Kenya

01-31 March 2025

Nairobi: UNHCR supported 32 Burundians to voluntarily return home and marked International Women's Day with 300 participants, promoting inclusion and support for refugee women.

Kakuma: 1,370 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in March, including 838 new arrivals and 532 births, as efforts continued to support education, livelihoods and youth engagement amid growing needs.

Dadaab: Nearly 4,400 new arrivals and births were registered. UNHCR continued to deliver protection, education, health, livelihoods and WASH services reaching tens of thousands.

KEY FIGURES

843,165

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

87 per cent

Percentage of refugees living in Dadaab **(428,016)** and Kakuma **(303,247)** Municipalities. **111,902** refugees and asylum seekers reside in urban areas. Read more.

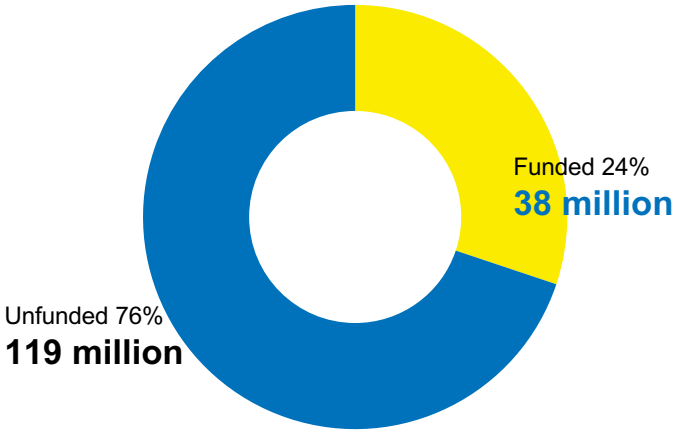
11,659

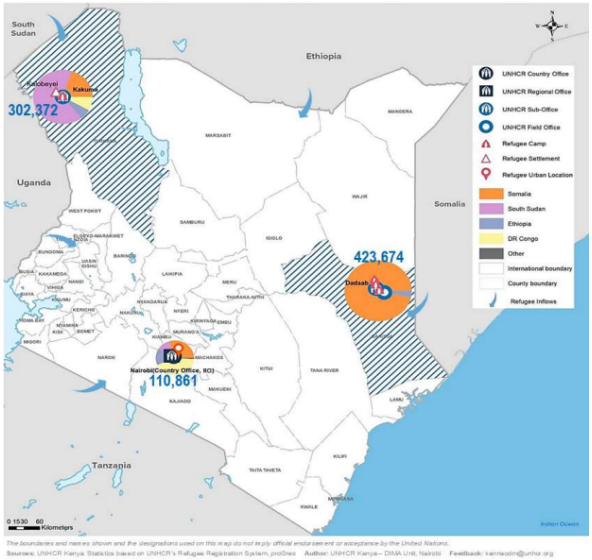
Calls answered on the UNHCR helpline.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2025)

US$ 157.9 million

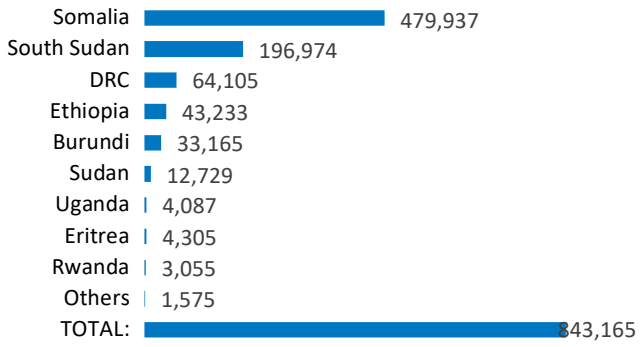
As of 31 March 2025. Read more.





