Kenya

01-31 May 2025

Nairobi: UNHCR supported the enrolment of 600,000+ refugees into Kenya's national social protection systems advancing protection and inclusion.

Kakuma: UNHCR supported protection, education, and durable solutions for over 308,000 refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei registering 1,346 individuals and enrolling over 106,000 children in school.

Dadaab: UNHCR and partners reached 57,000+ people with life-saving information, and empowered refugees with digital skills, education, and protection services

KEY FIGURES

853,074

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

87 per cent

Percentage of refugees living in Dadaab **(432,380)** and Kakuma **(306,414)** Municipalities. **114,280** refugees and asylum seekers reside in urban areas. Read more.

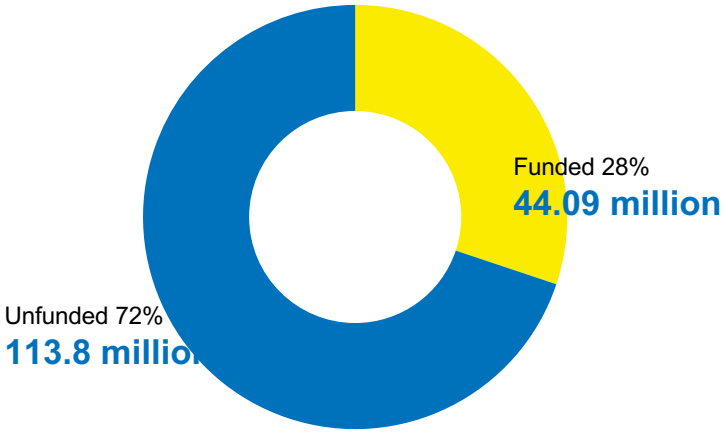
13,615

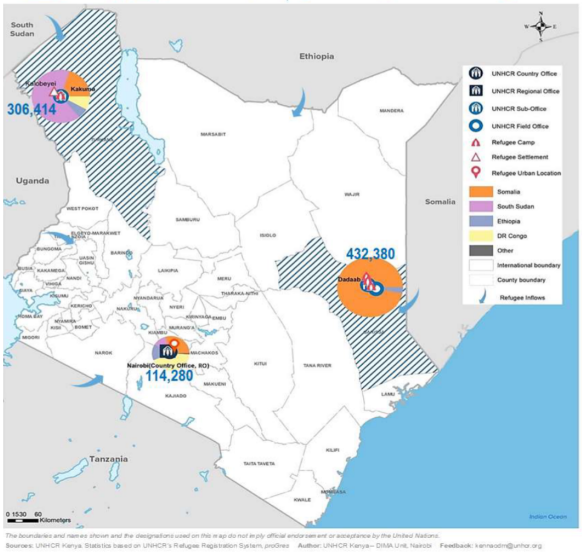
Calls answered on the UNHCR helpline.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY 2025)

US$ 157.9 million

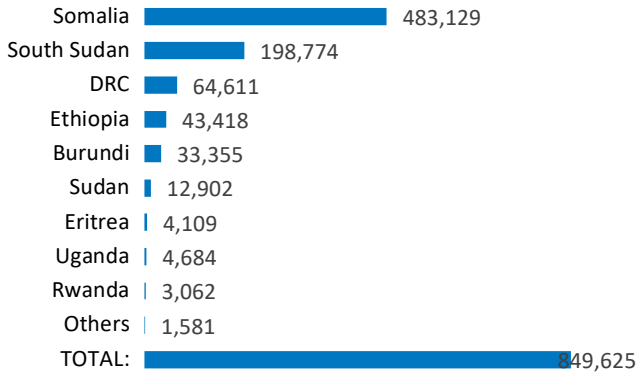
As of 31 May 2025. Read more.





POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



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

Operational Context and Highlights

In Kakuma, a pilot project by Take Action Global taught refugee students to build solar lamps, connect with peers in Belgium, and turn recycled materials into solutions that light homes, improve safety, and inspire innovation. Read more



Student sits next to solar-powered lights he made with his classmates in Kakuma © Take Action Global

Dadaab Refugee Camp

Protection

- Dadaab hosted 382,658 refugees and asylum seekers, 80 percent of whom are women and children; 97percent are Somali nationals.
- 1,904 people were enrolled into the biometric system and 551 adjudication cases resolved.
- 1,205 ration cards and 200 food vouchers were issued, 1,803 refugee ID applications processed; 6,533 IDs remain uncollected.
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) recorded 938 border crossings and supported 100 individuals with legal aid and referrals.
- 83 psychosocial counselling sessions were held and 740 persons participated in assessments.

Education

- Schools reopened on 13 May after delays due to flooding; 354 displaced households sheltered in 8 schools temporarily.
- Attendance improved to 90.1% in primary and 78% in secondary by end of May.
- 21 teachers were recruited to address JSS staffing gaps and Grade 8 assessments were successfully conducted using Computer-Based Testing.
- The Ministry of Education led financial management training for 23 schools to support school grants.
- Infrastructure improvements included science lab construction and relocation of 1,200 desks.

Health

- 11 health centres provided 48,308 consultations, 664 skilled deliveries, and 2,109 mental health sessions.
- Two suspected cholera cases tested negative on culture; chikungunya and measles outbreaks were contained.
- Common illnesses included 10,212 watery diarrhoea cases and 19,668 Acute Respiratory Infection cases.
- Two maternal deaths were reported: audits conducted with partners to improve care.

