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REFUGEE

A HAVEN OF PEACE IN TANZANIA

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Inside Pages



KEEPING THE MUSIC ALIVE - ALEX RECORDS, EST. 2019, NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMP, TANZANIA

Alex Waringa Mukata is a fine musician. By the age of 8 he was singing in his local church choir.

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REFUGEE TRANSITIONS

Editorial



Wallace Mauggo

Let us help refugees worldwide to rebuild their quality lives

World Refugee Day is observed in order to raise the public awareness about refugee's situations throughout the world. Celebrating World Refugee Day annually on 20th of June was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in the Resolution of December in 2000. It was started celebrating worldwide as an annual event from 2001 on every 20th of June.

The World Refugee Day celebration of 2001 has marked as the 50th anniversary of 1951 Convention Refugees status by the United Nations General Assembly. It has been started celebrating in several countries all around the world from 2000.

The day is celebrated every year to support millions of families all over the world who have lost their homes and dear ones because of violence or war. The day was established by the General Assembly of United Nations for the refugees to honour them for their courage of facing lots of problems after losing homes due to conflict or violence and their contributions to their communities. World refugee day celebration provides an opportunity to all to help the refugees worldwide to rebuild their quality lives through lots of related activities.

Refugees are provided variety of lifesaving assistance, safety and protection by the government agencies and organisa-

tions. They are provided tents, shelter, living materials supplies and served with the life-saving services. The goal of celebrating this event is increasing public awareness among common public by sharing the related refugee stories. It is celebrated to remind people about the all failures of an international community or home conflicts which forced lots of families to leave their home and go to other places to save their life. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has taken big steps for immediate support to all the humanitarian needs of the refugees. However, it needs some important actions by the governments and other private organisations as well on national and regional level to fully control the refugee's condition.

It is celebrated to eliminate all the horrific violence from the countries and community which is the main reason of people's displacement and formation of refugee. 55 per cent of all the refugees come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Syria and Sudan. The event is established to prevent huge scale difficulties leading to the violence in the international communities and to promote the life saving solutions for refugees.

Refugees are taken as an asset and strength of the country and not a burden. They are survivors and should get proper help and support timely. It is very neces-



sary to draw people's attention towards the refugee's conditions to honour their courage and solve their problems.

World refugee day event is celebrated by organising variety of related activities all through the world to increase awareness among society and to highlight over the issues contributing to the conditions of refugees in the society. Some of the activities include: protests

against holding the migrants and asylum seekers to the prison and refugee's real stories are screened as a movie to show their life styles, association members of the organisation provide moral support to the refugees by meeting them in the imprisonment and requesting government organisations for better management of the asylum seekers.



PHOTOS : UNHCR/Georgina Goodwin

Keeping the music alive – Alex Records, est. 2019, Nyarugusu refugee camp, Tanzania



PHOTO : Maimuna Mtengela

tinued Ms. Kapaya. “We all dream the same dreams. We want to support people as they take a step forwards. As they achieve their dreams.”

Alex received six months basic computer training in 2008 from a local non-governmental organization working in the camp. The training helped him on the road to mastering his music production skills. When the course finished, his mother surprised him with the gift of a laptop.

“I have no idea where she got the money from,” says Alex. “It was a great surprise. It made a huge difference to my work to have my own tools instead of depending on others. What little my mother had she sacrificed for my happiness. I will always be grateful for that.”

Alex’s mother returned to DR Congo the following year. Alex, then aged 23 and recently married, remained behind in Tanzania.

“My mother always yearned for her life back in Congo,” he says. “But it’s a life I don’t want to return to, so when she said she was going back I just wished her all the best.”

A way of looking forwards

Kazige Patrick, also known as Typson, is the founder of the Nyota ya asubuhi group in Nyarugusu camp. The group regularly uses the studio at Alex Records.

“One great moment in my life was in June two years ago,” says Typson. My group was selected to perform at a concert for World Refugee Day in Dar es Salaam. I cherish that moment because it was our first time playing as a group outside of the camp.”