POPULATION OF CONCERN

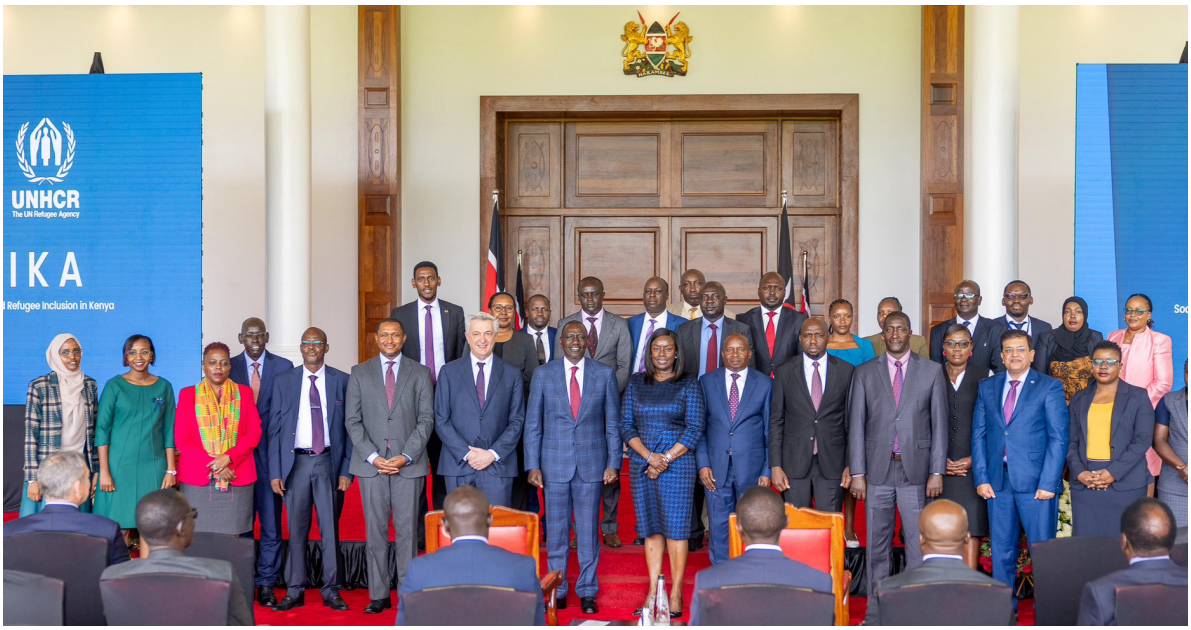
Host Countries



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

Operational Context and Highlights

- On 28 March 2025, Kenya launched the **Shirika Plan** - a landmark initiative that integrates refugees with host communities and shifts from humanitarian aid to a **more inclusive, development-focused approach.** Anchored in human rights and the principle of 'African solutions to African and global challenges,' the plan promotes burden-sharing, resilience and shared prosperity, addressing refugee needs while strengthening host communities, even amid declining global humanitarian support.



President William Ruto with UNHCR High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi, Regional Director Mamadou Dian Balde, UNHCR Kenya Representative Caroline Van Buren, UNHCR staff and government officials at state house after the launch of Shirika Plan © State House Kenya

Dadaab Refugee Camp

Protection

- UNHCR and the Government of Kenya registered 2,896 new arrivals and 1,517 births, reactivated records for 516 refugees and enrolled 2,201 individuals in the biometric system (BIMS).
- To help families access assistance, 1,556 new ration cards and 1,398 food vouchers were issued and 637 people registered to collect food on behalf of households unable to do so themselves.
- 1,348 refugee IDs were processed and 966 distributed, though 3,967 remain uncollected.
- Authorities issued 319 refugee movement passes, mainly for medical or personal travel.
- UNHCR provided protection counselling to 202 refugees and legal and psychosocial support to 106 refugees addressing GBV, documentation, family disputes and mental health concerns.
- Community engagement activities reached nearly 79,000 people through films, radio and dialogues in six languages, while additional outreach supported 774 people, including 78 with disabilities.

- In child protection, UNHCR supported vulnerable children through 22 Best Interest Determinations (BIDs), 12 assessments and care plans for 129 children. Trauma counselling, mentorship, and positive parenting sessions helped stabilize and empower families.
- Support for older persons reached 599 individuals, while 1,044 people with disabilities received services, referrals and assistive devices.

Education

- 1,190 learners registered for the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment and 974 for the secondary school KCSE exams.
- Career mentorship reached 157 students, and the Vodafone Foundation's life skills program engaged 69 participants.
- Special Needs Education supported 122 children with therapy, assistive tools and referrals.
- 32 students began scholarships under the African Higher Education in Emergencies Network (AHEEN), which supports refugee learners with accredited university courses. They are pursuing disaster management and ICT while living in the camp.

Health

- UNHCR provided support to 11 health centres, delivering 36,121 medical consultations, 916 safe deliveries, 1,419 mental health sessions and 23 referrals, with each clinician seeing an average of 69 patients a day.
- Health partners supported 3,835 women and girls with reproductive healthcare, offered family planning services, and treated pregnant women affected by anaemia.
- Common illnesses like diarrhoea and respiratory infections remained high, while two maternal deaths were reported.

