

## PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS CONTINUES - INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 21,000 Burundian refugees relocated to Tanzania's Nduta camp as camp consolidation concludes
- A family of refugees from DR Congo receive WFP support
- Celebrating UN Volunteers service
- Human Rights Day with School of Law Students



Immigration Officers marching across Dodoma City in the commemoration of International Migrants Day. © IOM Tanzania/Valda Chali

Every 18th of December the world gathers to celebrate International Migrants Day. In 2021, the International Migrants Day also marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). For over seven decades the organization has assisted millions of migrants worldwide.

The essence of commemorating International Migrants Day lies in the potential that can be harnessed from human mobility. For decades, migrants have

brought financial and labor contributions to the countries they are in as well as their countries of origin. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants' contribution as front-line workers is an attestation of the importance of labor migration in keeping all safe.

Here in the United Republic of Tanzania, International Migrants Day was commemorated nationally in the Dodoma region. The commemoration was coordinated by the Government--the Immigration Services

Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs worked in collaboration with the IOM Mission in Tanzania.

The guest of honor at the International Migrants Day was the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Khamis Hamza Chilo. In his speech, he recognized the importance and relevance of commemorating this day because Tanzania has been receiving migrants for decades.

The Home Affairs Deputy Minister applauded the efforts

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made by the Immigration Services Department. Specifically, in commemorating this day through raising community awareness on migration issues, the minister called upon authorities and communities to “Harness the potential of Human Mobility.” He also called on all to use human potential for economic development and to create awareness and protection of migrants’ rights.



Colleagues from IOM Tanzania in the IOM Tanzania booth during International Migrants Day. The guest of Honor was receiving information on the services offered and programs conducted by IOM Tanzania. © IOM Tanzania/Valda Chali

The Head of the IOM Sub-Office in Kasulu district, Kigoma region, Kwenda Nyararai spoke on behalf of IOM. In his remarks, he reflected on migrants, their rights, and the reasons why they should continue to receive protection. He highlighted that IOM Tanzania has

assisted tens of thousands of migrants and refugees to return to their countries of origin or to find a home in third countries. IOM pledged to continue this

form of support to Tanzania. Kwenda also commended the government for endorsing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.



Mr. Kwenda Nyararai, the Head of Sub-Office IOM Kigoma giving his speech during International Migrants Day. Mr. Kwenda Nyararai was representing IOM Tanzania on this commemoration. © IOM Tanzania/Valda Chali

## OVER 21,000 BURUNDIAN REFUGEES RELOCATED TO TANZANIA'S NDATA CAMP AS CAMP CONSOLIDATION CONCLUDES

Over 21,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the Kigoma region have been relocated to Ndata refugee camp in Kasulu district. This is part of a camp consolidation exercise led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. By early December 2021, the last convoy departed the Mtendeli refugee camp in Kakonko district with 443 people.

The camp consolidation began in early August following an increase in the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees.

“Consolidating camps allows UNHCR to improve our delivery of life-saving assistance and protection to refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in the current reality of dwindling humanitarian resources,” said George Kuchio, UNHCR’s Deputy Representative in Tanzania. “The remaining refugee population can be more efficiently hosted and together with other humanitarian partners, we can better respond to their needs” added Kuchio.

Kuchio further expressed his gratitude to the government of Tanzania and, in particular, the



Jambatiste Ntakilumana poses with some of his belongings during the relocation of refugees from Mtendeli to Ndata refugee camp, Tanzania.  
© UNHCR Tanzania/Magdalena Kasubi

community in Mtendeli for generously hosting refugees for the last five years.

*“Consolidating camps allows UNHCR to improve our delivery of life-saving assistance and protection to refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in the current reality of dwindling humanitarian resources.”*

**George Kuchio, UNHCR’s Deputy Representative in Tanzania**

Upon arrival at Ndata camp, the newly relocated refugees received shelter materials and other household items to help them settle in. They will also be

able to access health, education, and protection services.

Jambatiste Ntakilutimana has been living in the former camp with his three children. He said, “Now that we are moving to Ndata, we call upon UNHCR and the government to support us in strengthening peaceful coexistence with the host community, just like it was in Mtendeli.”

Mtendeli refugee camp was established in 2016 after tens of thousands of asylum seekers sought refuge in Tanzania, having fled conflict in Burundi. UNHCR is working with the government and humanitarian partners to ensure that schools,

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hospitals, and community centres are handed over to district authorities and continue to provide services to the host community. Efforts are also ongoing to rehabilitate the environment through activities such as tree planting.

“A sudden influx of a significant number of people within a restricted area can have significant effects on the environment,” said Kuchio, adding that “We are committed to helping the community in Mtendeli to restore forests and mitigate the environmental impact.”

