

# United Republic of Tanzania

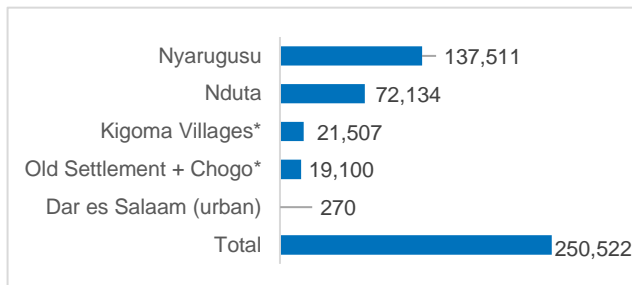
30 September 2023

As of 31 August, Tanzania hosted 250,522 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi and DR Congo. The majority live in the Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps in the Kigoma region.

In Tanzania, the protection standards adhere to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocols Relating to the Status of Refugees, which the United Republic of Tanzania accessioned on 12 May 1964 and 4 Sep 1968, respectively.

However, the strict encampment policy, ongoing DRC influx, and chronic underfunding threaten the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver. More funding is required to address refugee needs in Tanzania.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUG 2023)



\*Old Settlements do not include the residual 8,300 individuals that are yet to collect their naturalization certificates.

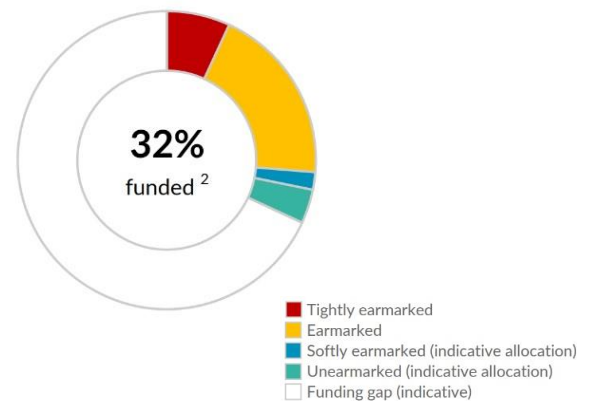
\*Old Settlements and Kigoma villages population include only the Accepted Individuals during the 2017/18 Verification.

\*Population of concern to UNHCR does not include the 162,000 former Burundian refugees (1972) granted citizenship by the Government of Tanzania.

## FUNDING (18 SEPTEMBER 2023)

# USD 115.9 million

requested for the Tanzania refugee operation.



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 210** National Staff
- 60** International Staff
- 08** International UNVs
- 02** Interns

### Offices:

- 1** Representation in Dar es Salaam
- 1** Sub Office in Kigoma
- 2** Field Offices in Kibondo & Kasulu
- 1** Field Unit in Dodoma



Congolese new arrivals in Kigoma region earlier this year.  
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## Working with Partners

- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR leads and coordinates the refugee response in Tanzania. The RCM is intended to provide an inclusive platform for planning and coordinating the refugee response to ensure that refugees and other people we serve receive the protection and assistance they need through all partners' collective efforts and capacities.

## Main Activities

### Protection

UNHCR seeks to uphold the fundamental human rights of uprooted or stateless people in their countries of asylum or forced internal displacement, particularly ensuring that refugees will not be returned involuntarily to a country where they could face persecution and their lives would be in danger. Protection delivery includes all actions designed to restore human dignity and socioeconomic inclusion through access to services. Some of the critical services offered in the camps include:

- Reduction of the risks related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and ensure support is available to survivors. The current National Action Plan brings together numerous sectors and prioritizes safe and accessible spaces for women and children. It also strengthens collaboration with partners and access to reporting mechanisms, including legal, medical, and psychosocial assistance survivors.
- Ensuring that cases of children with specific needs are granted special consideration and are managed individually. Unaccompanied minors and separated children are provided with interim or long-term alternative care arrangements. Also, child-friendly spaces help to provide psycho-social support to children, including those in protection villages across the camps. Community-based structures across camps support the prevention of child trafficking and child labor.
- Together, age, gender, and diversity considerations form the basis of UNHCR's programming. Participatory assessments are thus conducted every year for planning purposes, while community feedback mechanisms are continuously strengthened.
- UNHCR continues to explore durable solutions for refugees, and in this regard, there has been continued voluntary repatriation of refugees and the submission of refugees for third-country resettlement.

