United Republic of Tanzania

KEY FIGURES

284,108
Total number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Tanzania

241,467
Total camp-based population

164,837
Burundian population of concern

76,473
Congolese population of concern

85,220
Burundian refugees returned voluntarily since 2017

FUNDING LEVEL AS OF 30 JUNE 2020

USD 218.6 M received
92%

USD 21.3 M Unfunded
9%

Operational Highlights

UNHCR, Government of Tanzania and partners commemorated World Refugee Day on 20 June through a series of virtual events and small activities in refugee camps. The traditional in-person commemorations that would have brought together large gatherings were not possible this year due to COVID-19. None the less, through a series of activities in the refugee hosting region of Kigoma and a televised live discussion, the United Nations, together with the Government and other partners, were successful in reminding the world that everyone, including refugees, can contribute to society.

Everyone Can Make A Difference: Every Action Counts #WithRefugees
Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises, has allocated USD 1.5 million to Tanzania refugee operation. The funds which will be used for COVID-19 education response activities target both refugee education and host community schools. Based on the ECW’s established selection criteria and after the approval of the Grantee Selection Committee, two organizations, namely IRC and Save the Children, have been selected to receive the fund. UNHCR will maintain its coordination role in the project.

UNCDF has produced comic magazines and podcasts on digital financial literacy, including mobile money, credit and saving branded LENGA. LENGA means “To Move Forward” in Kiswahili. This is the brand name of a set of comics and audio podcasts developed by UNCDF to reinforce messages on savings, savings groups, credit and mobile money. LENGA focuses on teaching simple principles that aim to improve financial literacy for communities living in rural Tanzania – both refugees and members of the host community.

Key Achievements

PROTECTION

Results and Impact

- Women refugee tailors under women empowerment programs participated in masks production in Nduta and Mtendeli camps. Some 11,269 masks were produced for adults and children as a preventive measure against COVID-19.

Challenges and Remaining Gaps

- The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted upon implementation of support groups such as the interpersonal group psychotherapy (IPT-G) since people are not allowed to be in groups to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections;

EDUCATION

Results and Impact

- Some to 72,471 students have returned to school after three months of closure following the breakout of COVID-19. Preparedness and minimum measures in schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease have been put in place, including handwashing facilities, soaps, and training of teaching and non-teaching staff on prevention of COVID 19 in schools. On the first day of school, the re-opening was dedicated to the training of students and teachers on COVID-19 prevention and control best practices in schools. In addition, all students above the age of eight have been given two face masks.

- UNHCR donated 75 family tents to the regional authority on 26 June 2020. The tents will be useful in supporting schools in the Kigoma region to implement social distancing within their boarding facilities as schools re-open. Each tent has the capacity to accommodate four students.
IRC, in collaboration with Save the Children, Plan International and Caritas, conducted a two-day training for 29 Education Officers on the role of WASH Program in the prevention of COVID-19 pandemic in the schools among students and teachers.

UNHCR, in collaboration with IRC and MoHA representatives, visited refugee students enrolled in higher learning institutions, including universities and vocational training centres. The visit aimed to understand the challenges refugee students are facing while studying in their respective campuses. A total of 121 refugees, of whom 36 percent are female, have returned to their colleges and universities across the country following the re-opening of the higher learning institutions.

**Challenges and Remaining Gaps**

- Maintaining effective social distancing in overcrowded classrooms when all levels of schools will re-open remains a major education concern. Classes meant to serve 50 are catering for over 100 children at a time.
- A lack of sustainable access to examinations and certificates, coupled with the high cost of administering country of origin exams, continues to limit refugees’ opportunities to access higher education.

**HEALTH**

**Results and Impact**

- The Crude Mortality Rate across all camps was 0.13 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 June 2020, which are within the SPHERE minimum standards. About 39,620 consultations were carried out at various health facilities in the refugee camps. The leading cause of morbidity during the reporting period was upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) followed by lower respiratory tract...
infection (LRTI) and malaria. A total of 977 live births were conducted in all the three camps in June 2020.

- UNHCR, UNICEF and the health partners continued to roll-out community nutrition status screening through the Mother Mid Upper Arm Circumference for mothers. Also known as Mother-MUAC, the approach focuses on training mothers and other caregivers to identify early signs of malnutrition in their children using a simple to use Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape. By moving this task to mothers (or other family members), who are able to do it effectively, the cases are detected earlier, leading to fewer hospitalizations. The total number of mothers trained and received MUAC tapes in June was 13,798 across all the camps.
- Since March 2020, UNHCR and health partners have been sharing health awareness information focused on COVID-19. In the reporting period, some 186,597 Persons of Concern were reached.
- Following close collaboration of UNHCR, DRC, IRC and HelpAge, a total of 388,524 masks were produced and distributed to refugees and asylum seekers in the camps. Students were prioritized in the distribution and they all received masks before the re-opening of schools. The mask production was done through the livelihood program and engaged over 900 refugees with tailoring skills. MSF also supported the initiative through the provision of masks for Nduta camp.

Challenges and Remaining Gaps

- There is a high staff turnover leading to a capacity gap for UNHCR health partners, especially in Mtendeli and Nyarugusu Camps. Some staff trained for COVID-19 response have left their respective organizations. Health partners are in the process of recruiting new staff for the two camps.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

Results and Impact

- During the reporting period, the general food distribution was recorded at 83 percent food basket. The reduction is, in part, caused by a cost adjustment to accommodate the increased distribution cost that came with the need to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The supplementary feeding program for the treatment and prevention of moderate malnutrition nonetheless remains at 100 percent.

