

# MALAWI

AUGUST 2020

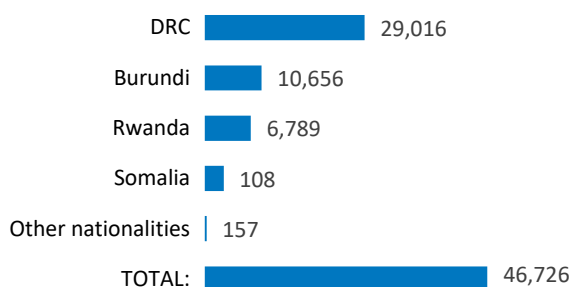
**46,726 refugees and asylum-seekers** reside in Dzaleka refugee camp (as of 31 August 2020) while **129** new arrivals and **168** new-born babies were registered in August 2020.

All new arrivals in Dzaleka refugee camp are put on a 14-day quarantine at the Reception Centre before being allowed to proceed and mix with other refugees and asylum seekers.

Dzaleka refugee camp initially designed to accommodate about 10,000 people is heavily congested with over **46,000** posing a serious health risk if COVID-19 is to escalate.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

### Country of Origin



## FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

### USD 21.4 Million

requested for UNHCR operation in Malawi

**Funded**  
**38.2%**



**Unfunded**  
**61.8%**

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

**28** National Staff

**19** International Staff

### Offices:

**1** Country Office in Lilongwe

**1** Field Unit in Karonga



Minister of Homeland Security Richard Chimwendo Banda interacting with a beneficiary of 320 new plots being funded by Government of Japan at Katubza project site. ©UNHCR/ R. Msiska

## Working with Partners

- Under the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, coordinates activities with the following partners: Ministry of Homeland Security (MoHS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Plan International Malawi (PIM), Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), Welthungerhilfe (WHH). UNHCR also collaborates with other operational partners and UN agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP). UNHCR is part of the UN Country Team and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

## Main Activities

### Protection

- New Minister of Homeland Security Honourable Richard Chimwendo Banda had his maiden visit to Dzaleka refugee camp where he made an assurance that Government of Malawi is looking into the issue of providing more land for expansion of the camp. The minister was guest of honour when Japan Ambassador to Malawi H.E Satoshi Iwakiri supervised works done so far at Government of Japan funded Katubza Project site which is land provided by Government of Malawi for expansion of the camp.
- On 19 August 2020, UNHCR had a briefing session with Minister of Homeland Security Honourable Richard Chimwendo Banda. UNHCR Representative Madam Fatima Mohammed-Cole led the UNHCR delegation in the session which mainly centred on briefing the new minister on the UN Refugee Agency's work in Malawi and cooperation with the Government of Malawi. Technical experts from both UNHCR and MoHS briefed the minister on the status of the Migration Policy; Global Compact on Refugees and Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (GCR-CRRF). The minister was also briefed on the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) which took place in December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland including the status of a roadmap for implementation of the CRRF in Malawi.
- UNHCR donated Personal Preventive Equipment (PPEs) to Malawi Prison Services. The donation included gumboots, face masks and gloves which are very critical for frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19.
- On 25 and 26 August, UNHCR, Government of Malawi and partners working in Dzaleka Refugee Camp had a joint planning meeting to deliberate over activities for the refugee operation. Being a unique year in the sense that there was change in management due to COVID-19, a need arose for UNHCR, government and all partners to revisit the program planning of the refugee operation and prioritize activities for the remaining part of the year.

### Education

- UNHCR held a bi-lateral meeting with the refugee hosting district Dowa Education Management under Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST). The meeting was chaired by UNHCR Representative and was aimed at discussing strategic engagement to ensure gradual inclusion of refugee education into the national education system.
- On 27 August, Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST) issued a press release announcing that all schools, colleges and universities in Malawi will open from 07 September. Examination classes of Standard 8 and Form 4 will be the first group of students to go back to school from 07 September. Preparations are underway in the refugee school to ensure safe re-opening as per the national standard to combat COVID-19.
- A total of 47 students of the German government funded DAFI scholarships continued to receive their monthly allowance. The allowance is meant to support their remote learning during COVID-19 university closure. As part of their community services reasonability, DAFI scholars through DAFI club distributed 380 faces masks to Dzaleka Day Community Secondary School students.

### Health

- The Dzaleka Health Centre, a primary health facility provides services to about 80,000 people; 65 per cent from the host community. Although there is presently no disruption

in refugee's access to health care, the Health Centre continues to be overcrowded due to limited spacing. Prefabricated structures and a tent were erected to manage this, pending completion of expansion works of the facility.