With the closure of the Mtendeli camp, some 206,000 refugees



Jambatiste Ntakilumana carries his furniture during the relocation of Burundian refugees from Mtendeli to Nduta camp Tanzania. © UNHCR Tanzania/Magdalena Kasubi

are now staying in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps, down from 226,000 refugees at the start of 2021. Tanzania currently hosts

over 246,000 refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



The last convoy in the camp consolidation exercise departs from Mtendeli to Nduta. © UNHCR Tanzania/Magdalena Kasubi

## A FAMILY OF REFUGEES FROM DR CONGO RECEIVE WFP SUPPORT

“[Our] children go to school here in Tanzania,” says Zaid. “They have a safe space to play and interact with their friends. My family gets basic needs including food and shelter.”

He and his wife, Furaha are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They live in the Nyarugusu camp in the Kigoma region. At the camp, they receive support from the World Food Programme (WFP).

The family recently received maize meal, cooking oil, and yellow split beans. This is part of their 42-day ration, a contribution from the European

Union (EU) through WFP.

Like other refugees, they are recipients of food baskets. These baskets consist of fortified maize meal, specialized

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nutritious food, beans, fortified cooking oil and iodized salt.

“My younger children love the specialized nutritious food, it helps improve their health,” says Furaha.

The food rations are not enough, however, the couple says, especially since these have decreased in recent months.

To ensure a diverse diet for the family, Furaha and Zaid started growing vegetables outside their home. Furaha takes part in a women’s group in the camp, weaving baskets that are sold inside the camps, while Zaid does casual work whenever it becomes available.



Furaha and Zaid with their youngest daughter Ester outside their house in Nyarugusu camp. © WFP Tanzania/George Magessa

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WFP works with partners to provide more than 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in the camps in Kigoma region, with life-saving food assistance.

The EU is a long-standing part-

ner of WFP. In 2021, the EU contributed €3.5 million to WFP to provide food assistance to refugees living in camps in Tanzania. This contribution has enabled WFP to procure essential commodities such as maize meal, vegetable oil and yellow split peas which are part of the

food basket.

For Furaha and Zain, food assistance means that they will not suffer from hunger. They both hope the family will continue receiving WFP's life-saving support until they are able to return to DRC.

## CELEBRATING UN VOLUNTEERS SERVICE



A young volunteer receives her certificate during International UNV Day. © UN Tanzania/ Istan Mutashobya

International Volunteer Day (IVD) was commemorated in Arusha, Tanzania on the 5th of December 2021 by several stakeholders who mainly consisted of volunteers serving in various offices across the country.

The event was graced by Uganda's High Commissioner in Tanzania, Ambassador Richard Kabonero. He was joined by representatives from various offices including; the UNDP Resident Representative in Tanzania, Christine Mu-

sisi, a Representative of the government's Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office In charge of Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability. Also present were the Head of UN Resident Coordinator's

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Office, Members of the diplomatic community, civil society, media and youths.

The theme for the commemorations was, "Volunteer now for our common future." It reflected on recognizing and supporting the spirit of volunteerism in creating a better future for all. In his remarks, Ambassador Kabonero said, "Volunteerism gives a sense of pride and identity." He encouraged youths to promote the spirit of volunteerism for the benefit of their countries.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of State in the Prime Ministers' office, One Youth Development Officer, Nassibu Richard Mwaifunga said, "The Government recognizes and congratulates volunteers for their efforts in the various sectors," adding that efforts to engage more youths in volunteerism are underway.

Highlighting the impact that volunteers can have, Musisi said, "Volunteers add gender, ability, geographic origin, age and language diversity to their workforce, and present a cost-effective talent solution in advancing progress and achievements towards the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

She affirmed that UNDP, as



Sr. Development Coordination, Head of RCO and Strategic Planner for the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) in Tanzania, Shabnam Mallick inspiring and thanking UNV's for their support in tackling COVID-19. © UN Tanzania/ Istan Mutashobya

an administrator of the United Nations Volunteer programme (UNV), will continue to support

*"International Volunteer Day (IVD) was designated by the United Nations in 1985 in appreciation of volunteers. IVD is commemorated annually in recognition of people who do work without pay to ensure peace and development worldwide. International Volunteers Day heightens people's and government's awareness of voluntary contributions as well as encourages people to offer their services as volunteers."*

and recognize volunteerism as an SDG accelerator. "We will facilitate sharing best practices among the Member States, the UN system, and participating Volunteer Involving Organiza-

tions," said Musisi.

On her part, the Sr. Development Coordination, Head of RCO and Strategic Planner for the UNRCO in Tanzania, Shabnam Mallick, recognized and congratulated the UN Volunteers for their continued professional support especially in the COVID-19 response.

According to the UNV Country Coordinator, Christian Mwamanga, "Volunteerism is an integral part of Tanzania's culture. Mwamanga said, "UN Volunteers fill the critical skills gap across the UN System to enhance the capacity of the UN system and the government to deliver on the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II) 2016 – 2021."

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The UNV Country Coordinator informed that in addition to supporting the UN Development assistance plan which ends in 2022, Volunteers have also supported the implemen-

tation of the five-year national development agenda.

Globally, 1 billion people volunteered in 2021, which is equivalent to over 109 million full-time workers. Most of the volunteer work happens informally, with

around 70% of all volunteers working in their communities to help the people around them. The remaining 30% volunteer through formal organizations. UNV in Tanzania has been operational since 1974 and works in all agencies countrywide.

