

Context

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania was an early signatory to international agreements on the rights and welfare of refugees and asylum seekers. Surrounded by conflict in neighbouring Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania has established a reputation as one of the most hospitable countries of asylum in Africa.

Quick Overview

- Tanzania has welcomed approximately **200 refugees per day** since April 2015, with a recent influx of between **300 and 600** refugees from Burundi per day
- **4 refugee camps:** Nyarugusu, Nduta, Mtendeli and Karago
- **3 Old Settlements:** Mishamo, Katumba, Ulyankulu

Tanzania's refugee population¹

Country of origin	Refugee population
Burundi	226,355
Congo (DRC)	67,879
Others	202

1972 Burundian refugees

In 1972, more than 200,000 Burundian refugees fled from the Hutu massacre into Tanzania and have since lived in three designated settlements in western Tanzania, known as the Old Settlements, for 36 years. This refugee population is distinct from refugees who arrived later and were hosted in refugee camps in northwest Tanzania.

In 2007, the Government of Tanzania, in collaboration with UNHCR, adopted the **Comprehensive Durable Solutions Strategy for the 1972 Burundian Refugees in Tanzania (TANCOSS)**.

The TANCOSS is based on three pillars:

1. Assisted voluntary repatriation;
2. Application for naturalisation in Tanzania; and
3. Final local integration of those accepted for naturalisation.

The first two pillars have resulted in the repatriation of over 50,000 and the naturalisation of nearly 160,000 former refugees. Presently, the Government is in the final stages of developing a **Local Integration Strategy** for the final integration of approximately 200,000 naturalised former refugees.

The Tanzania National Group

Objective

- Provide advice and support on the implementation of the Local Integration Strategy for new citizens in Tanzania, and advocate for finding solutions for other affected communities and displaced persons, including refugees, in Tanzania.

The Group is:

- Assisting the Government in the identification of effective approaches for local integration;
- Providing technical advice and advocacy to development and humanitarian actors;
- Promoting and leveraging financial and technical support for the Strategy through advocacy and awareness-raising activities;
- Promoting self-reliance for displaced persons, refugees, and host communities;
- Supporting research and data collection that may inform decisions on solutions; and
- Advocating and raising awareness on challenges still faced by displaced persons, including refugees and affected communities, within national and international forums.

In the future, best practices from the work done to locally integrate the former Burundian refugees will be used by the Group to create opportunities and solutions for other displaced groups in Tanzania.



Current Projects

Supporting the final components of the **Local Integration Strategy**:

- **Legal Integration:** Assist the naturalised persons address outstanding legal status issues and facilitate former 1972 Burundians still in Tanzania to also find a durable legal solution.
- **Governance and Administration of the Settlements:** Transform the status of the areas where the naturalised persons reside from their current legal status, as forest reserves and refugee designated areas under the forestry and refugee management authorities respectively, to ordinary human settlements under regional administration and local government.
- **Socio-Economic Integration:** Ensure that former refugees and the surrounding host communities have access to land and basic services that will enable them to be self-sufficient and to peacefully co-exist. All efforts will be made to ensure that access to land and services, as well as occupancy titles are provided in a way which will ensure equality of authority and enjoyment for women as well as men.

Planned Projects

- **Sustainable Livelihood and Local Integration** for new Tanzanian citizens and their surrounding communities.
 - o *Goal:* Provision of sustainable livelihood support for new Tanzanian citizens and their host communities, to support implementation of the Local Integration Strategy.

Achievements To Date

- **Mapping Study** conducted to gather information on socioeconomic needs, current programming and possibilities for partnership.
- **High-level visit** of the Group to the settlements in November 2016.

Core Members

- Government of Tanzania
 - o President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO RALG)
 - o Refugee Service Department, Ministry of Home Affairs
- UNDP
- UNHCR
- Embassy of Denmark
- Center for the Study of Forced Migration, University of Dar es Salaam

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Interested in exchanging with a national coalition group addressing urban refugee issues;
- Exploring linkages with the Rule of Law Thematic Group to have informed documentation on local integration; and
- Looking for advice on how to incorporate the private sector in the Group's work and discuss possible projects such as cash interventions, internet and mobile access in camps.

Contact

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The Group is looking to involve new partners, particularly private sector actors and civil society organisations.

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References:

1. UNHCR, Tanzania Statistical Report, February 2017. www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/53683.pdf