Since then, the group has played at a number of events in Tanzania, including the Uhuru torch ceremony. The torch ceremony takes place in April every year, and is one of Tanzania’s most important symbols of freedom and light.

“Music is an opportunity to express our feelings,” says Typson. “It gives us a creative outlet for overcoming what we’ve been through. When we’re playing music or recording at Alex Records we are at home. When we play, we all speak the same language, and we keep Lingala music alive.”

Typson is happy to carry on the studio when Alex leaves. “Music is a great way to invest in refugees of any age. Through our music we preserve our culture and history, while reflecting the new cultures and influences we are exposed to. Through music we bring together the experience of our journeys and our hopes for the future. There are a lot of talented people here. Let’s give them a way of looking forwards.”

Maimuna Mtengela is a communications professional working for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency in Tanzania.



“Music is what you feel. There are no limitations. Inspiration can come from anywhere: a newborn baby crying; the sounds made by an animal; an old man walking with a stick.” - Alex Waringa Mukata, founder of Alex Records

By Maimuna Mtengela

Alex Waringa Mukata is a fine musician. By the age of 8 he was singing in his local church choir.

Alex is also a refugee. He lives in Nyarugusu refugee camp run by UNHCR in north-western Tanzania. Recently he managed to accomplish his long-time dream of opening a recording studio.

Music without borders

Alex Records opened in early January this year with the bare bones of equipment, thanks to support from some of Alex’s friends who resettled in the USA. “The music we make here in Alex Records is not limited by geography,” Alex explains. “Friends who are now in the US send me their audio tracks, which I then produce and send back to them. The music brings together influences from Congo, the US and right here in Tanzania.”

“The music is what we feel,” says Alex. “It knows no limitations; not age or environment. That is the ethos of Alex Records.”

To Alex, the different musi-

cal influences represent the complexity of their identities as refugees. The different sounds give a voice to their polyphonic sense of place, and belonging. “We were born Congolese and we were given safe homes by Tanzania and the US. It’s music without borders. I feel proud of that.”

Alex is in the last stages of the resettlement process himself, but he believes that Alex Records will survive after his departure to the USA. He plans to hand over trusteeship to selected fellow musicians to keep the music of Nyarugusu alive. “I can’t take the studio,” he says, suddenly passionate. “It must remain here for the next generation of musicians. Closing the studio means closing their dreams. I will continue to support them from the US.”

From hard beginnings, the music flourishes

In 1997 Alex’s family fled violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo for safety in Tanzania. “I was only 11 years old,” says Alex. He shrugs and grins, “I had nothing much to do after school so I joined the church choir in the camp.”

“You know there is an old African proverb that says if

you are idle you will end up doing harm,” says Alex. His smile broadens, mischievously. “Spending time in the studio keeps me out of trouble. Plus it helps me to relax.”

Nyarugusu is home to more than 150,000 refugees, mostly from Burundi and DR Congo. Like Alex, many have called the camp home for decades. UNHCR and its partners try to support creativity and artistic talents with groups for interested young people. The groups are popular as a forum for people to express themselves, hone their craft and learn new skills.

These groups are so much more than a means of entertainment, according to UNHCR’s Representative in Tanzania, Ms. Chansa Kapaya. “The groups provide a space where people can preserve their sense of identity and culture, come together with like-minded people and just have some fun,” says Ms. Kapaya. “But there’s also a serious side to the groups. Young people can learn new skills, get important information about health and social issues, and feel safe and valued.”

“Refugees are ordinary people, just like you and me,” con-

1997

He fled with his mother and uncle from Congo to Tanzania. “I was only 11-years-old when we fled to Tanzania.”



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My father was a doctor and he taught me about the importance of helping others despite one's own situation,” says Mwayaona.

By Max Wohlgenuth, WFP

A refugee mother tells her experience of growing up in a refugee camp and then raising her own family in the same camp, where she receives World Food Programme (WFP) assistance.