- Despite the threat of COVID-19, UNHCR's health partner (Ministry of Health and Population) continued with provision of services to refugees and nationals at Dzaleka Health Centre. The Isolation facility in Dzaleka is the designated treatment facility in Dowa district for the management of COVID-19 amongst refugees and nationals from the district.
- Completion of the upgrade works in Dzaleka Health Centre laboratory to meet the standard of a COVID-19 GeneXpert testing site. Testing will commence on the availability of GeneXpert cartridges
- UNHCR supported the Reproductive Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health and Population in the training of twenty nurses and clinicians from Dzaleka health centre, Nalunga health centre and Dowa district hospital on Integrated Maternal and Neonatal Health.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Malawi, World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF to address the nutrition needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. Up to 90 per cent of refugees in the camp rely on food assistance, as a result of the reservations made by the Government of Malawi in which they cannot seek employment or conduct businesses outside of the camp.

### Water and Sanitation

- Dzaleka refugee camp has 43 boreholes of which 38 are equipped with hand pumps and 5 are sourcing reticulated water networks. The total water produced is 285m<sup>3</sup> per day from the handpumps and 119.5m<sup>3</sup> per day from the reticulated network which, considering the refugees population of 46,726 individuals, it is only enough to cover 43 percent of the water demand. There are 15 water kiosks, each with four taps per kiosk which supply 397,500 litres of water per day to the camp.
- People of concern receive on average, 8.6 litres of water per person per day while the standard is  $\geq 20$  litres per person per day.
- There are 109 communal toilet stances and 5,500 household toilet stances. With the move from communal to household toilet facilities, there is a gap of over 3,000 household toilet stances to meet the standard ratio of  $\leq 20$  people per latrine.

### Settlement and Shelter

- A total of 320 plots for 320 families of 5.5 people per household are being developed at Katubza project site which is an extension of Dzaleka refugee camp. In addition, ongoing development works like construction of an 8-kilometre road and drain structures are being implemented with labour intensive design principles which allow for creation of income opportunities and capacity building through task work and for future maintenance.
- The development of Katubza and Dzaleka Hill has also created income generating opportunities for people of concern who are participating in the construction of roads and drainages (a total of 120 people, with a 50-50 labour supply from both the refugee and host community). Others include employment of local artisans from refugee community who are assisting with shelter construction; employment of labour force for development and installation of a reticulated water supply network; employment of labour force for excavation of household latrines for the two settlement areas.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Ninety-six per cent of refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka refugee camp live below the moderate to ultra-poverty line. This is high, in comparison to the national population in Malawi. Due to the encampment policy most refugees and asylum seekers have limited income generating opportunities.
- Current livelihood activities include high value crop production using rain-fed agriculture. Due to erratic rain patterns, UNHCR has funded the development of a solar powered irrigation scheme through a livelihoods partner CARD, completed in 2018.

- The livelihood interventions in Dzaleka are of benefit to both the host community and people of concern at 40 and 60 percent ratios respectively. This is also promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community.
- Refugees and asylum seekers continue to benefit from group lending loans, training courses on financial literacy and business skills and tailored services offered by MyBucks Banking Corporation which opened a branch in Dzaleka camp in 2018.

#### Durable Solutions

- Government of Malawi started enrolling CRRF although the Inter-Ministerial CRRF Steering Committee is yet to adopt the 5 pledges Malawi made during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and the Roadmap for the implementation of the GCR-CRRF. The five pledges made are; (i) Inclusion of Refugees into the National Development Agenda; (ii) Legal and Policy Reform; (iii) Registration and Documentation; (iv) Settlement Approach and Self-Reliance and (v) Reception and admission.

## Financial Information (as of 09 July 2020)

#### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS I USD

**Germany** 39.2 million | **United Kingdom** 24.8 million | **USA** 21.9 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Canada** 10.3 million | **Private donors USA** 7.4 million | **Private donors Australia** 4.6 million | **Private donors Japan** 3.9 million | **Spain** 3.4 million | **Ireland** 3.3 million | **Sweden** 3 million | **France** 2.8 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2 million

*\*Due to their earmarking at the region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used in Southern Africa.*

#### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS I USD\*\*

**Sweden** 76.4 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 39.8 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 20.5 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **France** 14 million | **Private donors Japan** 11.7 million

*\*\*Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility on how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.*

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