### Education

- The Tanzanian Refugee Education strategic direction aims to enhance access to inclusive and quality education by strengthening effective delivery. The provision of education towards repatriation, as guided by the National Policy, has negatively impacted the quality of education, resulting in a shortage of qualified teachers, inadequate teaching and learning materials, over-crowded classrooms, poor school environment/physical structures of classrooms, uncertainty/delay of examination, no quality assurance and lack of accreditation of schools.
- As of the end of June 2023, a total of 82,355 (84% refugee children) were accommodated into 980 classrooms in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps.
- The inclusion of refugees into the National Education system would elevate the issuing of certificates in time to allow them to be absorbed in higher learning opportunities, including DAFI, DAAD, Mastercard, UNIV'R, and WUSC scholarships, as well as other opportunities.

### Health

- UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners, operates hospitals and health facilities in the two refugee camps in the Kigoma region. Tanzania Red Cross Society, Medical Teams International, and Médecins Sans Frontières provide preventive, curative, and promotive health services, including outpatient and inpatient care, reproductive health, and HIV services in all camps. At the same time, Medical Teams

International (MTI) also supports secondary and tertiary medical referrals to regional and national hospitals as per UNHCR's medical referral Standard Operating Procedures.

- From Jan to August 2023, the health sector maintained a crude mortality rate of 0.22 and an under-five mortality rate of 0.53, which is within the Sphere standard of <0.75 deaths/per 1000 population/month and <1.5 deaths/per 1000 population/month, respectively. The top cause of morbidity in the camps is upper respiratory tract infection (28%), followed by malaria (25%), Urinary Tract Infection (9%), and lower respiratory tract infection (7%).
- Since the beginning of the year up to August 2023, a total of 486,965 consultations were made in the two camps by refugees, new arrivals, and host communities, with an average of 58 consultations per clinician per day, which is higher than the sphere standard of 50 consultations per clinician per day. Out of the total consultations, 5% were done by host community members.
- Currently, the provision of health services to refugees and their host populations is characterized by:
  - Extreme prioritization of secondary and tertiary medical referrals due to limited funding affecting some individual refugees' quality of life.
  - Closure of the health facilities that provide limited services as the number of qualified medical staff is limited, leading to long-distance walking and an increase in waiting time by the POCs.
  - Failure of procurement of medicines and medical supplies from international suppliers this year, leading to shortages of some essential medicines in the camps.
  - Long lead time for medicines and medical equipment to reach the country.
  - Old, dilapidated hospital structures that need urgent renovations.

## Food Security and Nutrition

- The food ration for the general food distribution has been reduced to 50 percent of the food basket.
- According to the 2021 Nutrition Survey, global acute malnutrition among children under five is less than 5%, while stunting and anemia remain higher than the 30% standard. The 2023 Nutrition Survey has been completed, and the report will be published soon.
- UNHCR and its partners admitted and supported 822 under-five children with severe acute malnutrition and 1,298 children with moderate acute malnutrition through the therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding Program. The supplementary feeding program is maintained at 100% for target groups in both camps.
- A complementary feeding program for chronically ill patients continued, with a total of 404 patients in Nyarugusu and 250 in Nduta camp.
- Vitamin A supplementation campaign was carried out in both camps, targeting children aged 6-59 months, with 98.5% coverage achieved.

## Water and Sanitation

- Water supply coverage has been upheld above the minimum SPHERE standard by providing the average net supply of 25.6 liters per person per day in all camps following continued WASH infrastructure maintenance such as timely water supply network repair, replacement of broken water taps as well as keeping water storage stations and pumping system including solar generators in good shape.
- 79 percent of the entire population has household latrines.
- The ratio of hygiene promoters per person is 1:944.
- The current soap distribution is 250g/p/month.

## Shelter

- While in Nyarugusu, 2,077 emergency family shelters, 60 refugee housing units (RHU), and 413 family tents were set up to accommodate the newly Congolese asylum seekers, 1,535 shelters for the Burundian refugee population in Nduta refugee camp were maintained by UNHCR and the shelter-implementing partner.
- To accommodate the recent surge of Congolese asylum seekers, a total of 71 communal facilities were built, renovated, or installed in Nyarugusu and the National Milling Cooperation transit center in Kigoma transit center. Three communal facilities were also constructed in the Nduta refugee camp.
- 35.5% of refugees and asylum-seekers across the two camps live in dilapidated shelters. As of June 2023, the overall percentage of households living in adequate shelters across the two camps decreased from 72.7 percent to 63.4 percent for Burundian refugees and 65.6 percent for Congolese refugees and other nationalities; this is due to the demolition of adequate shelters that are left behind after voluntary repatriation and the minimal rate of shelter maintenance.