### Onsite UN Volunteer mobilization trends table

2016	48
2017	48
2018	73
2019	78
2020	76
2021	100

651 - The total of Tanzanians serving as volunteers in international jobs since 2008.



A group of volunteers engage in a photo session during the International Volunteers Day, in the spirit of "volunteering for our common future and creating a better future for all." © UN Tanzania/ Istan Mutashobya

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY WITH SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENTS

Hundreds of students from the School of Law at the University of Dodoma commemorated Human Rights Day through a public lecture held on the 8th of December, 2021 at their Campus.

The students were empowered with skills to help them incorporate human rights principles into their daily lives. The future Advocates, Lawyers, Magistrates, and Judges heard about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles it sets out. Principles that remain key to realizing all human rights including civil, economic, cultural, social and political – for all people, everywhere.



The Guest of Honor poses for a photo with students from the school of Law at the University of Dodoma. © UNIC/Laurean Kiiza

The empowering educational UN Information Centre in Dar es Salaam outreach was organized by the es Salaam in partnership with



Students listen to the public lecture on Human Rights in Tanzania by Commissioner Dr. Fatma from the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG). © UNIC/Laurean Kiiza

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the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG).

The session aimed at imparting knowledge on the work being done globally and at the national level around Human Rights. The aim was also to develop the mindsets and skills of the young law school students. The expectation is that the skills will equip the students to understand and apply Human Rights. The students also reflected on the 2021 Human Rights Day theme which was, "Equality – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights."

Speaking during the event, CHRAGG Commissioner Dr. Fatma Rashid Khalfan said, "The government commits to promoting, advancing and protecting human rights in both Mainland and Zanzibar."

Dr. Fatma used the opportunity to highlight some of the human rights challenges that the government has been able to resolve through CHRAGG's intervention. She gave examples of law procedures, systems and conditions that have improved due to the Commission's role.

The Commissioner informed about the achievements of the government through the Commission's work in helping to resolve emerging Human Rights challenges and conflicts. For example, she spoke about the role of CHRAGG in helping to



Students engaged in discussions on Human Rights with the presenters and their lecturers. © UNIC/Laurean Kiiza

reduce inequalities by enhancing policies, laws and creating an enabling environment for pregnant schoolgirls to resume school after childbirth.

Students also heard from two officials from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) based in New York and Addis Ababa who shared their reflections on the progress of human rights around the world, cases of human rights violations, examples of how youth and individuals could intervene to bring positive and much-needed change. They also shared the history of International Human Rights instruments. The UN officials also informed about the work done by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The support of the Commissioner's Office in the convening of the Human Rights peer review committees was also discussed.

The UN Information Officer, Stella Vuzo addressed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Human Rights. She also shared the UN Secretary-General's message for Human Rights Day and key messages from the UN, which reflected how the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to expand human rights and freedoms and rebuild trust. Students engaged in dialogue with the officials asking questions and receiving responses on various topics.

Besides thanking the UN and CHRAGG, the Dean of the School of Law at the University of Dodoma, Ines Kajiru said the educational outreach was not only helpful to students but also an opportunity for lecturers to enhance their knowledge.

*The world welcomes 2022 with our hopes for the future being tested.*

*By deepening poverty and worsening inequality.*

*By an unequal distribution of COVID vaccines.*

*By climate commitments that fall short.*

*And by ongoing conflict, division, and misinformation.*

*These are not just policy tests.*

*These are moral and real-life tests.*

*And they are tests that humanity can pass if we commit to making 2022 a year of recovery for everyone.*

*Recovery from the pandemic with a bold plan to vaccinate every person, everywhere.*

*Recovery for our economies with wealthier countries supporting the developing world with financing, investment and debt relief.*

*Recovery from mistrust and division with a new emphasis on science, facts and reason.*

*Recovery from conflicts with a renewed spirit of dialogue, compromise and reconciliation.*

*And recovery for our planet with climate commitments that match the scale and urgency of the crisis.*

*Moments of great difficulty are also moments of great opportunity.*

*To come together in solidarity.*

*To unite behind solutions that can benefit all people.*



Secretary-General António Guterres (right) meets with Jakaya M. Kikwete, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Education. (January 2022)

*And to move forward together with hope in what our human family can accomplish.*

*Together, let's make recovery our resolution for 2022.*

*For people, the planet and prosperity.*

*I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.*



Secretary-General António Guterres (left) meets with Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the side of the general debate of the UN General Assembly's seventy-sixth session.

With them are Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed (centre right) and Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General. (September 2021.)

## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

**8<sup>th</sup> March** - International Women's Day

**21<sup>st</sup> March** - International Day of Forests

**22<sup>nd</sup> March** - World Water Day

**24<sup>th</sup> March** - World Tuberculosis Day

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**UNITED NATIONS  
TANZANIA**



**RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**

+255 22 219 5021

info.untz@one.un.org

Website: [tanzania.un.org](http://tanzania.un.org)