Food security and nutrition

- Food baskets remained at 40%, worsening food insecurity and acute malnutrition rates.
- In May, 2,659 children were treated for malnutrition - 1,490 through regular feeding programs, 669 in outpatient care, and 470 in intensive stabilization centres.
- Nutrition programs prioritized early detection, defaulter tracing, and maternal-child health support.

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%, with 43,338 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

- Refugees earned online income via Ajira curriculum and freelance platforms like Fiverr.
- Eight trainees advanced in Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud certification.
- UNHCR and DRC conducted water assessments in livelihood centres to inform sustainable practices.
- Youth in digital livelihoods programs presented their work at a global event and engaged in electrical, tailoring, and solar training across camps.

Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement

Protection

- UNHCR supported 308,380 refugees and asylum-seekers, with 99% registered and 1% pending registration.
- 1,346 individuals were registered in May, including 783 new arrivals (mainly from South Sudan, DRC, Sudan and Burundi) and 563 newborns.
- 25 refugees departed for resettlement and complementary pathways to Canada, the UK and Australia, while 195 refugees voluntarily returned to Burundi.
- 179 unaccompanied or separated children were documented and supported with family tracing and care arrangements.
- Reception centres hosted over 10,200 individuals, exceeding capacity, with 626 new arrivals accommodated in May.
- 995 people received core relief items including kitchen sets, mats, blankets, and sanitary pads.
- Refugee leader elections were held in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, with 538 candidates competing for block and neighbourhood leader positions across 187 polling stations.

Education

- UNHCR supported 55 schools, with 106,165 students enrolled across Kakuma and Kalobeyei.
- Schools reopened in May, but attendance averaged 72%, impacted by heavy rains and flooding.
- The School Meals Programme (SMP) resumed, distributing over 80 metric tons of food to boost attendance and concentration among learners.
- 87 teachers received training on mental health, psychosocial support, and the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).
- 100 student leaders from 7 secondary schools were trained on leadership and governance.
- 13 junior secondary schools, including 5 host schools, received mobile science labs, benefiting around 5,000 learners.
- Over 8,100 vulnerable learners received school uniforms, hygiene kits, and sanitary pads.

Health, food security, and nutrition

- 71,785 medical consultations and 1,141 mental health sessions were conducted across 8 health centres, along with 502 safe deliveries.
- The Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak in Turkana West, with 34 cases identified. Response and contact tracing are ongoing.
- Cases of malaria rose sharply, leading to a 38% increase in consultations compared to April.
- 106 children with severe acute malnutrition (82 refugees and 24 nationals) were treated for medical complications.
- 357 children were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), while 911 children received support through the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP).
- Refugees continue to receive only 40% of the minimum food basket, with further reductions expected in coming months.

Shelter and site planning

- 12 family tents were set up for vulnerable families and those awaiting resettlement flights.
- Assessments of flood-damaged education facilities were conducted to develop recovery strategies.
- A joint meeting with IOM, KRCS, and Habitat for Humanity reviewed plans for an ECHO-funded shelter project to benefit refugees and host communities.
- Repairs were made to permanent shelters at the former Dadaab transit centre to house families whose resettlement flights were delayed.

Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- 387 households received cash assistance under voluntary repatriation, cash-for-work, and education stipends.
- 58 households (205 individuals) received support to return voluntarily to Burundi.
- 152 enumerators who took part in the Enhanced Social Registry Survey were supported with cash-for-work stipends.
- 69 students from Kakuma, Kalobeyei, and the host community received cash support for school fees and stipends.

URBAN

Protection

- The urban refugee and asylum-seeker population stood at 44,893.
- The UNHCR helpline answered 13,615 calls, made 658 outgoing calls, and responded to 1,322 emails on registration, protection, resettlement, and fraud.
- 2,197 appointments were booked through the helpline, with new arrival registration being the most requested service.
- 21 arrest cases linked to expired documentation, camp addresses, or lack of work permits were escalated and resolved; all individuals were released.
- 59 individuals relocated from urban areas to Kakuma to access humanitarian support.
- 417 individuals were scheduled for RSD interviews, 386 assessments completed, and 150 decisions finalized. A total of 1,405 cases were reviewed and approved nationally during the May RSD panel.
- 79 individuals departed through resettlement and complementary pathways, mostly to Canada.
- UNHCR supported 204 refugee students selected for interviews under the WUSC Student Refugee Program.
- UNHCR helped coordinate the safe return of 183 refugees from Nairobi to Kakuma after a cancelled group resettlement flight to Germany.
- Over 60 LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum-seekers participated in outreach sessions and capacity-strengthening activities. Partners resumed accommodation support and highlighted service gaps following recent funding cuts.

Livelihoods, economic inclusion, and social protection

- Over 600,000 refugees have been enrolled in Kenya's Enhanced Single Registry (ESR), with Dadaab enrolment concluded in May.
- A Monitoring & Evaluation framework was finalized for Differentiated Assistance, outlining tailored humanitarian and livelihood packages.
- UNHCR contributed to the 2025–2027 Strategy for Financial Access, ensuring refugee inclusion is embedded.

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

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