

# United Republic of Tanzania

### **KEY FIGURES**

284,266

Total number of refugees and asylum-seekers living in Tanzania

241,721

Total camp-based population

165,117

Burundian population of concern

76,418

Congolese population of concern

84,343

Burundian refugees returned voluntarily since September 2017

# Funded Unfunded USD 15.7 M received USD 224.2 M gap

**APRIL 2020 FUNDING LEVEL** 

# **Operational Highlights**

■ Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, refugees continue to receive social services and humanitarian assistance while taking additional precautions such as social distancing.



Figure 1: Patients waiting outside a health centre in Mtendeli refugee Camp. ©UNHCR/ Winnie Banda



- UNHCR facilitated a joint assessment visit of Regional Medical Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs Zonal Coordinator in all the camps. The mission assessed the isolation/ treatment centers in the camps in preparation and response for COVID-19. The assessment mission also visited Gwanumpu and Nyamnyusi health Centres, which have been designated as the treatment centers for Kakonko and Kasulu Districts, respectively.
- The Director of Refugee Services Department visited the Nduta and Mtendeli camps during the reporting period. In his mission, the Director visited the MSF and TRCS refugee hospitals to assess COVID–19 prevention and response strategies and measures in place. He also visited the general food distribution centers. The Director was pleased with COVID–19 prevention and response measures that have been undertaken in both camps and urged for the rapid installation of additional handwashing facilities (tippy taps) in all distribution centers.
- UNHCR donated 25 beds and mattresses to Nyamnyusi Treatment Centre in Kasulu district. The donation was well received by the District Medical Officer, Town Medical Officer, District Executive Director. They further noted that contribution would complement the District's preparedness efforts for COVID-19.
- Farm Training Centers (FTC) were established by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Nduta camp, and in Kumshasha village to support the host community. The centres will offer tailor-made training sessions to farmers. They will focus on rolling out sustainable and organic farming solutions for both crop and livestock farmers. The training will benefit 500 farmers in Nduta camp and 300 in Kumshasha village.

## **Key Achievements**



#### **Results and Impact**

- UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, worked on measures to ensure Persons of Concern's continued access to feedback platforms amid COVID-19. Inter-Agency Help Desks and outreach boxes, albeit with a reduced physical staff presence. Capacity-building measures were agreed upon for Incentive Workers and Community leaders to ensure continuity in the identification of persons at heightened risk, safe referral to UNHCR, and relevant partners.
- Some 334 Persons of Concern across the camps and 29 in Dar es Salaam were provided with various protection-related assistance in the reporting period. This assistance included legal counselling, coaching, interpretation services, dispute mediation, and exit permit facilitation.
- DRC, UNHCR camp management partner, organized six sensitization sessions with the village, 10 cell (Nyumba Kumi), and Zone leaders on COVID-19. Key messages approved by the Government on preventive safety measures were disseminated extensively across the camps.
- To enhance communication with the community during these challenging times, UNHCR and partners will distribute over 800 phones to community leaders, incentive staff working in different areas including child protection, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Inter-Agency Help Desk. This will boost the capacity of the community structures to continue monitoring, supporting and reporting functions. Additionally, UNHCR initiated a process of



- establishing a Protection Toll-free line as part of ensuring continued communication and timely feedback to refugees, including those related to COVID-19.
- All the SGBV cases reported in Nduta and Mtendeli camps were offered comprehensive case management services and received psychosocial support. A total of 63 cases were reported in both camps during the reporting period.
- UNHCR continued to provide targeted cash grants to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Dar es Salaam, in order to support them in meeting some of their basic needs, specifically targeting supplementing costs of rents and food. In this regard, in April 2020, a total of 34 households (93 individuals) in Dar es Salaam were assisted with cash grants through UNHCR's Implementing Partner, REDESO

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

- Resettlement processes have been postponed due to the suspension of travel in many countries. This may result in further deterioration of medical cases awaiting resettlement.
- Access to territory and asylum for potential asylum seekers from Burundi and the DRC continues to be a major challenge since 2018.
- Due to COVID-19, all direct community engagements, including town hall meetings, community leaders, and zone leaders' meetings, election of community leaders have been suspended, reducing opportunities for feedback from all sectors of the community. UNHCR and partners are moving towards the use of phones, Inter-Agency Help Desk and outreach boxes to communicate with refugees in the camps.
- Blocked SIM cards following Government regulations to register SIM cards, poses a challenge in communicating with communities, especially community leaders on whom UNHCR and partners rely for communication with communities, especially in the context of COVI-19 prevention measures.



