Kenya

01-30 April 2025

Nairobi: fifty-nine refugees were supported with relocation to Kakuma and 220,000 were enrolled into Kenya's social protection system.

Kakuma: seventy-three refugees accessed resettlement and complementary pathway with 195 Burundians being voluntarily repatriated.

Dadaab: over 500 refugee students took part in mentorship and leadership programs.

KEY FIGURES

849,625

Registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya from over 20 countries.

87 per cent

Percentage of refugees living in Dadaab **(431,216)** and Kakuma **(305,421)** Municipalities. **112,988** refugees and asylum seekers reside in urban areas. Read more.

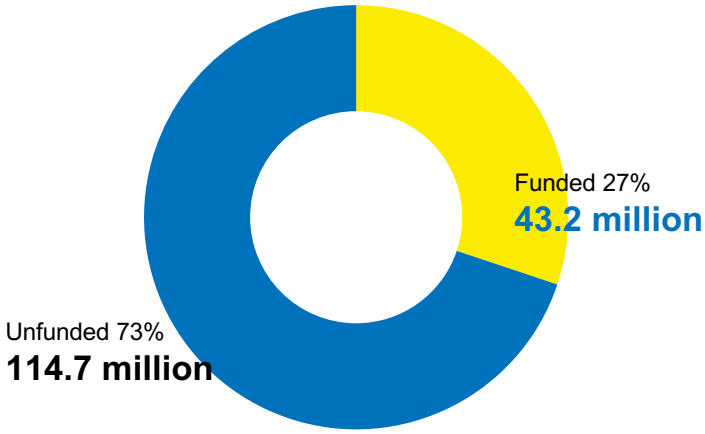
13,000

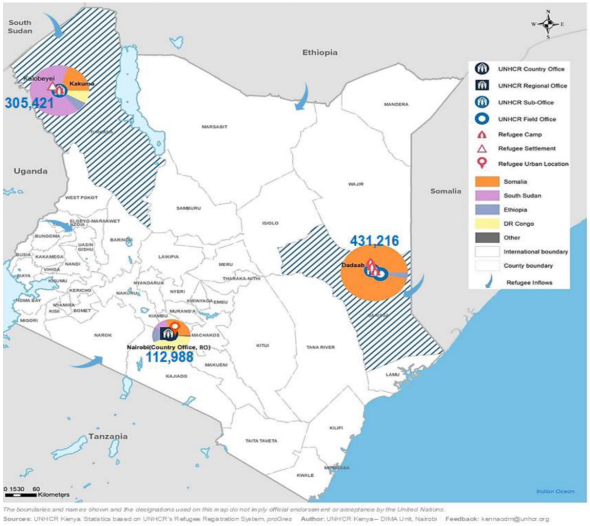
Calls answered on the UNHCR helpline.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2025)

US$ 157.9 million

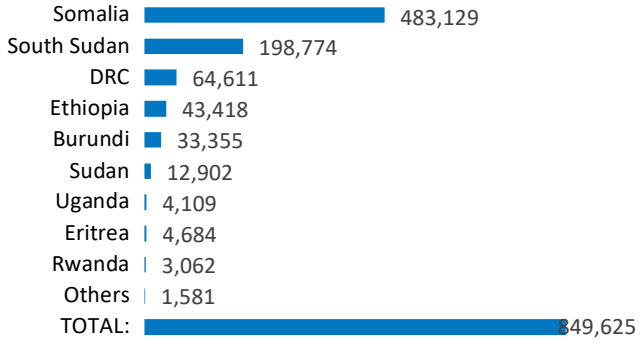
As of 30 April 2025. Read more.





POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



* *https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ken*

Operational Context and Highlights

A pioneering eye camp in Kakuma brought together UNHCR, government, NGOs and private sector partners to restore vision to 148 refugees and host community members, giving them not just sight, but a renewed sense of independence and hope. **Read more..**



Ekitela, a member of the host community undergoes a post-surgery check-up at Ammusait General Hospital 24 hours after surgery.
©UNHCR/ Eric Bakuli

Dadaab Refugee Camp

Protection

- Dadaab hosted 382,639 refugees and asylum seekers, with 80 percent being women and children and 97percent being Somali.
- Population rose slightly due to 85 new registrations and births, with over 5,140 people enrolled in the biometric system (BIMS). Of these, 378 cases reviewed and decision made on their status.
- 679 ration cards and 585 food vouchers were issued and 346 refugee IDs processed. Over 7,200 IDs remain uncollected.
- The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) recorded nearly 2,000 new arrivals at borders, supporting them with legal aid, counselling and referrals to the Department of Refugee Services (DRS).