“I don't want my children to experience the same horrors of instability and war that I did,” says Mwayaona, a resident of Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth

“I am not sure what the future will hold for me and my family. I only know that we don't have another home to go to anymore,”

says Mwayaona Thabit, a 36-year-old refugee from Zaire, present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). “The most important thing for me and my family is peace. I don't want my children to experience the same horrors of instability and war that I did.”

Mwayaona has lived in refugee camps in Tanzania for most of her life. In the camps, she finished school, met her husband, got married and gave birth to two children now aged 14 and 6.

“It is really the only life I know,” Mwayaona says. “We do have challenges here in the camp, but they are normal challenges. It is nothing compared to the fear and

uncertainty of having to run for your life.”

Mwayaona first fled to Tanzania with her family when she was 12 years old. In 1996, fighting from the First Congo War resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and many people seeking asylum in neighbouring counties.

The family was grateful for safety and returned home to DRC after the end of the war. Unfortunately, peace would not last long. The same week they arrived home in 1998, fighting broke out again. They were forced to hide and took shelter in the bush for three weeks before fleeing back to Tanzania.

WFP feeding programmes include hot food served to hospital in-patients at Mtendeli Refugee Camp. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth

Life in the camps

Through life in the camps, a new normal emerged for Mwayaona. She did well in her studies, finishing her secondary education at the camp school. Upon completion, she decided to follow in her father's footsteps and study nursing and midwifery at another camp school taught by refugee doctors from DRC.

“My father was a doctor and he taught me about the importance of helping others despite one's





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“We rely on WFP for at least 90 percent of the food we eat,” says Mwayaona. “That’s what made ration reductions so hard—especially for the young children. Sometimes we were only able to eat once a day.”

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Now, Mwayaona works several days a week with Tanzania Red Cross Society at the camp health centre in exchange for a small stipend.

Refugees at Nudta Camp receive monthly food rations to meet the minimum calorie requirement needed to maintain a healthy weight. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth

Lifesaving food assistance

Tanzania hosts over 283,000 refugees in camps with almost 30 percent of them being from DRC. The remaining are primarily from Burundi. Since 2017, over 63,000 Burundian refugees have been supported to voluntarily repatriate.

Refugees in Tanzania are hosted in three camps—Nduta, Nyarugusu and Mtendeli—in the north-western region of Kigoma. Refugees are not allowed to work or travel outside the camps. This makes them highly dependent on assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP) to meet their food needs.

Each month WFP distributes food rations consisting of maize meal, pulses—typically peas or beans—vegetable oil, salt and fortified porridge mix.

WFP also provides supplementary nutritious foods—fortified porridge mix and micro-nutrient powders rich in vitamins and minerals—for pregnant and breastfeeding women, to ensure the growth and development of children under 5 years of age. People on treatment for HIV/AIDS and hospital in-patients also receive supplementary nutritious foods from WFP. Hot meals and high energy biscuits are provided at departure centres for people repatriating

Ration reductions

“We rely on WFP for at least 90 percent of the food we eat,” says Mwayaona. “That’s what made ration reductions so hard—especially for the young children. Sometimes we were only able to eat once a day.”

WFP’s refugee feeding programmes are 100 percent voluntarily funded and rely on support from donors. As a result of funding shortfalls in 2017, WFP reduced refugee rations so as to not completely run out of food.

“Food and ration reductions can have severe, lasting consequences on



WFP feeding programmes include hot food served to hospital in-patients at Mtendeli Refugee Camp. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth



Refugees at Nudta Camp receive monthly food rations to meet the minimum calorie requirement needed to maintain a healthy weight. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth



Rashidi (right) is grateful rations are back to 100 percent. When rations were at their lowest, the family would reduce the number of meals eaten a day in order to cope. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth

36

year-old refugee from Zaire, present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

refugee populations,” says Michael Dunford, WFP Tanzania Country Representative. “Fortunately, with the support of key donors, we were able to return to full rations by October 2018. We are working closely with Tanzania and the international community to ensure rations can be maintained at 100 percent into the future.”

Rashidi (right) is grateful rations are back to 100 percent. When rations were at their lowest, the family would reduce the number of meals eaten a day in order to cope. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth

Donor support

WFP’s top donors include USA, United Kingdom, European Union, Ireland, Canada, Germany and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.