#### **Results and Impact**

• UNHCR, together with education partners, is working on identifying feasible options to ensure refugee children continue learning amid the coronavirus situation. Distance and home-based learning through radio education broadcasting have been identified as potential tools capable of reaching out to a large number of students. In this regard, the Education Working Group (EWG) is working with Radio Kwizera, a community-based radio, to start educational broadcasting as soon as possible. Education partners are re-programming their budgets and approaches to address emerging needs and access challenges. Also, since there is limited access to radio and other gadgets, EWG is working on the procurement and distribution of solar-powered radio devices for household distribution. Moreover, take-home education packages, including photocopies of textbooks based on curriculum, were being prepared for home-based learning, targeting mainly secondary school students. Over half of the refugee population (56 percent) are children under the age of 18, and there are 105,312 children in need of educational services, including early childhood development programmes.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

An inadequate number of textbooks and other educational technologies has hindered the immediate continuity of learning following the closure of schools in March. Learning from home has been hampered by a lack of radio and home-take educational curricular packages from



the refugee's countries of origin. Refugees in Tanzania are obliged to follow the country of origin education curricular and not that of the host country.



#### **Results and Impact**

- The Crude Mortality Rate across all camps was 0.19 deaths/1000 population/month (Standard: ≤0.75/1000 population/month) and Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) was 0.41/1000 U5 Population/Month (Standard: ≤1.5/1000 U5 population/month) for the month of April, which are within the SPHERE minimum standards. About 55,375 consultations were carried out at various health facilities in all the camps. The leading cause of morbidity during the reporting period was upper respiratory tract infection followed by lower respiratory tract infection and malaria. There were 1,190 deliveries in April, with 97 percent of total birth occurring at a health facility and undertaken by skilled personnel.
- TRCS, MSF, and WASH partners are conducting information dissemination sessions on COVID-19 to the community using Megaphones, and the public addressing systems in all the camps. As of April, Risk Communication and Community Engagement actions are coordinated by UNHCR through Danish Refugees Council CBP in all the refugee camps.
- In coordination with the Kigoma Regional Medical Office, UNHCR and TRCS supported the training of health professionals on case management, surveillance, laboratory management, safe burial practices, and the Infection prevention and control (IPC) approach. Some 125 health staff from the camp health facilities and 42 from government facilities benefitted from the training. The staff trained will form the Rapid Response Team (RRT) for response in their respective districts, including the camps.
- Thirty Community leaders and religious leaders were trained on COVID-19 in collaboration with UNICEF in Nyarugusu camp. The training covered risk communication, community engagement and key messages of COVID-19.
- Crowd control and physical distancing have been maintained in the non-communicable disease and reproductive health clinics. The number of clinic days has been increased, and a specific timetable, complete with dates and time allocation for each village, has been adopted.
- Temporary isolation centres in Nyarugusu and Mtendeli were renovated and equipped with beds and wash facilities for the response to COVID -19. TRCS and MSF have been checking the temperatures of all PoCs at the health facilities and the main entrances to the camps.
- Each District hosting refugees has identified dedicated treatment centres to handle any positive cases that may emerge, including within the refugee community.
- Though its Implementing Partner REDESO, UNHCR continued to undertake a general distribution of protective supplies including disinfectants, masks, and soap to the urban refugee population, as part of the mitigation measures towards prevention of the spread of the Covid-19 infections. A total of 172 individuals were reached in the reporting period. During the distributions, refugees and asylum seekers also received IEC material in the relevant languages, with detailed information on prevention, referral and response to COVID-19. In addition, persons of concern were oriented on proper handwashing, social distancing and effective use of masks.
- REDESO continued to manage the health referrals as well as the provision of psychosocial counseling to refugees and asylum seekers in Dar es Salaam. In this regard, 23 persons of concern in Dar es Salaam were treated on an outpatient basis. As part of malaria prevention,



24 households that were found to be needy were assisted with 72 mosquito nets. Further, 3-month sanitary material distribution was provided to 19 refugee girls and women of childbearing age. So far, there has been no confirmed Covid-19 case that has been reported from the urban refugee population.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

• Amidst the global challenge to the supply chain system, there is a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), drugs and supplies as well as equipment for the of the isolation facilities. The current available stock that was meant for the Ebola preparedness is insufficient. In March, UNHCR began the process of procuring 2,000 sets of PPEs. This number is based on the requirement projections should there be a widespread infection of COVID-19 in the camps.



#### **Results and Impact**

- During the reporting period, the general food distribution was recorded at 96 percent (2070 kcal) of the food basket. Similar to the previous month, CSB (super cereal) and sugar remained at 50 percent of the ration. The supplementary feeding programme for the treatment and prevention of moderate malnutrition remains at 100 percent.
- WFP continues to provide wet feeding in Nduta camp's departure centre for refugees who registered to return to Burundi. Some 792 refugees were admitted to the centre for departure to Burundi via the Manyovu border.
- Refugees welcomed the joint revised food distribution strategy and modality from a 42-day to 84-day ration. During post-distribution monitoring, refugees requested to maintain the same distribution plan even after the pandemic since it reduces hours spent at distribution centres.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

 Maintaining physical distancing (at least 1.5 meters) as refugees wait outside food distribution centres has been challenging. Increasing the food rations to last almost three months will mitigate this challenge.