- 317 community engagement activities reaching over 74,000 people were conducted.
- 113 unaccompanied minors were supported with care visits and cash assistance provided to 50 vulnerable children.
- Mental health services reached hundreds: 639 patients received psychological first aid and counselling was provided to over 200 clients in clinics and group sessions.

Education

- UNHCR supported 30 schools (24 primary, 6 secondary) serving 83,108 students (57 percent boys, 43perecent girls), with over 50,000 enrolled in UNHCR-managed schools.
- Schools closed on 5 April after exams and were scheduled to reopen on 6 May, delayed by heavy rains and flooding that damaged facilities and blocked access.
- 60 new teachers were hired and deployed to improve teaching.
- A Teacher Needs Assessment of 160 teachers identified English language gaps to inform future training.
- Floods damaged 7 schools, destroyed 55 latrines and displaced 2,558 families now sheltering in schools. WASH partners worked on repairs.
- Over 500 refugee scholars attended the Annual Education and Leadership Congress, focusing on leadership and resilience.

Health

- UNHCR supported 11 health centres, delivering 37,881 medical consultations, 871 safe deliveries, 2,126 mental health sessions and 30 referrals, with each clinician seeing an average of 74 patients a day.
- An eye camp screened 500 patients and performed 350 surgeries for cataracts and other conditions.
- Common illnesses included 6,634 cases of watery diarrhoea and 12,813 acute respiratory infections.
- Disease surveillance was stepped up to address seasonal risks.
- Over 4,500 women and girls accessed sexual and reproductive health services.

Food security and nutrition

- Food assistance remained critically low, with families receiving only 40 percent of the required food, leaving many at risk of hunger and poor nutrition. Monitoring continued to ensure fair distribution.
- Malnutrition support reached nearly 1,971 people, 1,161admitted into the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), 410 Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) and 400 in the Stabilization Care.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Refugees received an average of 10.6 litres of water per person per day from 28 boreholes producing 7,806m³ daily.
- Latrine coverage stood at 56 percent, with over 43,000 household and communal latrines serving households across the camps.
- Hygiene promotion activities were constrained by staffing gaps, with only 46 hygiene promoters, each serving over 8,957 people, far above the recommended ratio of 1:1,000.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

- UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) advanced an insect farming project by meeting to finalize plans for sustainable, income-generating activities that benefit both refugees and host communities.
- UNHCR and DRC also reviewed progress on a digital jobs program, celebrating success stories, addressing challenges and supporting refugee youth to formally register as freelancers and access online work opportunities.
- Visits to farms in Hagadera, Ifo and Dagahaley camps showed families growing diverse crops like okra and beans to improve their diets and earn income.

Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement

Protection

- UNHCR supported 308,312 refugees and asylum seekers, with 99 percent registered and 1perecent pending registration.
- In April, 2,368 people were registered, including 1,873 new arrivals - mostly from South Sudan, DRC, Sudan and Burundi - and 495 newborns.
- 55 refugees departed on resettlement to Canada, Germany and Australia, while 18 departed through complementary pathways. Additionally, 195 refugees voluntarily returned to Burundi.
- 287 unaccompanied or separated children were documented and supported, while more than 1,000 children participated in play therapy and safety awareness activities.
- Reception centres hosted over 9,500 people, slightly over capacity, with 825 individuals newly accommodated in April.
- Over 1,400 people received essential relief items such as kitchen sets, mats, blankets and sanitary pads.
- Heavy rains affected 13 families, prompting distribution of 10,000 sacks to protect shelters and infrastructure.
- Refugee youth participated in sports, peace tournaments and skills programs, while refugee entrepreneurs engaged in dialogue with private and public stakeholders to enhance inclusion and opportunities.

Education

- Over UNHCR supported 55 schools, with 106,165 students enrolled.
- Schools reopened for Term 2 on 28 April, but only 19 percent of learners had returned by month-end due to heavy rains.
- Over 1,500 refugee scholars (including 614 girls) attended the 16th Annual Education & Leadership Congress, fostering innovation and critical thinking.
- 165 teachers (35 women) participated in a 3-day Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) retooling workshop led by the Ministry of Education and Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).
- An additional 42 teachers (36 men, 6 women) were trained in delivering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education within the CBC framework.

Health, food security, and nutrition

- Admissions at the stabilization centre more than doubled due to rising cases of watery diarrhoea. A total of 146 children (129 refugees, 17 nationals) - mostly aged 6-23 months were treated for severe malnutrition and medical complications.
- 368 children (364 refugees, 4 nationals) were enrolled in the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and 938 (924 refugees, 14 nationals) in the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) for children under-five.
- Refugees continued to receive only 40 percent of the minimum food basket, leaving many households at risk of hunger and poor nutrition.

