

# Malawi

August 2020

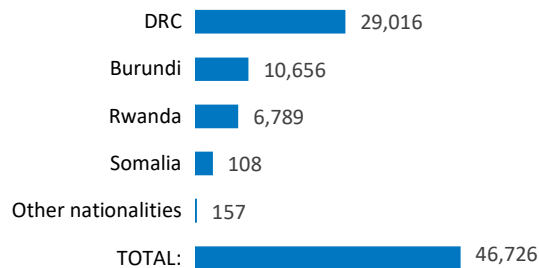
**46,726 refugees and asylum-seekers** reside in Malawi's Dzaleka refugee camp as of 31 August 2020.

All new arrivals in Dzaleka refugee camp undergo 14-day quarantine at the reception centre before joining others in the camp.

Dzaleka refugee camp, initially designed for 10,000 people, is heavily congested with over **46,000** posing a serious health risk if COVID-19 is to escalate.

## PEOPLE OF CONCERN (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

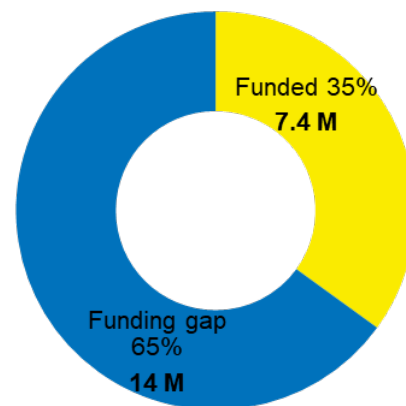
### Country of Origin



## FUNDING (AS OF 25 AUGUST)

### USD 21.4 million

requested for UNHCR operation in Malawi



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 28 National Staff
- 19 International Staff

### Offices:

- 1 Country Office in Lilongwe
- 1 Field Unit in Karonga



Minister of Homeland Security Richard Chimwendo Banda speaks with one of the recipients of 320 new plots funded by Government of Japan at Katubza project site.  
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## Working with Partners

- Under the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, coordinates activities with the following partners in Malawi: Ministry of Homeland Security (MoHS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Plan International Malawi (PIM), Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), Welthungerhilfe (WHH). UNHCR also collaborates with other operational partners and UN agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP). 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

### Protection

- UNHCR Malawi's protection objectives include ensuring conducive protection environment and access to territory; integration of the refugee regime into national policies and development programmes; securing access to services that encourage self-reliance and durable solutions.
- Despite Malawi's reservations in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which has limitations on certain rights for refugees, the protection environment in Malawi remains favourable and conducive for hosting asylum-seekers and refugees.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to asylum and registration procedures in the country. The Government of Malawi (GoM) formally took over the registration processes of refugees in 2019. The GoM also handles Refugee Status Determination (RSD), but has a backlog of over 2,104 asylum cases (representing 5,883 individuals).
- PoCs continue to be engaged through community-based practices in the Dzaleka refugee camp to empower and provide sustainable solutions. Particularly on communicating with communities, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, grassroots community information-sharing mechanisms such as women's groups, youth groups, and entertainment are used to disseminate messages in the communities. The camp has a dedicated local radio called "Yetu" which has a wide coverage beyond the camp parameters and disseminates messages in many languages.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, while having a direct impact on the livelihoods of the refugees, has resulted in the strengthening of community-based projects such as SGBV and Child Protection.
- Resettlement to third countries is used as a major protection tool and so far, the only viable durable solution in the operation.

### Education

- Refugee education in Malawi is mainly provided at Dzaleka Refugee Camp with the support of Jesuit Refugees Services (JRS), an education partner to UNHCR. This year the pre-school has enrolled 1,454 (33.2 per cent), whilst the primary schools have enrolled 4,747 (47.7 per cent), and the Secondary School has enrolled 1,285 (29.7 per cent). UNHCR also supports vocational and skills training under Professional and Post-Secondary Education where 62 (16 female, 46 male) refugee students enrolled in the Digital Inclusion Program. To promote access to tertiary education for refugees, 47 (20 female and 27 male) students are supported with university scholarships under German Government DAFI Scholarship Program.
- UNHCR is engaging the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and other education stakeholders with a view to advocate for inclusion of refugee education into the national education system.
- 300 refugee children are enrolled in Light of Hope Public Primary School and Ubuntu Pre-School under the management of Moravian Humanitarian Development Services and a Brazilian NGO both operational partners to UNHCR.
- The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated UNHCR's collaboration and partnership with national actors which has had positive outcomes. Some of the key achievements are inclusion of refugees in the national Education COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and into GPE's COVID-19 response accelerated grant fund. As a result of the foregoing, refugee schools and teachers benefited from post-COVID recovery interventions and successfully re-opened schools on dates appointed by the Government.
- Despite efforts made by the operation, gross school enrollment in the refugee schools stands at 37%. Net primary school enrollment is 32% against 84% in the national schools.