Want to help refugees like Mwayaona and her family? DONATE NOW.

NARRATION

I am a hopeful human being - A refugee's story

• **Anonymous**

I am a 51-year old woman. I have been a refugee for most of my life. I was born and raised in refugee camps in East and Central Africa.

The story of being a refugee is an unhappy one, and refugees are unhappy in many different ways. We face dislocation from familiar people and places, only to find ourselves in foreign lands. We become strangers in strange lands amidst other strangers. Some of those strangers become our new hosts.

First, there is isolation. In my case, isolation began when I was still in my country. This was particularly painful since this is the country that I love and cherish most. Gradually, I lost all hope as I faced the possibility of death every day. I was shunned by family and friends. The story of my risky escape could easily be a movie plot.

Second, the ever-present fear. Fear paralyzes you. It is not simply the fear of threats to your life. It is the fear that the shadow of persecution you thought you had escaped is long, haunting you every moment of every day in the small hiding place you inhabit. You see shadows of persecutors everywhere and in almost everyone. The fear of enemies, whether they are real or imagined, becomes paralyzing.

Third, there is the pervasive hopelessness and uncertainty that engulfs you. Hope is possible when there is affirmation that you are the author of your own life. As a refugee, you are at the mercy of others. Others decide for you. Others give you food and shelter, when you have hands and a mind to toil, and bring food to your own table. Others decide your next steps. One season comes, and you wait for another. You slowly become a by-



stander in your own life.

Fourth, the drudgery of time that seems to stand still. How do you fill the minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years without activity and expectation? There is no intellectual exercise when the mind is starved of hopes and dreams for the future. The future seems inaccessible thanks to forces beyond your control. There is no physical activity because you are in hiding. There is no social activity because you fear people, or they fear you. Time becomes your most dreaded enemy.

Fifth, and most dangerous, is the loss of identity. You become anonymous. You gradually forget your old self, becoming a statistic like the so many millions of displaced people

all over the world. You start doubting if you can ever recover your identity again.

The new beginnings of a refugee's life are debilitating, depressing, anonymous and full of anxiety. At times you question the purpose and meaning of your own life.

Caught up in this vicious cycle of an unhappy, isolated, fearful, hopeless, depressing and anxious life, I had to find some source of strength and inspiration to hang on to life.

Then I remembered my mother. Without any formal education at all, she possessed a survival instinct strong enough to keep hope alive while working hard, day by day, to feed us and send us to school. If my mother could do it, why can't I?

By hanging on to God's promise, and inspiration from my mother's story, I became acutely aware that I too must cultivate self-discipline, invest in my own self-esteem as a child of God, and jealously guard my moral values at all costs.

Then, little by little, I reorganized my mind to teach my hands to do things I had never done, such as knitting.

Human suffering can be a source of despair. It can also be a source of creativity, innovation, purpose and meaning.

There are human beings who, when they were refugees, made great contributions to their societies and to human civilization, such as Albert Einstein, the famous physicist, Madeleine Albright and Henry Kissinger, both former American Secretaries of State, Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, and the Dalai Lama, leader in exile and Nobel laureate. Countless other refugees make their own contributions to society in many ways, big and small, every day.

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, famously said:

"Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe."

I am a hopeful human being. In the small space where I suffer isolation and abandonment, hope has become the center of my universe. I remain faithful and hopeful that great days of abundant life will come, in this world and the next.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR REFUGEE YOUTH - THE DAFI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

By Guardian Reporter

Enock* is in his second year at the University of Dodoma, thanks to an Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship. Enock says the DAFI programme provides important support to young refugees trying to realize their dreams.

The scholarship makes a big difference to Enock. "I really feel like I can step forwards into a better future as a productive member of society," he says. "Programmes like this help us to make our dreams real."

The DAFI programme is an innovative education programme that expands the opportunities available to young refugee women and men through access to higher education. Since it began in 1992, the programme has played an integral role in enabling refugees to access higher education, with scholarships for more than 15,500 refugee students in over 50 countries of asylum.