Food security and nutrition

- Food assistance remained critically low, with families receiving only 40% of the required food, leaving many at risk of hunger and poor nutrition. Monitoring continued to ensure fair distribution.
- Malnutrition support reached nearly 1,750 people, admitted into the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP), and Stabilization Care.
- Over 2,800 mothers joined support groups on breastfeeding, hygiene, and nutrition, while health and nutrition education reached over 10,800 people.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Refugees in Dadaab received an average of 13.4 litres of water per person per day, below international standards due to limited resources.
- Latrine coverage stood at 56%, with over 43,000 latrines serving more than 77,000 households across the camps.
- Hygiene promotion activities were constrained by staffing gaps, with only 76 hygiene promoters, each serving over 5,600 people, far above the recommended ratio of 1:1,000.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

- Dozens of refugees completed training in digital literacy, graphic design, car body repair and job application skills, helping them build marketable skills.

Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement

Protection

- 930 new arrivals were recorded, and 1,370 people were registered including 838 new arrivals (mostly from South Sudan, Sudan and DRC) and 532 births.
- Around 3,173 people remained at reception centres awaiting registration, with pre-registration coverage at 99.9%.
- Refugee Status Determination (RSD) continued, with 339 interviews, 274 cases assessed and 82 reviewed.
- 20 resettlement cases (79 people) were submitted for review, and 24 refugees departed for resettlement or complementary pathways.
- Community-based protection supported families at reception centres, distributed core relief items to over 350 households and helped organize refugee leader elections.
- Unaccompanied and separated children continued to arrive, with 239 cases documented and psychosocial activities reached 1,794 children in safe spaces.
- Youth participated in sports, performing arts, mentorship and peacebuilding activities, while refugee-led organizations submitted proposals to strengthen engagement.
- GBV prevention and response included support for survivors, training 130 teachers and marking International Women's Day to raise awareness on gender issues and economic pressures affecting women.

Education

- Over 82,000 students (40 percent girls) were enrolled in 55 UNHCR-supported schools across Kakuma and Kalobeyei.
- More than 16,700 learners registered for Kenya's 2025 national exams at primary, junior and secondary levels.
- 14 refugee students (including 4 girls) showcased 7 innovative projects at the Rift Valley Regional Kenya Science and Engineering Fair.
- 59 students with foreign certificates received support to verify and equate their documents with Kenya's system.

Health, food security, and nutrition

- UNHCR supported 8 health centres, providing over 41,900 medical consultations, 436 safe deliveries, 793 mental health sessions and 20 referrals though budget cuts strained staffing and services.
- Refugees continued receiving only 40 percent of the minimum food basket, a further drop from February, leaving families more vulnerable.
- Nutrition programs admitted 218 children to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) and 722 children to the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP).
- The stabilization centre treated 72 severely malnourished children, including those with medical complications.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Refugees in Kakuma received an average of 13.4 litres of water per person per day, below international standards.

- Latrine coverage stood at 56%, with over 43,000 latrines serving households - meaning just over half of households had access to a latrine.
- Hygiene promotion efforts were limited due to low staffing, with each hygiene promoter serving over 5,600 people, compared to the recommended 1:1,000 ratio.

Environmental conservation

- Over 159 tones of firewood were distributed to families, schools, and child-headed households to meet cooking needs.
- 223 improved cookstoves were produced and distributed, helping reduce firewood consumption and promote cleaner cooking.
- More than 2,100 tree seedlings were planted in the camps, host communities, and institutions to support reforestation and environmental sustainability.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

- Over 2,200 refugees and host community members participated in technical, ICT and vocational training programs.
- Internships were arranged for graduates and online job opportunities were explored for 100 former students.
- Female artisans earned over Ksh 24,000 from fashion and craft sales, supported by grants for women's cooperatives in Kalobeyei.

Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- Nearly 2,800 group accounts were opened for both UNHCR and WFP digital wallets, to facilitate upcoming hygiene cash assistance.
- Equity Bank began replacing over 7,200 expired refugee bank cards at the end of March, with the process continuing into April. Some cards were not replaced because they were inactive.

URBAN

Protection

- As of March 2025, the urban asylum-seeker and refugee population remained significant, with 43,143 asylum seekers registered in Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru.
- 457 individuals attended protection counselling at the Joint Refugee Service Centre (JRSC), receiving support on documentation, resettlement, health, child protection, complementary pathways and more.
- The UNHCR Helpline handled over 11,600 calls, with an additional 518 outgoing calls made to follow up with refugees.
- Four quality assurance calibration sessions were conducted to improve Helpline service delivery.
- Relocation support to camps was provided to 65 individuals.
- UNHCR marked International Women's Day with two major events: supporting the Together for Better menstrual health gala and leading a large celebration in Dagoreti attended by over 300 participants, highlighting women's rights and fostering collaboration among refugees, host communities, NGOs and government.
- Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities included 381 interviews were scheduled, with 369 assessments completed and 292 decisions finalized

- 32 individuals voluntarily repatriated to Burundi were supported with accommodation at the HIAS centre before departure.

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.
- The public health team also represented Kenya in regional and global health coordination meetings.

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

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