OPERATIONAL UPDATE

United Republic of Tanzania

May 2026

As of 31 May 2026, Tanzania hosts **146,755** refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Burundi 58,911 and the DRC 87,141 and 703 from other countries who live in Nyarugusu Camp, 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 May 2026, a total of **57** new arrivals were received in Tanzania, bringing the total number of arrivals to **4,329** 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

3,119

refugees repatriated to Burundi to the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bururi, Cankuzo, Karuzi, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rumonge, Ruyigi, and Rutana.

13,423

refugees and Tanzanians received health services in Nyarugusu Camp.

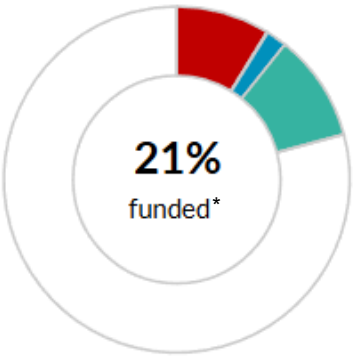
485

Congolese refugee students sat for their national exams at Nyarugusu Camp.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY 2026)

USD 81.1 million

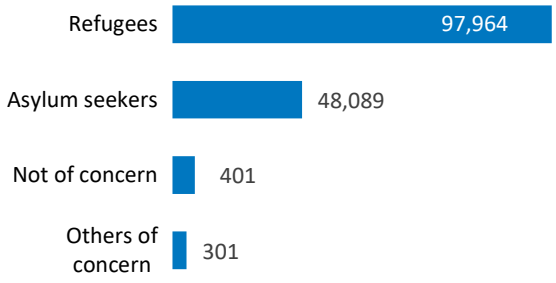
Requested for the Tanzania operation.



** Figure may be adjusted subject to reconciliation.*

A Congolese student sits for her national examinations at Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. ©UNHCR/Maimuna Mtengela

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 MAY 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 57 individuals seeking safety in Tanzania this month. This brings the total number of arrivals since renewed violence in Eastern DRC in January 2025 to 4,329 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.
- **Child protection:** On 26 May 2026, UNHCR supported partners Caritas Tanzania and Save the Children to deliver child protection training for 57 secondary school teachers (15 female, 42 male) in Nyarugusu Camp. The training covered child protection principles, identification of risks, confidentiality, and referral pathways.

EDUCATION

- **Congolese national examinations:** The National Exams Council of Tanzania (NECTA) in collaboration with the DRC Government, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), UNHCR, and Caritas Tanzania, conducted the first session of the DRC Form Four national exams in Nyarugusu Camp from 4-15 May 2026. A total of 485 candidates (155 female, 330 male) sat for the exams out of 502 registered. The exams covered dissertation, traditional, English and French, and practical exams in Agriculture, Mechanics, Veterinary sciences, Commerce and Administration, and Social Work and Pedagogy.
- **Turkish Government university scholarships:** UNHCR supported 61 Congolese refugee youth in submitting applications for Turkish Government-funded university scholarships, by providing laptops, internet access, and a dedicated space to complete their applications.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- **Health services:** UNHCR's health partners conducted 13,423 consultations for refugees and host communities in the camps (12,355 refugees, 1,068 Tanzanians). The top three leading causes of morbidities were malaria (29%), upper respiratory tract infection (19%), and urinary tract infection (16%). The crude mortality rate was 0.42 and the under-five mortality rate was 1.24, both within global standards.
- **Comprehensive safe motherhood services:** A total of 491 live births were delivered in Nyarugusu Camp, including refugees and the host community, with 98 per cent of deliveries conducted by skilled healthcare workers. Out of the 491 live births, 36 live births were delivered by host community women inside the camp.
- **Medical referrals:** A total of 38 referrals from the camp and urban areas were conducted this month to primary and secondary level referral hospitals through partners to save the lives of refugees and asylum seekers (33 from Dar es Salaam, 5 from Nyarugusu Camp). All referrals were emergency cases.
- **Nutrition:** UNHCR's partners and nutrition community volunteers identified a total of five children under five years old (4 refugees, 1 Tanzanian) with Severe Acute Malnutrition, all children were provided with the necessary treatment.

FOOD SECURITY

- **Food distribution:** Refugees residing in Nyarugusu camp received 50 per cent of the dry food rations in May 2026 provided by WFP. UNHCR's partner, the Tanganyika Christian Refugees Services (TCRS), continued providing hot meals for Burundian refugees repatriating and Congolese new arrivals residing at the departure and reception centres at 50 per cent and 82 per cent respectively.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- **Water:** Water supply coverage was at an average of 24.8 litres per person per day in the camp, which is above the global standard of 20 litres per person per day.
- **Sanitation:** Household latrine coverage was at an average of 72 per cent in the camp, a moderate increase from the previous month of 68 per cent, though it remains a substantial gap as it falls below the 85 per cent global standard for household latrine coverage.
- **Hygiene:** UNHCR, WASH partners, and refugee hygiene promoters continued hygiene promotion activities this month, reaching a total of 97,900 refugees in the camp. However, each hygiene promoter currently covers an average of 2,119 persons, exceeding the global standard of 1,000 persons per hygiene promoter and highlighting a gap in staffing and outreach capacity.

SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- **Shelter maintenance:** UNHCR and partners maintained 25 shelters for 104 Burundian refugees (60 female, 44 male) in the Congolese zone of Nyarugusu Camp. These individuals form part of approximately 1,000 refugees relocated from Nduta Camp to Nyarugusu Camp ahead of its closure on 30 April 2026, following joint protection assessments conducted with the Government to identify those with continued international protection needs.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- **Resettlement:** UNHCR submitted 11 refugees to Canada for resettlement, bringing the total to 64 refugees who were submitted for resettlement since January 2026. In addition, 53 refugees departed for resettlement to Canada, bringing the total to 141 refugees who departed for resettlement since January 2026
- **Return:** The Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, UNHCR, and its partners facilitated the voluntary return of 3,119 individuals to Burundi this month to Bujumbura Mairie, Bururi, Cankuzo, Karuzi, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rumonge, Ruyigi, and Rutana. This brings the total number of Burundian refugees repatriated to Burundi in 2026 to 80,655 and since 2017 to 267,072.

ACCESS TO ENERGY

- **Energy:** From 1-29 May 2026, UNHCR partners TCRS and Good Neighbors Tanzania provided cooking solutions to refugees and asylum seekers at institutional and household levels. A total of 9,492 individuals (4,739 women, 4,753 men) received liquefied petroleum gas-cooked meals at the departure center and main hospital in Nyarugusu Camp, and at the transit centre in Kigoma. Additionally, 314 refugees (186 women, 128 men) received bio-briquettes and 422,100 kg of firewood was distributed to 2,500 refugees with specific needs.

GAPS AND NEEDS

Chronic funding shortfalls continued to impact services for forcibly displaced people in Tanzania. In camp health facilities, shortage of HIV test kits and family planning commodities risks the increase of disease transmission, unintended pregnancies, and maternal complications.

DONORS

UNHCR in Tanzania is grateful for the support of Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, 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 | Church World Services | Dignity Kwanza | Disability Relief Services | FAO | Good Neighbors Tanzania | HelpAge Tanzania | IOM | Kivulini Women's Rights Organisation | MSF | Save the Children | TCRS | TRCS | UN RCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UN Women | Water Mission | WFP | WHO | WLAC | World Vision Tanzania

LINKS

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