#### **Results and Impact**

- Handwashing facilities were installed and increased in coordination with NRC in all high traffic areas such as distribution centres, reception centre, and government offices. Additional stations continue to be installed in the refugee residence areas. By the end of the reporting period, there were 915 functional handwashing stations across all the camps
- Water supply in all camps exceeded the SPHERE minimum standard of 15 litres per person per day with Mtendeli at 29.89 l/p/d, Nduta at 27.75 l/p/d, and Nyarugusu at 26.5l/p/d.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

 There are funding gaps for WASH-related activities. Only 42 percent of households have family latrines across all camps. To mitigate this, different families continue to share these facilities.



However, the management of shared sanitation facilities is difficult as no one takes responsibility for cleaning them.



#### **Results and Impact**

- WFP donated some 596 jerry cans for installation of handwashing stations (tippy taps) in residential areas across Nduta and Mtendeli camps.
- UNHCR and partners are implementing a community-based shelter construction approach, which has reduced shelter construction costs by an average of 17 percent and enhanced community participation. The priority in 2020 is to provide adequate shelter for refugees and asylum-seekers through the provision of 2,273 transitional shelters.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

Some 45,000 refugees and asylum-seekers across the three camps continue to live in dilapidated emergency shelters and tents for prolonged periods of more than one year. As a result, households are forced to face harsh weather conditions during the rainy season, which exposes them to various health risks. More funding is needed to provide these households with improved housing is the form of transitional shelter, which are semi-permanent shelters made from mud brick waling and Aluzinc Roofing sheets that provides improved walls, roofing and living space.



#### **RESILIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE**

#### **Results and Impact**

- DRC finalized the identification of sites for setting up communal kitchen gardening in the camps. The gardens will be set up at various public places or institutions such as schools and humanitarian agencies premises. They will benefit 210 refugees of both Congolese and Burundian nationalities and provide them with access to diverse and nutritious vegetables.
- DRC commenced the provision of refresher training to 145 Savings Groups (SGs) in Nduta camp and 249 in host communities in Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu. The refresher training sessions covered topics on village saving and loan association operations, business skills, and financial literacy. According to data collected by DRC from 244 Saving Groups in the refugee host community, there has been an increase in savings of 2.1 percent, and total savings now stand at 536,681,524 TZS. The cumulative loans issued out to members 354,684,920 TZS. Over 5,725 smallholder farmers who are members of these groups find these low-interest loans useful as it allows them to cover agricultural expenses for their backyard gardens, medical expenses, school associated expenses, etc. UNCDF supports the initiative through the United Nations Kigoma Joint Programme.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**



- The Global Outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has considerably affected the implementation of programme activities that involve large gatherings of people, such as skill-based training at Multi-Purpose Community Centers. Delayed implementation of some project activities can be expected. DRC and UNHCR are looking into alternate modalities of service and assistance provision in the center that can be adapted to prevent overcrowding and manage gatherings to ensure the required social distance and to avoid unnecessary contact.
- Limited access to reliable markets for agri-products for farmers has continued affecting share purchasing ability among Saving Group members in refugee-hosting communities.



#### **ACCESS TO ENERGY**

#### **Results and Impact**

- Home visits were conducted to 10,883 refugees across all three camps to raise awareness on environment conversation. Some of the issues discussed include:- fabrication and use of fuel-efficient stoves, awareness-raising on the restoration of pits, best cooking practices and the use of fuel-efficient stoves (FESs) like insert stoves and improved mud stoves, cultivation on ridges within their plots to avoid soil erosion, mobilization on land restoration by backfilling of pits, water sources conservation, and forest protection, and use of bags alternative to plastic bags.
- Some 290 FESs were fabricated for distribution to PoCs in all camps. An additional 203 FESs were made for communities living in the host communities around the three refugee camps. Of these, 23 stoves will be used for demonstration purposes to Persons with Specific Needs. The FES reduce environmental pollution and the amount of firewood needed for cooking by approximately 50percent
- Some 2,214 Persons with Specific Needs were provided with firewood to support their cooking needs during the reporting period.

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, several forums, such as the peaceful co-existence meetings, and mass gatherings, have been postponed until further notice. This has meant that there is no forum to discuss any environmental issues.
- Limited partner staff presence in the camps, is affected the monitoring and awareness-raising activities. To mitigate this, REDESO, UNHCR environment partner, facilitated the election of some incentive staff members to supervise activities in the event of a total lockdown in the camps.