"I can see brighter days ahead," Enock continues. "And not just for me: for my friends, my family, the whole refugee community. Access

to university-level education paves the way to many new opportunities for us as individuals, for our families and for our community. It supports us in the first steps to becoming active contributors to society. Through learning we can develop our own skills, and become better able to give back to our communities and broader host society in a meaningful way."



"After I graduate I want to find a job working with other refugees, providing a service like education or health care. I want to pass on my good fortune to others, to help them towards a brighter future, too."

"My university experience allows me to interact with people from many different cultures," says Enock. "My horizons have broadened! I'm grateful for this opportunity; to everyone behind it."

"After I graduate I want to find a job working with other refugees, providing a service like education or health care. I want to pass on my good fortune to others, to help them towards a brighter future, too."

Education makes a difference

Many refugee students across the world overcame significant barriers to pursue their education. Now, like Enock, they are involved in building the future for their families and host societies.

The number of young refugees who qualify for access to higher education increases each year, but only a small number of them can be funded by the programme. Resources are finite, and DAFI serves young refugee scholars around the world. Year upon year the number of refugees grows. As more and more intelligent, talented refugee children grow up and graduate high school, the need for university-level



DAFI Scholarship Programme

The Albert Einstein
German Academic Refugee Initiative

YOUTHOP.COM

funding grows.

Difficulties aside, Enock and his fellow students applaud the difference the programme has made to their lives, and look forward to the day when larger numbers of refugee youth can access university education. They also hope for innovative ways to support entrepreneurship by refugee graduates, to help get their new ideas and initiatives off the ground.

The DAFI programme is designed to support every scholar to graduate with not only the certification and skills needed for a bright future, but also the motivation to act as a positive leader for change, within the community and beyond.

While significant progress is being made in advancing higher education opportunities for refugees,

much remains to be done. In 2018, over 10,000 refugees applied for DAFI scholarships, while only a little over 1,000 were granted.

In accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, UNHCR and its partners aim to substantially expand access to higher education for young refugee women and men by 2030. Realising this goal requires sustained commitment from a variety of actors: host governments, higher education institutions, international agencies, donors, civil society, development partners, the private sector, and host and refugee communities themselves. For those who come after Enock and his fellow students, the path to a brighter future may be long, but it starts with a single step.

*All names have been changed.

Early one morning, before dawn – A refugee's story

• Anonymous

It is now almost 4 years but it seems just like yesterday. I cannot forget that fateful day.

I was at work when my husband called, asking me to come home quickly. I asked him if everything was fine, and he responded that all was well.

Something was wrong. I rushed home and found him waiting for me in the house. The moment I set eyes on him I sensed that something was the matter. That was when he told me that he had some bad news. Our lives were in danger and we had to act quickly.

My heart skipped a beat. For a moment I couldn't draw breath. I knew where this was all coming from. In those days fear was everywhere in our country. People were trembling and whispering; no one dared to speak openly. So many terrible things were happening: brutal killings, kidnappings, detentions, and people going missing.

That night I could not think straight. I looked at my shattered dreams, my career; it all seemed to drift away from me. I wondered what could become of us. We decided to take action.

The next morning before dawn broke, we left the country.

The morning we left was a nightmare; leaving the treasured place I called home

for an unknown and uncertain future. I still remember it like it happened yesterday; bidding my younger brother farewell in secret, the only relative we managed to inform of our departure.

We asked him to call us after a day passed, and let the rest of the family know if we were still alive.

This is how we began our journey. We travelled separately to allay suspicion, and to increase the chances that at least one of us would survive.

My husband left first. Four hours later, I took the kids and caught the next bus, aiming for our prearranged meeting point.

When the bus reached the last stop we alighted, and began a lonely journey down the backroads to the border. By then it was getting dark. I will never forget that two-hour journey down that dark and overgrown road, with two frightened children in my arms. The fear of being attacked by wild animals or border guards on night patrol was so great my heart hammered in my chest so loud I thought someone would hear.