Challenges and Remaining Gaps

- With the recent food reduction from 94 to 83 percent and restrictions of livelihood activities in refugee designated areas, refugees remain unable to supplement their food assistance with other goods and produce.

**WATER AND SANITATION**

Results and Impact

- Water supply coverage in all camps exceeded the sphere standards of 20 litres per person per day with Nyarugusu at 27.7l/p/d, Nduta at 31.1 l/p/d and Mtendeli at 31.6 l/p/d.
- Several measures have been implemented in response to Prevention and Infection Control on COVID-19, including installation of handwashing stations, rehabilitation of communal washing slabs and distribution of IEC material.
Challenges and Remaining Gaps
■ At the onset of the COVID-19 preparedness and response actions, several temporary handwashing points were set up at strategic locations such as distribution centres. There is now a need to construct better stands for public handwashing and also set up more household handwashing points within the residential areas of the camps.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS

Results and Impact
■ Dignity kits were distributed to 30,441 refugee women and girls of reproductive age in Nduta and Mtendeli Camps. The kits contain hygiene and sanitary items, as well as other items explicitly tailored towards the local needs of women and girls of reproductive age in particular communities. Generic hygiene kits help people improve cleanliness (with items such as soap, sanitary materials, toothbrushes and toothpaste). The distribution was also extended to 50+ women. Dignity kits help women and girls maintain their dignity during humanitarian crises.

Figure 3 Women refugees receive dignity kits in Mtendeli refugee camp. ©UNHCR/ Winnie Itaeli Kweka

■ Through the community-based shelter construction approach, UNHCR and shelter partners had planned to provide for refugees and asylum-seekers 2,273 transitional shelters in 2020. The construction of these shelters was halted due to COVID-19 earlier this year. The procurement of the shelter materials has been done, while brick production and verification of the voluntarily registered Person of Concerns continue for Mtendeli and Nyarugusu refugee camps.

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

- Various Vocational Education Training (VET) programs for refugees resumed at Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu camps as well as the neighboring host communities. The training programmes include:
  i) Vocational Training (e.g., tailoring, soap making, phone fixing, bicycle repair, bakery and hair salons),
  ii) Functional Literacy (reading, writing, counting and language)
  iii) Professional/ technical skills training for apprenticeships/ internship
  iv) Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)

Some of the achievements in the reporting period include the registration of 55 refugees on the Coursera e-learning platform and the establishment of a farming training center at Nduta and Kumshasha village. Livelihood interventions in the camps are designed to build capacities of the refugees for self-employment while in the camps and, consequently, promote resilience upon return.

- Within the framework of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), the capacities of 384 farmers from the host community and 143 refugees have been developed through various training sessions on Business Skills and Saving Groups operation. Over 3,386 farmers in Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko districts have so far benefitted from such training. In addition, 1,556 farmers were linked to the Digital Mobile Africa platforms (digital saving wallets) to enable farmers to accumulate financial capital for Agric-inputs.

Challenges and Remaining Gaps

- The COVID-19 pandemic has considerably affected the implementation of programme activities that involve large gatherings such as skill-based training sessions at Multi-Purpose Community Centre. The implementation of some project activities will be delayed.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Results and Impact

- Partners and refugees are observing mitigating measures to combat the spread of COVID–19. Most of the information materials disseminated were in Swahili, thus discernible for persons of concern from the DRC. Burundi Refugee Representatives were proactive in interpreting and translating the information to Kirundi and transmitting the messages through public address systems. Religious leaders also spent some minutes to remind the congregations of COVID–19 measures.

Challenges and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR.
Results and Impact

- Some 248 Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) were fabricated and distributed to refugees within the camps (130) and to the host communities (118). Moreover, 391 insert stoves were repaired in both refugee and host communities. The FES reduce environmental pollution and the amount of firewood needed for cooking by approximately 50 percent.
- More than 2,300 Congolese and Burundian refugees received environment education through home visits in Nyarugusu camp. Home visits entail daily visits to individual homesteads within designated zones and villages. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no meetings on environmental education were held in the camps.
- About 2,050 Persons with Specific Needs were provided by firewood as well as 25 fuel-efficient stoves.

Challenges and Remaining Gaps

- Meetings that attract large gatherings remain suspended. This continues to affect environmental education efforts in the camps negatively. It is hoped that this restriction will be lifted in July 2020.
- The fabrication of fuel-efficient stoves has been negatively impacted with persons of concern not readily collecting materials from REDESO’s camp offices to undertake self-fabrication during this period relating to COVID-19, and the enforcement of social distancing guidelines. Fabrication by REDESO by way of demonstrations for groups of refugees has also been limited.

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. More funding is thus required to meet the ever-growing needs. Currently, the Tanzania Refugee Response Plan partners have only received only US$ 21.3 million (9 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 is seeking US$3.4 million for preparedness and response actions in Tanzania.

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

Earmarked and unearmarked funding received in 2020

Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Denmark | European Union | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Sweden | Slovakia | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay | Private donors
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 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
INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE #17 > TANZANIA/June 2020

- 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 [here](#).

Follow us on Twitter [@UNHCRtanzania](#)

CONTACTS

Edward Ogolla, Communications Officer, Dar es Salaam E: ogolla@unhcr.org, Tel: +255 22 2602708
Winnie Itaeli Kweka, Communications Associate, Kibondo E: kwekaw@unhcr.org, Tel: +255 768 085 027

Everyone Can Make A Difference: Every Action Counts #WithRefugees