FACT SHEET

United Republic of Tanzania

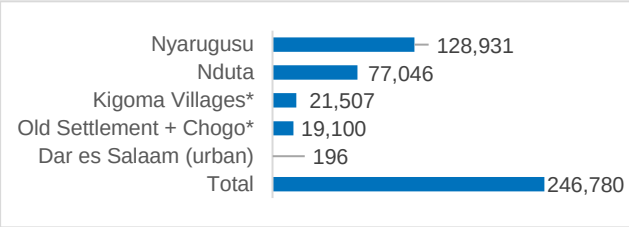
31 December 2021

Tanzania has a long history of hosting refugees. Currently, the country hosts 246,780 refugees and asylum-seekers (09 December 2021), mainly from Burundi and DR Congo.

The strict encampment policy limits refugees' freedom of movement, access to employment and public services - leaving them overwhelmingly dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Chronic underfunding continues to hamper the humanitarian response. More funding is required to address the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Tanzania.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



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

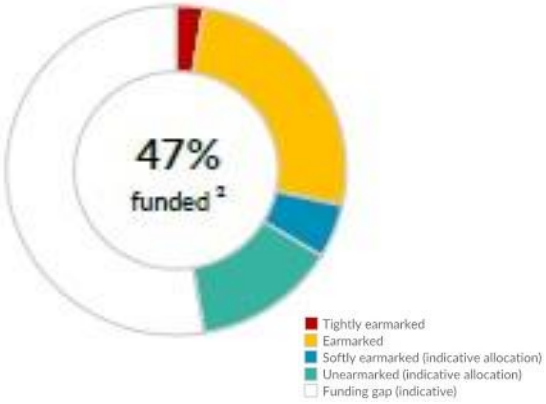
**Old Settlements and Kigoma villages population includes only the Accepted Individuals during the 2017/18 Verification.*

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

FUNDING (AS 29 DECEMBER)

USD 116.7 million

requested for the Tanzania refugee operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

178 National Staff

50 International Staff
21 Individual Contractors
5 International UNVs

Offices:

Representation in [Dar es Salaam]

01 Sub Office in [Kigoma]

02 Field Offices in [Kibondo & Kasulu],

02 Field Units in [Mwanza & Dodoma]

Refugee with some of his belongings during the relocation of refugees from Mtendeli to Nduta refugee camp, Tanzania. © UNHCR/Magdalena Kasubi

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

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR seeks to uphold the basic 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 lives would be in danger. Protection delivery includes all actions designed to restore human dignity and social inclusion through access to services. Family unity, the dignity of women, the child's rights, and the social protection of vulnerable groups made even more vulnerable by displacement are all protection elements. Some of the critical services offered in the camps include.

- Reduce the risks of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and ensure support is available for survivors. In collaboration with partners, UNHCR ensures that prevention, mitigation, and response to SGBV remains a priority in the refugee-hosting areas. The current National Action Plan brings together numerous sectors and prioritizes safe and accessible spaces for women and children. It also strengthens awareness of and access to reporting mechanisms for SGBV including, access to legal, medical, and psycho-social assistance for SGBV survivors.
- Ensure 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 labour.
- 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.

Education

The Refugee Education Response Plan seeks to provide school-aged children with equitable, quality formal, and alternative education through Early Childhood Care and

Development resource materials, infrastructure development, and teachers' professional development. There are 100 learning spaces that provide 836 classrooms and accommodate 93,632 learners. Some significant challenges include;

- The classroom-to-student ratio currently stands at 1:80 in double shift compared to the national standard of 1:50. The teacher-to-student ratio is 1:85 compared to the national standard of 1:50 in lower primary classes. Pit latrine per pupil is 1:125 while desk/pupil ratio stands at 1:5, and textbook per pupil ratio is 1:12
- Schools in the refugee camps use the country-of-origin curriculum, making it difficult for teachers and students to access teaching and learning materials. The National Examination Council of Tanzania administers the examinations for the Burundi population. However, this is very costly (US$ 300,000 for about 1200 students). The non-inclusion in the national education system, uncertainties in exams, delays in NECTA examination, and untimely provision of results have affected students' transition to other grades especially grade nine to grade eleven. Due to this, many students lose focus and opt for early marriage, early pregnancies, and child labour.
- Students who completed and passed form six pending receiving certificates have not been able to be absorbed in higher learning opportunities, including DAFI, DAAD and WUSC scholarships and others
- Almost 52 percent of primary and secondary school teachers lack professional qualifications, which contributes to the poor performance of students.
- The teaching environment is challenging and compounded by low incentives (US$ 27 per month), resulting in a high ratio of teacher turnover and absenteeism, which leads to poor performance.