After a journey that seemed like an eternity, we reached a small town on the border where my husband and I had secretly arranged to meet. I was overjoyed to find him waiting for us. To me it was a miracle: I did not believe that we would ever meet again.

For the first time since we left our home I breathed deeply, sure that something good

would be around the corner.

I was mistaken. No sooner had I thought this than a group of armed men claiming to be soldiers attacked. They interrogated us and threatened to hand us over to our government. In fear of our lives, we begged for mercy. They insisted that if we loved our lives we do something about it. With no other option, we gave them all the money we had. Only then did they leave us alone.

We were stranded on a dark road in a foreign land, wondering what was next. Wondering how we could proceed without a single coin. As luck would have it a taxi driver came by. We bargained with him and he agreed to take us onwards, but we did not tell him that we had no money.

After several hours on the road we eventually told the taxi man the truth. He took pity on us, and we promised to give him the money we owed before noon, plus interest. We managed to get some money thanks to a mobile money transfer from a relative, and we paid the taxi man.

That is when we thought of Tanzania. We picked up the kids and our few remaining possessions, and hit the road again. After a long journey we made it to Dar es Salaam.

New life, new lessons

Adapting to a new society, new culture and new people is always challenging, but as time passed we found our place, and ways to fit in. I still believe there is light and hope at the

end of this journey. I still believe my dreams will come true.

Life as a refugee has taught me many things. I used to live life every day afraid to face my fears. Now I have learnt to face the worst fears of life, and to approach each new challenge in a positive way. I still believe everything happens for a reason.

I have learnt that life is not all about me; it's not about selfishness and self-interest. Life is most fulfilling when you step out of your cocoon and bring what you have to give to help the people around you; to affect other people's lives positively.

There are moments when I nurse my wounds and ask why life has been so harsh to me. There was a time when I thought I was the only person in pain, but through my experiences as a refugee I met people in so much more pain than my own. People who need to be loved and taken care of. Life holds true meaning when you help people in such pain. Small things can often make a big difference: a few words of kindness to nurture hope, and put a smile on someone's face.

One thing I have learnt is that if you embrace change and allow it to affect you positively, you can make a good home anywhere. On World Refugee Day listen to a refugee, and let me tell you what I have learned: tap into the grace of the world, and fulfil the purpose of your life.