#### **CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT**

#### **Results and Impact**

The COVID-19 situation in the country continues to evolve. While there has been no reported case of COVID-19 in the refugee population, one case was reported in the host community, Kibondo District. With more testing being carried out by Governments across the region,



UNHCR and partners have also adopted several preventive measures to preclude contagion in the camps. These include the screening of staff members and all visitors to the camps and displaying information related to COVID-19 in local languages on notice boards. Crowd control and physical distancing measures are also being adopted at all distribution centres

#### **Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

All information material is readily available in Swahili. While the Congolese population largely understands Swahili, continuous translation to Kirundi is required to ensure that the Burundian community, who are in the majority, fully understand the messages.



Figure 2: Social distancing and handwashing at a distribution centre in Nyarugusu Camp. ©UNHCR/ Malika Shakya

# **Financial Information**

The Government and the people of Tanzania continue to bear the burden of a protracted refugee crisis. Refugees and asylum seekers are almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance due to the limited opportunities to earn a living. More funding is thus required to meet the ever-growing needs. Currently, the Tanzania Refugee Response Plan partners received only 7 percent of the required funding. For 2020, UNHCR and partners require USD 240 million for the refugee response.

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic globally, the United Nations has updated its Global Humanitarian Response Plan and issued a global appeal for funding. UNHCR has thus revised its Emergency Appeal detailing the country and sectoral breakdown. The Tanzania operation is seeking US\$3.4 million for preparedness and response actions, of which there is a funding gap of 47 percent.

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

# Working in Partnership

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 of concern receive the protection and assistance they need through the collective efforts and capacities of all partners involved.



Published in March 2019, the Tanzania Country Refugee Response Plan for 2019-2020 outlines the response strategies and financial requirements of partners supporting Tanzania to provide protection and assistance to Burundian and Congolese refugees. An expanded two-year timeframe, the inclusion of the impact on the host community, and the addition of several new partners reflect efforts to make the response plans more comprehensive and solutions oriented.





- UNHCR works closely with other UN agencies through the UN Reform, Delivering as One initiative and participates in the UN Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II) 2016-2021, under the Resilience Thematic Results Group. Within this group, UNHCR undertakes action to ensure that a joint vision of protection-sensitive and solutions-oriented assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers is delivered in line with international norms and standards. UNHCR also works with the MoHA, its direct government counterpart in Tanzania, while maintaining productive relations with other Government entities and NGO partners.
- The United Nations Kigoma Joint Programme is an area-based UN joint programme that cuts across multiple sectors and links the UN's current humanitarian response to refugees and migrants with an increased focus on supporting host communities as well as strengthening the link between humanitarian and development initiatives in the region. Sixteen different UN agencies are involved in the programme, which was developed in cooperation with the regional and District authorities and based on the development needs of the region and the capacities of the UN in Tanzania.
- Following the endorsement of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in December 2018, UNHCR and partners are engaging the Government in discussions on how to operationalize the GCR in Tanzania. On 16 –18 December 2019, some 3,000 participants, including refugees, heads of state and Government, UN leaders, international institutions, development organizations, business leaders and civil society representatives, came together in Geneva for the first-ever Global Refugee Forum. Held exactly a year after the UN General Assembly affirmed a new framework for a more predictable and equitable approach to supporting refugees and host communities, discussions and high-level talks focused on six key areas: responsibility sharing; education; jobs and livelihoods; energy and infrastructure; solutions; and protection capacity. Over 770 pledges were made from across the spectrum at the Forum. These contributions are expected to include financial, technical, and material assistance; legal and policy changes to enable greater inclusion of refugees in society; resettlement places; and the safe return for refugees as part of durable solutions. For a complete list of pledges, see the dashboard here.

#### **PARTNERS IN THE RESPONSE:**

- Refugee Services Department, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- President's Office, Regional Administration-Local Government (PO-RALG)
- AIRD African Initiatives for Relief and Development



- Babawatoto
- CARITAS
- CEMDO Community Environmental Management and Development Organization
- CWS Church World Service
- Disability Relief Service
- DRC Danish Refugee Council
- FAO
- GNTZ Good Neighbors Tanzania
- HelpAge International
- ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross
- IOM International Organization for Migration
- IRC International Rescue Committee
- JRS Jesuit Refugee Service
- MTI Medical Teams International
- MSF –Médecins Sans Frontières
- NRC Norwegian Refugee Council
- OXFAM Oxfam Great Britain
- Plan International
- REDESO Relief to Development Society
- Save the Children
- TCRS Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service
- TRCS Tanzania Red Cross Society
- UNCDF
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- Water Mission
- WFP
- WLAC The Women's Legal Aid Centre

#### **LINKS**

For more information on the current refugee situation in Tanzania, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing portal on the refugee situation <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.



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