

Malawi

September 2021

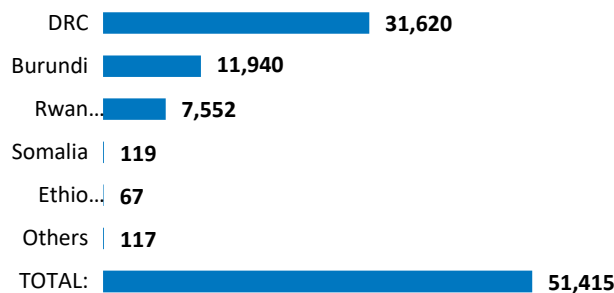
51,415 refugees and asylum seekers are registered in Malawi as of 31 August 2021. The majority live in Dzaleka refugee camp where UNHCR and partners provide protection and assistance.

Refugee children have full access to education and some **9,993 are enrolled in schools**. A project to improve connectivity in the camp school will help reduce the digital divide for refugee youth.

Dzaleka refugee camp, initially designed for 10,000 people, houses some **51,415 people**. Overcrowding poses potential health risks for the population.

POPULATION OF CONCERN BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (AS OF 31 JULY)

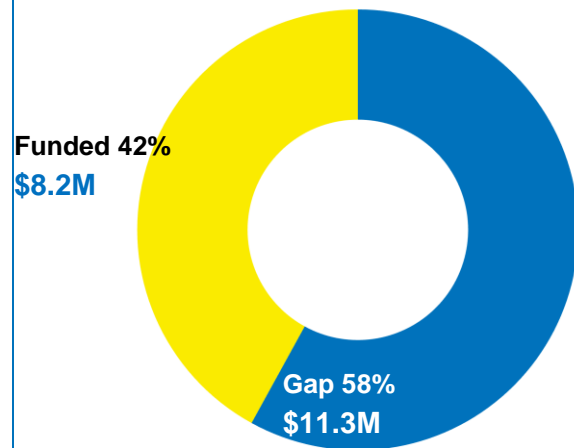
51,415



FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER)

USD 19.5 million

Requested for the Malawi situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 49

28 National Staff

21 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Lilongwe

1 Field Office in Karonga



Refugees receive COVID-19 vaccinations at Dzaleka Health Centre. ©UNHCR/ R. Msiska yson Siim

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Under the Refugee Coordination Model, the Government leads the refugee response with the support of UNHCR and partners. UNHCR is part of the UN Country Team, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Humanitarian Country Team and other national sectorial and technical working groups.

UNHCR works with the following partners in Malawi: Ministry of Homeland Security (MoHS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Plan International Malawi, Jesuit Refugee Services, Churches Action in Relief and Development, Welthungerhilfe, There Is Hope Malawi, Moravian Church, World Food Programme (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Field Operations

- The COVID-19 pandemic remains a hinderance to the delivery of protection, assistance and services throughout Malawi. Apart from the provision of health services, UNHCR and partners have maintained a limited presence in Dzaleka refugee camp since August 2020, due to restrictions on movement and gathering.

Education

- Some 2,477 children are enrolled in pre-school, 6,292 in primary school and 1,224 in secondary school in Dzaleka refugee camp.
- UNHCR and UNICEF are embarking on a joint project to improve access to internet connectivity and reduce the digital divide among school-aged children. The project targets two schools - one in the camp and one in the host community - and aims to promote the inclusion and participation of refugee children in and around Dzaleka camp. The intervention will also create the opportunity for learners in the camp, the host community, and Basque Region of Spain to interact virtually as part of their learning experience.
- UNHCR, JRS and the Ministry of Education are working together to increase the number of teachers in refugee schools with additional teachers deployed from the national system.

Health

- UNHCR and the Ministry of Health provides health services to members of the refugee and host communities throughout the pandemic at Dzaleka Health Centre.
- The COVID-19 quarantine, isolation and treatment facility in Dzaleka treats patients from the refugee and host communities residing in the local area. The facility is maintained by the Ministry of Homeland Security (MoHS) with financial and technical support from UNHCR.
- Some 438 refugees and asylum seekers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of end-August.



(Left) Karonga transit shelter isolation site with installed lights; (right) a partition fence enclosing the transit shelter kitchen. ©UNHCR/ Syson Siima

Registration

- A total of **2,382 new arrivals** and **1,146 new-born refugee babies** were registered between January and August 2021 in Malawi. The majority of the new arrivals came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), predominantly from Sud Kivu province. The Congolese population makes up around two thirds of the refugee caseload in Malawi (31,620 people), followed by Burundi (11,940 people) and Rwanda (7,552 people).

Food and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- Food rations and cash-based assistance are provided to all registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Dzaleka camp on a regular basis.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- To increase access to safe water in Dzaleka refugee camp, a solar powered reticulated water supply system was installed to supply water to the Dzaleka hills section of the camp. Two boreholes were chlorinated to further improve water quality in the camp.
- An additional 50 household latrines and ablution facilities were constructed at the Dzaleka hills and new Katubza sites. Some 1,226 camp residents participated in a three-day clean-up campaign to improve general cleanliness in the camp.
- A 10,000-litre water tank was installed at the Dzaleka isolation centre as part of the COVID-19 response. At the newly established isolation site in Karonga transit shelter, four WASH units with access to fresh water were constructed and stocked with sufficient soaps and sanitizers.

Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

- Livelihood interventions are included in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Road Map developed by Government of Malawi in liaison with UNHCR.
- Livelihood projects in Dzaleka camp focus on agricultural production and aim to achieve self-reliance for the refugees and asylum-seekers in the camp. Due to insufficient funding, only 800 of the 51,400 camp residents are reached by these projects, leaving over 96 per cent of inhabitants reliant on assistance.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR continues to advocate for the implementation of the CRRF, and the realization of the five pledges made by the Government at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019. The pledges pave the way for a settlement model that would create an economic hub benefiting both refugees and the local community.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for donor contributions to the Malawi operation.

Canada | Denmark | European Union | Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO) | France | Germany | Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | Private donors | Qatar | Spain | UN programme on HIV/AIDS | United States of America

UNHCR is also grateful for unearmarked contributions, which allow UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach persons of in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

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LINKS

[Global Focus](#) | [Operational Data Portal](#)