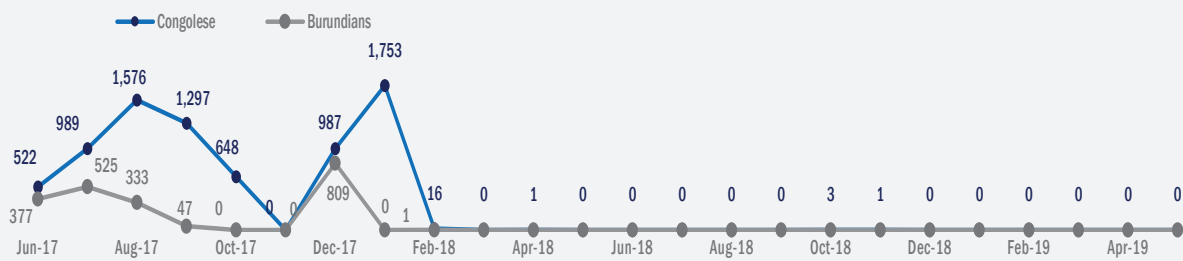
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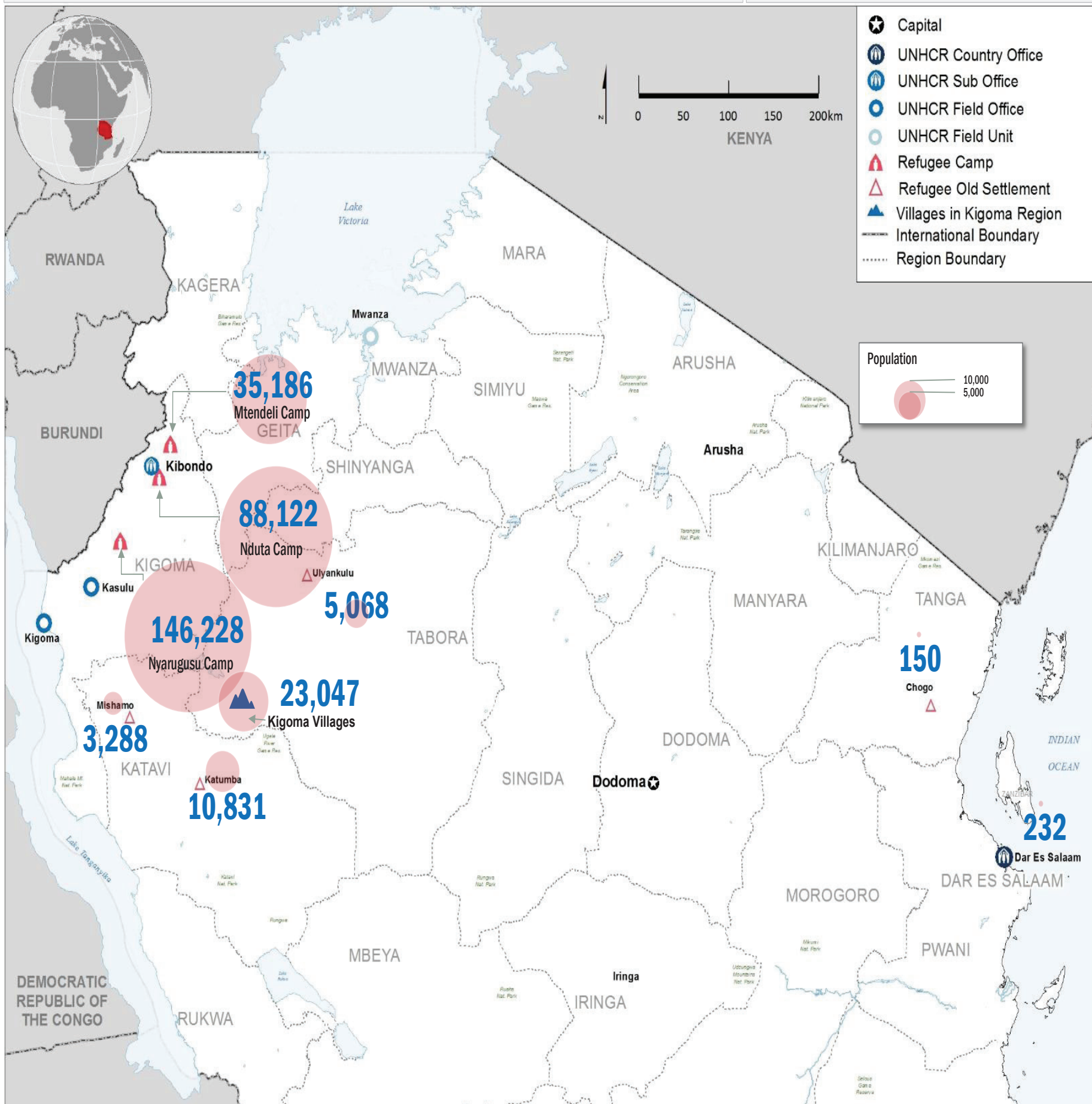
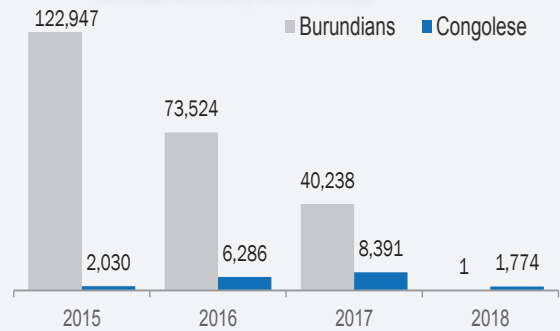


Arrival Trends

Monthly new arrivals, June 2017- March 2019



Annual arrivals, 2015-2018



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Sources: Boundaries: UNCS; Background: USGS; Data: Government of Tanzania, UNHCR.

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