## Energy and Environment

- UNHCR is implementing environmental conservation, protection, and restoration activities in the refugee camps and the host communities. So far, 1,572,000 trees have been raised to be planted in the refugee camps and host communities.
- UNHCR and partners are promoting the use of alternative energy sources and energy-efficient technologies to reduce reliance on firewood and ultimately reduce deforestation. In the refugee camps, 900 refugees are supported with biomass charcoal briquettes monthly. Additionally, 437 Households in the host communities have been trained and equipped with briquette-making tools to produce briquettes at the household level.
- In the effort to support Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) with cooking energy, 6,800 PSNs are supported with sustainably harvested firewood every month at a capita consumption of 1.8kg per person per day.
- Despite the efforts being implemented, only 20 percent of refugee households are supported with cooking energy. This is mainly due to insufficient funding to address energy needs in the refugee camps and host communities.
- UNHCR, with support from Swedish Postcode Lottery, is in the process of solarizing 14 health facilities in the camp and hosting the community. The project is at the initial stages of procurement, and the installation of the solar systems is expected to be done in 2024.

## Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- Despite restrictions, 2,182 persons we serve (PwS) received support on kitchen gardening (1,325 people, 872 female) and Technical, Vocational, Education, and Training / Vocational Skills Training (TVET / VST) (857 people, 470 females) since January 2023. A cross-border program between Tanzania and Burundi supported by the European Union has been approved to commence in October 2023. This four-year EU-supported cross-border program will further strengthen the reintegration initiative for Burundian refugees. Notably, 1,280 (59 percent) of the beneficiaries are Burundians, while 127 (6 percent) are host community members. The increased numbers of Burundians are a result of the High-Level Bilateral Dialogue between UNHCR and the Government earlier in 2022, which allowed Burundian refugees to be enrolled in vocational skills training and kitchen gardening activities.
- Advocacy efforts continue with the Government of Tanzania to open operational space inside of the refugee camps with regards to the restrictions to market-based livelihoods that have the potential to enable refugees to become self-reliant. Open markets and small businesses remain banned, which could enhance household incomes and help to perfect/practice skills gained during VST programs, amongst many others.

## Durable Solutions

UNHCR protects and assists refugees, with the goal of finding durable solutions that allow them to rebuild their lives in dignity and safety. In Tanzania, these solutions include voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration.

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** In line with the Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania, UNHCR facilitates voluntary returns of refugees who made free and informed choices to return home. In collaboration with the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and supported by the international community, UNHCR and partners in Tanzania have helped 12,131 Burundian refugees voluntarily return home since the beginning of 2023. From September 2017 to September 27, 2023, UNHCR and its partners have successfully assisted 157,437 individuals to return to Burundi.
- **Resettlement:** In 2015, a group resettlement program (P2) was initiated to resettle refugees in the USA. Submissions to the USA were suspended in 2019 but restarted in October 2021. In addition to Congolese refugees meeting the P2 criteria, other refugees of any nationality who are at heightened risk or have strong vulnerabilities are also considered for resettlement. In this regard, resettlement is used as a key protection tool. From January to August 2023, 5,939 individuals were submitted to the resettlement countries, and 4,957 individuals were resettled in the USA, Canada, France, Finland, and Australia. Through the complementary pathways, the DAAD Programme granted master's degree scholarships to 2 Burundian refugee students in July 2023. 11 refugee students of the 2023-2024 SRP-WUSC scholarship program were assisted with the departure formalities to Canada (8 departed in August, and 3 departed in September). 1 refugee student was granted the UNIV'R scholarship and departed for France in September 2023.
- **Local Integration:** In 2014, the Government of Tanzania granted citizenship to 162,000 Burundian refugees who fled to Tanzania in 1972. In December 2018, the Government of Tanzania and UNHCR conducted a nationwide Verification, Registration, and Intention Survey (VRIS) exercise. 68,000 individuals reside in the old settlements and Kigoma villages, and 150 Somali Bantus in Chogo pending durable solutions.

# Financial Information

The Government and the people of Tanzania continue to show generosity in responding to the protracted refugee crisis. Refugees and asylum seekers depend almost entirely on humanitarian assistance due to the limited opportunities to earn a living. UNHCR's comprehensive budgetary needs for the 2023 refugee response of 115.9 million is only funded at 32 percent.

UNHCR is grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds and those who have contributed directly to the DRC and Burundi situations.

## Funding received in 2023.

United States of America | European Union | Belgium | Ireland | Japan | Germany | Italy | Australia | Canada | Sweden | Norway | United Kingdom | Netherlands | Denmark | France | Switzerland | Algeria | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

## LINKS

For more information on the current refugee situation in Tanzania, please



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Visit our online portal here - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/tza>.



Recent Story – [UNHCR appeals for sustained donor funding to support Tanzania's refugee response](#).

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