Health

- UNHCR, through partners, operates hospitals and health centers across the three camps in the Kigoma region. Tanzania Red Cross Society and MSF provide preventive, curative, and promotive health services, which includes outpatient and Inpatient care along with Reproductive Health and HIV services in all three camps while Medical Teams International (MTI) support maternal health and secondary and tertiary medical referrals to regional and national hospitals as per UNHCR the medical referral Standard Operating Procedures.
- The crude and under-five mortality rates remain within the Sphere standard of <0.75 death/1000 population/month and <1.5 deaths/1000 population/month.
- Extreme prioritization of secondary and tertiary medical referrals due to limited funds affects the quality of life for some individual refugees who would benefit. Long lead time for medicines and medical equipment, and other supplies procured internationally affects the provision of health services to both refugees and nearby hosting populations.
- Refugees are included in the COVID-19 National Response Plan and the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan. UNHCR continues to support the regional medical

officer and district hospitals with medical equipment based on the needs. Response and prevention measures have been rolled out in all camps, and dissemination of correct behavioural change information and community engagement is constant. COVID-19 vaccination exercise was launched in Nyarugusu camp on 05 November 2021 and in Nduta on 19 November 2021.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Food assistance through the general food distribution has sharply declined in the last 18 months from 100 to 68 percent of the full basket requirements. Supplementary feeding for persons with specific needs continues to be maintained at 100 percent across all camps.
- The overall prevalence of global acute malnutrition is 1.6 percent across all camps, which is well below the 10 percent World Health Organization classification/ threshold.
- Stunting is a major Public health concern as the rate amongst refugees is at 38.2%, which is above the WHO standard of ≥ 20%.
- Implementing Partners with support from WFP and UNHCR are is implementing kitchen gardens to enable refugees to diversify their dietary requirements.
- More funding is needed to ensure rations are increased. At the same time, advocacy efforts are required to expand refugees' livelihood opportunities to either engage directly in (small-scale) agriculture production or other income-generating and trade activities to supplement food rations.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR and partners exceeded the minimum SPHERE standard for water supply coverage in all camps following continued WASH infrastructure developments such as rehabilitation, drilling, and solarization of boreholes.
- UNHCR remains focused on ensuring that shared latrines are replaced with household latrines for hygiene and protection reasons. Currently, 66% of the entire population have household latrines.
- The ratio of hygiene promoter per person is 1:553. Currently, hygiene promotion includes disseminating COVID-19 prevention messages and installing and maintaining handwashing facilities in public areas.
- UNHCR and partners continue to support host communities' WASH projects as part of its commitment.

Shelter

- UNHCR and partners implement a community-based shelter construction approach that has reduced shelter construction costs and enhanced community participation.
- Across the camps, constructions planned for 2021 are complete. Activities under general site operation include constructing 31 different communal facilities and 43.6 km of road networks to facilitate service delivery to the PoCs. These projects include

construction of GDT centres, rehabilitation of health facilities, restoration of police facilities and construction of registration centers to facilitate birth registration exercise, and the construction of classrooms.

- Some refugees and asylum-seekers across the three camps continue to live in dilapidated emergency shelters and tents for prolonged periods, resulting in unacceptable living conditions. Persons of concern are also forced to face harsh weather conditions from October to May during the rainy season, exposing them to various health risks.
- The Government demolishes shelters left by returnees, yet 32% of refugees and asylum-seekers across the three camps continue to live in dilapidated shelters. As of December 2021, the overall percentage of households living in inadequate shelters across the three camps stood at 70% for Burundians and 66% for refugees and asylum seekers from DRC and other nationalities.
- Some 5,671 upgradable shelters were constructed in Nduta camp to accommodate the Burundian refugees who were relocated from Mtendeli for camp consolidation.
- Intensified advocacy is required to convince the Government to allow refugees living in dilapidated shelters to relocate to houses left vacant by families who return home through the voluntary repatriation exercise rather than demolishing them.
- UNHCR and partners, supported host communities' shelter projects as part of 2021 commitment, specifically by constructing one block of two classrooms in Kasulu, Kibondo, and Kakonko Districts. Also, support setting centres for NIDA registration for the 1972 Burundian caseloads in Kigoma at NMC, Kinazi, Ilagara, Nguruka and Kitanga.

Energy and Environment

- The use of natural resources in and around the camps, including clearing trees for fuelwood and shelter for construction, has resulted in increased rates of environmental degradation and tension between refugees and surrounding communities who compete over shared common natural resources.
- Environmental degradation is a key concern of the Government. To mitigate the negative impacts, UNHCR is implementing environmental conservation & protection and restoration activities such as tree planting programmes, improved monitoring of the planted trees, construction of soil conservation structures and environmental education, as well as, promoting energy-efficient technologies to reduce reliance on firewood and manage the environment sustainably.
- UNHCR is increasingly looking to engage local authorities and relevant government entities in the planning and implementation of environmental activities, recognizing their responsibility and centrality in sustainability managing the environment and natural resources.

