

Malawi

January 2021

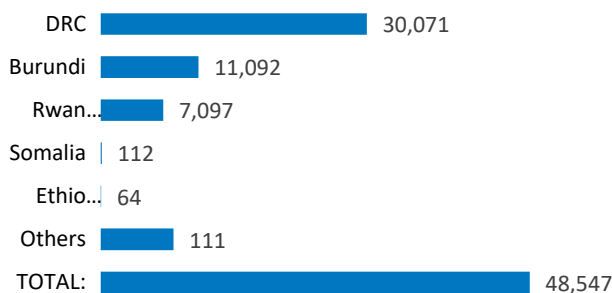
48,547 refugees and asylum seekers reside in Malawi's Dzaleka Refugee Camp as of 31 January 2021. **187 new arrivals** and **120 new-born** babies were registered in the camp.

As of 31 January 2021, cumulatively Dzaleka refugee camp had registered **90** Covid-19 positive cases, **50** recoveries, **37** active cases, **02** deaths and **one** lost follow up.

Dzaleka refugee camp, initially designed for 10,000 people, is heavily congested with over **48,270** posing a serious health risk of community transmission of COVID-19.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

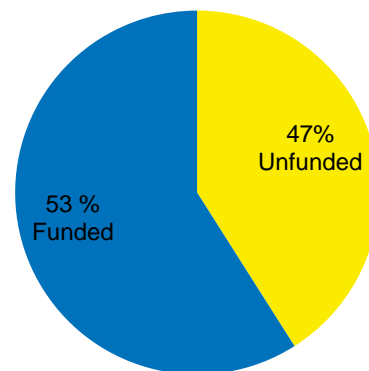
Host Countries



FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2021)

USD 21.5 million

requested for UNHCR operation in Malawi



For more information: <http://reporting.unhcr.org>

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 28** National Staff
- 19** International Staff

Offices:

- 01** Branch Office in Lilongwe
- 01** Field Office in Karonga



Extension of COVID-19 Reception, Isolation and Treatment facility in Dzaleka Refugee Camp in order to meet the demand amid rising cases of COVID-19 patients.

Working with Partners

Under the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR coordinates activities with the following partners in Malawi:

- **Government partners:** Ministry of Homeland Security (MoHS), Ministry of Health (MoH).
- **Implementing Partners:** Plan International Malawi (PIM), Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), Welthungerhilfe (WHH).
- **Operational partners:** There Is Hope Malawi, Moravian Church.
- **UN Agencies:** World Food Programme (WFP). International Organization for Migration (IOM) – one short term agreement to channel funding received from UNAIDS.
- UNHCR is part of the UN Country Team, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and other National Sectorial/Technical Working Groups.

Main Activities

Field Operations

- The COVID-19 pandemic remains a hinderance to the delivery of protection assistance and services throughout Malawi. Since last August 2020, the UN and its related programs has been working under Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Level 3 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Apart from the provision of health services, UNHCR and Partners in the Dzaleka refugee camp including the main Government interlocutor the MoHS have been working at the BCP level 3 with limited presence.
- In January 2021, there was a surge in COVID-19 cases in Malawi and Dowa district including Dzaleka Refugee Camp was not spared. As of 31 January, cumulatively, a total of 90 Covid-19 positive cases were recorded amongst refugees and asylum seekers, 50 had recovered, 37 were still active, 02 deaths and one had lost follow up.
- With the surge of COVID-19 cases both in Dzaleka Refugee Camp and Dowa district, UNHCR and the Government of Malawi including all implementing and operational partners under the Dzaleka COVID-19 Taskforce are expanding the Isolation Centre to accommodate more cases requiring medical care and treatment.
- A Radio programme on Yetu Community Radio in Dzaleka Refugee Camp on testimonies of COVID-19 survivors was introduced. The programme is aimed at bringing hope to COVID-19 patients and airs twice a week on Saturdays and Thursdays. A sitting member of parliament and some influential survivors have already been featured offering a message of hope to the POCs in particular and the surrounding host community.
- Dzaleka COVID 19 Task Force Meetings: Weekly meeting to monitor and implement activities on COVID 19 preventive measures and care of those affected continued taking place weekly under the leadership of UNHCR Protection Officer.
- Five IPs sign PPA's: Five Implementing Partners (IPs) signed 2021 Partners Partnership Agreements (PPAs). The IPs are WASH partner Welthungerhilfe (WHH); education partner Jesuit Refugees Services (JRS); livelihood partner Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD); Protection and distribution partner Plan International Malawi (PIM) and health partner Ministry of Health (MoH). UNHCR's main partner Ministry of Homeland Security (MoHS) PPA will be signed in February 2021.