Shelter and site planning

- 106 family tents were pitched for new refugee and asylum seeker families relocated to the community. These 100 families (605 people) are set to receive permanent shelters through the Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) program.
- Since January, a total of 120 family tents have been set up at the reception centres.
- As the operation shifts focus to more sustainable permanent housing solutions, no transitional shelters were built or repaired in April due to lack of materials.
- Limited land for housing remains a challenge; UNHCR and partners engaged the Turkana County Government to secure additional space, with further discussions planned.

Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR launched a Joint Market Monitoring Initiative with WFP, focusing on shelter materials, hygiene, and energy. Two UNHCR enumerators were deployed to support the survey.
- UNHCR Facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 209 individuals.

URBAN

Protection

- The urban asylum-seeker and refugee population stood at 43,856 as of April 2025.
- 1,985 protection-related appointments were booked through the helpline, with new registration remaining the most requested service.
- The UNHCR helpline handled 12,953 incoming calls, made 1,428 outgoing calls and responded to 1,377 emails on RSD, protection, resettlement and fraud.
- Eleven arrest cases (linked to expired IDs, camp addresses, and lack of work permits) were escalated for support and all individuals were released.
- Four helpline calibration sessions were conducted to improve service quality.
- 59 refugees and asylum seekers were supported to relocate from urban areas to Kakuma.
- 445 RSD interviews were scheduled, 394 completed and 335 decisions finalized.
- At the RSD panel 1,874 cases were presented and approved nationally.
- 11 individuals departed on resettlement and 48 through complementary pathways, mostly to Canada.

- There were LGBTIQ+ outreach sessions with 29 participants provided with information on health services, the Shirika Plan and complementary pathways. The technical working group discussed protection concerns and plans to expand accommodation options through donor partnerships.

Livelihoods, economic inclusion and social protection

- UNHCR engaged with Kenya's State Department for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, and development partners to explore collaboration on refugee inclusion in national resilience, digital economy, and social protection programs. A tripartite MoU is being pursued to formalize digital inclusion efforts.
- UNHCR co-convened key coordination forums, including the Urban Refugee Livelihoods and Social Protection Sector Group, while also facilitating a mentorship session for refugee female artisans supplying the UN Commissary Gift Shop.

Health

- The Medical referrals from camps to Nairobi for specialized care continued through NCCK and partners.
- UNHCR and partners coordinated activities for the upcoming Mental Health Awareness Month and maintained routine counselling and care for walk-in clients and referrals.

UNHCR is grateful for the continued support from:

AND PRIVATE DONORS

UNHCR PARTNERS

Implementing partners:

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) | Salesians of Don Bosco – Kenya | FilmAid Kenya | Finn Church Aid | Haki Centre Organization | Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) | International Rescue Committee (IRC) | Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) | Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) | Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization (LOKADO) | Lutheran World Federation (LWF) | Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) | Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) | Humanity and Inclusion (HI) | Fafi Integrated Development Association (FaIDA) | Relief Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO) | Windle International Kenya | Qatar Charity | National Council of Churches (NCCK) | Terre des Hommes |

Operational partners:

Action Africa Help International (AAHI) | Africa Inland Church-Kenya (AIC-Ke) | World Vision International – Kenya (WVI) | Danish Church Aid | Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | Team and Team Kenya | IsraAID | Kakuma Mission Hospital | Good Neighbours International | Association for Aid and Relief Japan | Waldorf Kakuma Project | Swiss Contact | Church World Service (CWS) | IamtheCODE | INZONE | African Higher Education in Emergencies Network (AHEEN) | Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM) | BOMA | Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | Plan International | KLABU Foundation | Malteser International | Johanniter International Kenya | Water Mission | Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) | INKOMOKO | Girl Child Network | Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT) | Barefoot to Boots | The International Chess Federation (FIDE) | International Judo Federation (IJF) | K DE IGRATIUM INTERNATIONAL (KDII) | MPESA Foundation Academy | Schneider Electric | International Service Volunteers Association (AVSI) | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) | Save the Children International | Star Media Development | Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) | Food for the Hungry | Care International |

Others (Development Partners, UN Agencies)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation – GIZ) | SNV Netherlands Development Organisation | International Organization for Migration (IOM) | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) | The World Bank | United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

| UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) | United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) | United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) | United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) | Equity Bank Kenya | Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) | University of Nairobi | Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) |

Government

Government of Kenya | Turkana County Government | Garissa County Government | Department of Refugee Services (DRS) | Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) | National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) |

External / Donor Relations

CONTACTS

Carmeline Wanjiru Mwenja
External Relations, Nairobi, Kenya
wanjiruc@unhcr.org, Cell: +254 715 514 915

Charity Nzomo
Communications, Nairobi, Kenya,
nzomo@unhcr.org, Cell: +254 790 025 409

LINKS

Website: UNHCR Kenya | **X:** @UNHCR_Kenya | **Facebook:** UNHCR Kenya |
Instagram: UNHCR Kenya | **Past:** Operational updates |