- Efforts are ongoing to mobilize additional resources to address environmental issues, including through the Green Climate Fund, and UNHCR is continuing to draw attention to this issue with development partners.
- Some 6,320 people with Special Needs are provided with firewood for cooking at a per capita consumption of 1.8kg per day. Additional 335 households are supported with biomass charcoal briquettes as an alternative source of energy for cooking in the camps.
- Some refugees and members of the host communities are provided with training and raw materials for household biomass charcoal briquettes production. This is undertaken in parallel with supporting energy-saving initiatives such as the fabrication of fuel-efficient stoves and training of persons of concern on the best cooking practices to reduce the amount of fuel used for cooking. Other cooking energy alternatives that have been explored include solar cookers for refugees and biogas for host communities.
- Both energy for cooking and lighting remain a major challenge in the camp due to insufficient funds and lack of sustainability of pilot projects.
- Long-term sustainability of energy and environment interventions requires access to livelihood opportunities inside and outside the camps, including those associated with alternative cooking fuels. This can be achieved by re-establishing Cash-Based Interventions in the camps and easing the strict encampment policy.

Livelihood and Self-Reliance

- Options for refugees to pursue livelihood opportunities and self-reliance have become increasingly restricted, as evidenced by the suspension of the refugee common markets and the closure of many of the refugee-run businesses across the camps. Cash-Based Initiatives (CBI) and/or Cash-Based Transfers (CBT), Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) have been halted. Additionally, Vocational Skills Training (VST) and kitchen gardening are banned for Burundian refugees.
- Restrictions on livelihoods compromise refugees' attempts to break away from aid dependency and hamper efforts by UN agencies and their partners to support refugees achieve the resilience they need to pursue durable solutions to displacement. Moreover, the closure of the markets also had a heavy impact on a broad section of the host communities, who regularly used the common markets to trade and barter goods.
- The singular focus on the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees has severely hampered their opportunities to engage in livelihoods activities. The Government perceives these types of activities as an incentive for refugees to remain in Tanzania. However, due to hardships conditions in the camps, the number of refugees secondary movement from Tanzania to Kenya and other countries in the region has almost doubled in the last three years

- UNHCR continues to advocate for the need to build skills, capacities, and livelihoods of refugees in the camps in Tanzania to build their "resilience for return," which would facilitate the rebuilding of their livelihoods as they are seeking to re-integrate durably in their communities in Burundi.
- Within the existing restrictions, UNHCR and partners are providing VST (only for Congolese refugees) and online training to prepare refugees to smoothly re-integrate upon returning to their countries of origin. UNHCR will continue to explore opportunities for (Tanzania-Burundi) cross-border programming with counterparts in Burundi for sustained support on smooth reintegration upon return.

Durable Solutions

UNHCR is about protecting and assisting refugees, with the ultimate goal of finding durable solutions that allow them to rebuild their lives. In Tanzania, these solutions include voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and local settlement/ integration.

- Voluntary Repatriation: In line with the Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania, UNHCR facilitates returns as long as they are voluntary and the result of a free and informed choice by refugees. In collaboration with the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and supported by the international community, UNHCR and partners in Tanzania have helped over 30,070 Burundian refugees voluntarily return home since the beginning of 2021 (139,538 since 2017).
- Resettlement: Resettlement remains the most viable, durable solution for Congolese refugees who have been in a protracted asylum situation since the mid-1990s with limited prospects of returning to their country of origin. Refugees of all nationalities at heightened risk and those with intensified vulnerabilities also benefit from resettlement as a protection tool, especially those with serious medical needs, survivors of violence and torture, women and girls at risk, and those with heightened legal and physical protection needs. The total number of departures from 2012 to the end of December 2021 stands at almost 26,000 individuals.
- Local Integration: In 2014, the Government of Tanzania granted citizenship to more than 162,000 Burundian refugees who fled to Tanzania in 1972. In December 2018, the Government of Tanzania and UNHCR concluded a Verification, Registration, and Intention Survey (VRIS) exercise across the country. Currently, 68,000 individuals residing 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 are almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance due to the limited opportunities to earn a living. Currently, UNHCR has revised its comprehensive needs budget for its 2021 refugee response to 116.7 million (47 percent funded).

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.

Funding received in 2021

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | People's Republic of China | Costa Rica | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Private donors Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Private donors Republic of Korea | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Philippines | Portugal | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Private donors Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United States of America | Uruguay

LINKS

For more information on the current refugee situation in Tanzania, please visit the Inter-Agency Information Sharing portal on the refugee situation here.

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

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