SGBV:

- **'Girls Get Equal' Movement (GGE):** 32 girls were engaged in the reporting week to plan for GGE 2021 activities. It transpired that they should continue mask and soap making, getting ideas regarding second anniversary celebration for the movement, there is need for involving boys in GGE activities and awareness campaign targeting private and public schools in the camp advocating for child rights, participation and dangers of child marriage and early pregnancies. Due to the low turnout, engagement will continue over the weekend so as to come out with a thorough annual work plan.



Due to rising numbers of COVID-19 new infections in Dzaleka Refugee Camp and Dowa district in general, the Reception, Isolation and Quarantine Centre is being extended in order to treat more patients. Photo: MoHS

Child Protection

- **Training of Trainers:** Child Protection Training of Trainers (ToT) is at the stage of practice where every week different groups present respective topics to practice their training designing and presentation skills.
- **Child and Youth Parliament Meeting:** A total of 28 child parliament members (10 boys and 18 girls) converged to discuss about rights, needs and special care of children living with disability; and develop talking points on a radio program meant to discuss topics around advantages and disadvantages of westernization on African culture and living in a global community.

Education

- 2021 education planning figures: 50 percent of children will be enrolled in early childhood development (pre-schools); 60 percent of school-age children will be enrolled in primary education; 30 percent of youth will be enrolled in secondary education and a 1:60 teacher-pupil ratio will be achieved.
- A total of 1,454 are enrolled in pre-school; 4,747 in primary school and 1,285 in Secondary School in Dzaleka Refugee Camp.
- With the surge in COVID-19 cases in the country, President Lazarus Chakwera ordered closure of all schools for three weeks. In complying with the directive, education partner Jesuit Refugees Services closed all schools in the camp.

Health

- Despite the threat of COVID-19, UNHCR's health partner Ministry of Health continued with provision of services to PoCs and nationals at Dzaleka Health Centre. The COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Treatment facility is serving both PoCs and national patients.
- The COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Treatment facility in Dzaleka is designated for management of COVID-19 patients amongst PoCs and nationals residing in Dowa district.
- As of 31 January 2020, cumulatively Dzaleka refugee camp had registered 90 confirmed cases, 50 recoveries, 37 active cases, 2 deaths and 1 lost contact. A total of 45 new arrivals were under 14 days quarantine before being allowed to enter the camp.
- In January President Lazarus Chakwera announced that Malawi has made AstraZeneca its choice COVID-19 vaccine and the first consignment targeting 20 percent of the population, roughly 3.8 million people is expected in the country end February for the planned roll out in March. UNHCR has been part of the country-level COVID-19 COVAX vaccine planning discussions led by the government to ensure inclusion of persons of concern as primary beneficiaries of the vaccine.
- There is Hope, a UNHCR operational partner handed over essential medications worth MWK72,000,000 (USD \$96,000) to Dzaleka Health Centre through the Ministry of Health. This is the second consignment of vital drugs the operational partner has donated to Dzaleka health center with the help of International Association for Refugees (IAFR) and Health Partners International of Canada. Some of the donated medications will go a long way in management of COVID-19 patients at the camps' isolation center.