### Health

- The Dzaleka Health Centre, a primary health facility provides services to about 80,000 people; 65 per cent from the host community. Although there is presently no disruption in refugee's access to health care, the Health Centre continues to be overcrowded due to limited spacing. Prefabricated structures and a tent were erected to manage this, pending completion of expansion works of the facility.
- Despite the threat of COVID-19, UNHCR's health partner (Ministry of Health and Population) continued with provision of services to refugees and nationals at Dzaleka Health Centre. The isolation facility in Dzaleka is the designated treatment facility in Dowa district for the management of COVID-19 amongst refugees and nationals from the district.
- Completion of the upgrade works in Dzaleka Health Centre laboratory to meet the standard of a COVID-19 GeneXpert testing site. Testing will commence on the availability of GeneXpert cartridges
- UNHCR supported the Reproductive Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health and Population in the training of twenty nurses and clinicians from Dzaleka health centre, Nalunga health centre and Dowa district hospital on Integrated Maternal and Neonatal Health.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Malawi, World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF to address the nutritional needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. Up to 90 per cent of refugees in the camp rely on food assistance, due to high dependency of food aid. The protracted nature of the operation renders difficulty in providing 100% food rations to refugees. As of August 2020, food ration supply is at 70%. Cash Based Intervention is also provided by the WFP in Malawi. The encampment policy limits refugees' opportunities seek employment or conduct businesses outside of the camp.

### Water and Sanitation

- Dzaleka refugee camp has 43 boreholes of which 38 are equipped with hand pumps and 5 are sourcing reticulated water networks. The total water produced is 285m<sup>3</sup> per day from the handpumps and 119.5m<sup>3</sup> per day from the reticulated network which, considering the refugees population of 46,726 individuals, it is only enough to cover 43 percent of the water demand. There are 15 water kiosks, each with four taps per kiosk which supply 397,500 litres of water per day to the camp.
- People of concern receive on average, 8.6 litres of water per person per day while the standard is  $\geq 20$  litres per person per day.
- There are 109 communal toilet stances and 5,500 household toilet stances. With the move from communal to household toilet facilities, there is a gap of over 3,000 household toilet stances to meet the standard ratio of  $\leq 20$  people per latrine.

### Camp Management and Settlement Approach

- The Government implements an encampment policy where refugees and asylum seekers are expected to reside only in the camp. Initially designed to accommodate just about 10, 000 to 12,000 refugees, the camp now hosts more than triple of its intended capacity. This camp has been in operation since 1998 and continues to increase in population. The current camp population and policy renders its inhabitants at a high risk not only in situations of an outbreak of any communicable disease, but also in terms of attainment of self-reliance.
- Using Japanese funding, a new camp site is being developed in Katubza and Dzaleka Hill, of which if completed will host approximately 500 families each. Though this is not enough to address the congestion in Dzaleka camp, advocacy continues with the Government for the allocation of additional land to host more refugee and decongest the current camp capacity. UNHCR is pushing for a settlement approach to push away from the encampment policy, to promote peaceful coexistence between refugee and nationals as well as boost self-reliance for refugees.
- The Government through the Ministry of Homeland Security oversees Camp Management and is supported by other Government line Ministries and Partners in key sectors. Refugee participation is mainstreamed in the camp management structures where refugees are involved in decision making as well as give back to their communities in areas such as security, leadership, women and youth support groups, etc.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Ninety-six per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers in Dzaleka refugee camp live below the moderate to ultra-poverty line. This is high, in comparison to the national population in Malawi. Due to the encampment policy most refugees and asylum-seekers have limited income generating opportunities.
- Current livelihood activities include high value crop production using rain-fed agriculture. Due to erratic rain patterns, UNHCR has funded the development of a solar powered irrigation scheme through a livelihoods partner CARD, completed in 2018.
- The livelihood interventions in Dzaleka are of benefit to both the host community and people of concern at 40 and 60 percent ratios respectively. This is also promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers continue to benefit from group lending loans, training courses on financial literacy and business skills and tailored services offered by MyBucks Banking Corporation which opened a branch in Dzaleka camp in 2018.

### Durable Solutions

- Government of Malawi started enrolling Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) although the Inter-Ministerial CRRF Steering Committee is yet to adopt the 5 pledges Malawi made during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and the Roadmap for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The five pledges made are; (i) Inclusion of Refugees into the National Development Agenda; (ii) Legal and Policy Reform; (iii) Registration and Documentation; (iv) Settlement Approach and Self-Reliance and (v) Reception and admission.

## Financial Information (as of 25 August 2020)

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, including the United States of America (USD 2 million), Qatar, UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, and UN Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund.

Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 62.7 million | United States of America 46.8 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors USA 7.4 million | Private donors Australia 7.4 million | Private donors Japan 4.2 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | France 2.8 million | Private donors Germany 2.4 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.2 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global program. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility on how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 76.4 million | Private donors Spain 45.9 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 23.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Japan 15.2 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million

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