

## **Media Advisory**

31 May 2021

### **EU, UK, and Switzerland Ambassadors make a joint visit to refugee camps in Tanzania**

UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, is facilitating a joint visit for six ambassadors from four European Union countries, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland to the refugee camps in Kigoma from 1-4 June 2021.

- 1. H.E Peter VAN ACKER: Ambassador, Kingdom of Belgium**
- 2. H.E Mette Norgaard DISSING-SPANDET: Ambassador, Kingdom of Denmark**
- 3. H.E. Regine HESS: Ambassador, Federal Republic of Germany**
- 4. H.E Jeroen VERHEUL – Ambassador, Kingdom of the Netherlands.**
- 5. H.E David CONCAR – High Commissioner, United Kingdom.**
- 6. H.E Didier CHASSOT – Ambassador, Swiss Confederation**

During the visit, the Ambassadors will meet and interact with refugees in Nduta, Mtendeli, and Nyarugusu refugee camps. They will also meet with local authorities and humanitarian partners working in the region.

At the end of the visit, the six ambassadors and the **UNHCR Representative, Mr. Antonio Jose Canhandula**, will hold a joint media briefing in Kigoma, as indicated below.

**What: Ambassadors' visit Media Briefing**

**Date: 3 June 2021**

**Time: 12:15 – 14:00**

**Venue: Lake Tanganyika Hotel - Kigoma, Tanzania**

**Kindly confirm your attendance for the briefing:**

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## **Background Notes**

Tanzania has a long history of hosting refugees. The country currently hosts 260,394 refugees and asylum-seekers (30 April 2021), mainly from Burundi and DR Congo. Some 85 percent of the refugees in Tanzania live in camps located in the country's North-western region of Kigoma (Nduta, Mtendeli, and Nyarugusu Camps).

UNHCR works with the Government, donors, Humanitarian and Development partners, and other stakeholders to fulfilling the Agency's core objective - to provide refugees, asylum seekers, and other people of concern with international protection and durable solutions. Guided by the Refugee Coordination Model, the UN refugee agency coordinates the efficient delivery of services to maximize the impact of scarce resources and brings in all the technical expertise to bear on the welfare of refugees.

It is worth noting that the story of refugees being hosted in any country cannot be told without referencing the role of international solidarity in sustaining refugee operations. With the International Community's support, UNHCR and other partners have brought this international solidarity for the welfare of the Tanzania situation. While these resources have benefitted refugees, they have also positively impacted the local community in the refugee-hosting area.

In Tanzania, the implementation of the encampment policy restricts refugees' and asylum-seekers' freedom of movement and, in practice, limits their access to employment and public services. This makes them more dependent on humanitarian assistance due to the limited opportunities to participate in self-reliance activities

With limited opportunities to earn a living, refugees are thus almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance. More funding is required to meet the ever-growing needs. Currently, the operation has only secured 12 percent of its USD 116 million requirements for 2021.

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