There is Hope (TIH) Founder Mr. Innocent Magambi who is also a former Dzaleka Refugee Camp refugee makes a donation of essential medications to Dzaleka Health Centre. Photo courtesy of TIH

Registration

- UNHCR has a new Results-Based Management (RBM) approach for strategic planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting, named COMPASS. As part of its transformation, UNHCR is reviewing the way it plans, budgets and reports to focus on achieving concrete and measurable results. This change is necessary to help bring about the more agile, efficient, and effective UNHCR that Member States have repeatedly encouraged.
- Government registration staff based the border points in Karonga and Chitipa districts have been requiring technical support and training for some time. However due to COVID-19 and lack of funds, the mission for UNHCR registration staff were postponed several times until out on hold, including updating of computer operating systems, troubleshooting of equipment and installation of printers in both offices. In order to provide the 3 staff based up in the North of Malawi with the required technical support keeping in mind COVID-19 measures, the UNHCR registration unit successfully shipped the configured equipment via courier on 27 January up to Karonga. The Government staff then proceeded by sending back their current equipment via the same courier to UNHCR in Lilongwe for maintenance. UNHCR Registration staff remains available for remote troubleshooting and installation support.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

- While asylums seekers continue to arrive in Malawi, due to the coronavirus pandemic RSD interviews had been suspended for quite some time. There is a plan to resume RSD interviews in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 187 asylum seekers were registered during the reporting period. .

Food and non-food items

- **Accountability to Persons of Concern who benefit from WFP Food Project:** On 6 and 7 January Youth Net and Counseling (Yoneco) engaged UNHCR and WFP staff, government ministries and civil society organizations in the launch of Integrated Complaint and Feedback Mechanism for Dzaleka Refugee Camp. The project started in October 2020 and will end in November 2021.

Water and Sanitation

- As one way of ensuring adherence to all COVID-19 preventive measures mainly hand washing and personal hygiene, refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka refugee camp were in the month of January provided with an average, 8.6 litres of water per person per day while the standard is ≥ 20 litres per person per day. There are 109 communal latrines stances and 5,500 household latrines. With the move from communal to household latrines, there is a gap of over 10,000 household latrines to meet the standard ratio of family/HH per latrine.
- WASH partner Weilhungerfile (WHH) also distributed hand washing items in markets and other overcrowded places.

Settlement & Shelter

- At Katubza project site which is an extension for Dzaleka refugee camp aimed at reducing congestion, a total of 423 shelter plots with 165 shelter have been completed with another 248 shelter still under construction. Another extension site, Dzaleka Hills, has 479 shelter plots with 42 shelter currently under construction.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Normal Implementation of Livelihood activities continued in January 2021 after ending 2020 on high note with the launch of Chaliwa Irrigation Scheme. There was also continued implementation of livelihood activities to Graduation Approach (GA) groups. Distribution of face masks sown by a camp based LuQuLuQu Club took place and support to livelihoods interventions for the SOGI group in safe houses was also delivered.

Durable Solutions

Resettlement

- Resettlement continues to be the most viable and durable solution for refugees in Malawi as the local integration and voluntary repatriation seem to be not feasible. UNHCR continues to appeal to the Government of Malawi to fast track the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) which will pave the way for a settlement model.

Financial Information (as of 5 January 2021)

- UNHCR is grateful for the enormous support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and un earmarked funds.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS⁴ | USD

Germany 62.7 million | United States of America 46.7 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Private donors Australia 12.8 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors USA 8.7 million | Private donors Japan 4.5 million | Private donors Germany 4.5 million | France 4 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.5 million | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 million

Holy See | Iceland | Japan | Jersey | Liechtenstein | Morocco | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS⁵ | USD

Sweden 88.2 million | Private donors Spain 73.5 million | United Kingdom 45.7 million | Norway 41.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 37.5 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 31.6 million | Germany 25.9 million | Japan 23.8 million | Private donors Italy 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Sweden 14.2 million | France 14 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million

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