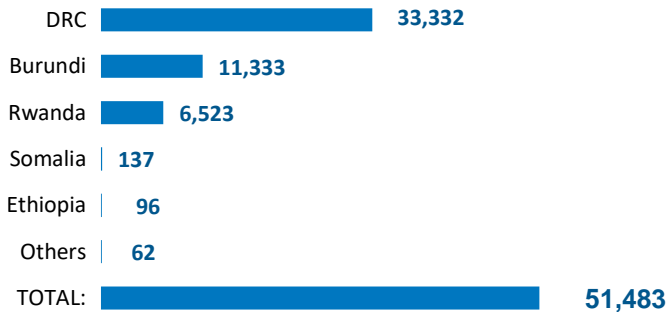
51,483 refugees and asylum seekers were registered in Malawi as of 30 June. This included **194 new arrivals** and **151 new-born babies** registered in June alone. Majority live in Dzaleka refugee camp.

Dzaleka refugee camp has a cumulative total of **408** positive Covid-19 cases **380** recoveries and **3** deaths reported as of 31 January 2023. **4** cases of cholera were recorded among the refugees with one death.

Dzaleka camp initially designed for **10,000** refugees and asylum seekers currently has over **51,483** persons of concern living in congestion and vulnerable to infectious diseases like TB, Covid-19 and cholera.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

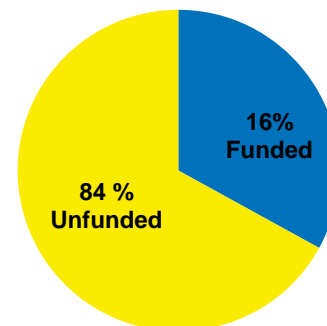
By Country of Origin



FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2023)

USD 27.4 million

requested for UNHCR operation in Malawi



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

42 National Staff

35 International Staff

Offices:

01 Branch Office in Lilongwe

01 Field Office in Karonga



Country Overview

Context: As of 30 June, Malawi is home to 51,483 refugees and asylum seekers. Among them, an estimated 8,000 resided in rural and urban towns across the country, before the government embarked on a relocation exercise for urban refugees. On average 200 – 300 asylum seekers are registered every month. 120 -150 new births are registered in Dzaleka refugee camp per month. The camp was established to host between 10,000 – 12,000 people but is now home to over 40,000. The country has been hosting some of the refugees for more than two decades and the protracted conflict in the Great Lakes Region prevents their safe return.

Enforcement of back to the camp relocation order: The Government of Malawi continues with the relocation of refugees and asylum seekers living in rural and urban areas back to Dzaleka refugee camp. So far **2,074** refugees and asylum seekers have returned to the camp since the order was issued in 2021. Among them, **574** are being accommodated in rub halls at the Reception Centre. UNHCR and partners have started the construction of 10 houses and 24 refugee housing units (RHUs) in the new Katubza area to accommodate 34 vulnerable families from the transit Centre.



UNHCR meeting a group of returnees at the reception centre in Dzaleka.
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Solutions:

Voluntary repatriation and resettlement are the focus of solutions as prospects for local integration remain limited. However, resettlement opportunities remain limited to a small percentage of the population. Moreover, only 400 individuals have expressed willingness to return to their countries of origin.

The operation continues to facilitate voluntary repatriation for refugees who wish to return home. On 5 July, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of **38** Burundian refugees back to their country.

Strategic Directions

Advocate for the government to rescind its back-to-the-camp relocation order.

Advocate and **provide** technical support to the Government of Malawi to implement Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Decongestion Dzaleka camp to improve the protection environment.

Promote and **facilitate** comprehensive solutions; **alleviate poverty**; and foster resilience.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for donors who contributed to its operation in Malawi with unearmarked and earmarked in 2023.

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