

IRC-Tanzania Country Profile

SUMMARY The International Rescue Committee Tanzania Program (IRC) has operated in the Kigoma region of western Tanzania since 1993. The IRC maintains field offices in Kigoma, Kasulu and Kibondo, as well as a head office in Dar es Salaam.

Since 2001, IRC has administered a Refugee Host Areas (RHA) program. IRC has tried to assist communities to host large refugee populations and works to promote beneficial relationships between the two. The RHA program conducts staff trainings, provides drugs and medical equipment, rehabilitation, and supports new health facilities, including Kibondo District Hospital and Kifura Health Center.

KIBONDO DISTRICT IRC provides health and psychosocial services to the refugee populations of Kanembwa and Nduta refugee camps. In February 2007, the camps collectively housed 52,014 refugees. Formerly four camps, refugees from Mkugwa and Mtendeli camps have been consolidated into Nduta camp. Youths between the ages of 12 to 24 comprise over half, 54%, of the refugees in all five camps. IRC supports youth centres for adolescent social activities and sexual/reproductive health programs. The youth centres provide young people a neutral and low-pressure environment, unique to many aspects of camp life, which often reinforce ethnic, gender, religious and political differences.

Three out of four Kibondo District way stations for new arrivals were closed in 2006 and the fourth will close in 2007, with new arrivals processing set to take place in Kanembwa camp.

KASULU DISTRICT In July 2005, IRC assumed camp management in Mtabila and community services and education management in Mtabila and Muyovosi camps. The nearly 65,500 Burundian refugees include few urban or educated individuals. More than half are below 18 years old. IRC implements food distribution, non-food items distribution, maintenance of distribution centers and shelters, and plot demarcation, verification, and allocation in Mtabila. In Muyovosi, IRC provides camp security for refugees and program facilities and provides child protection, rehabilitation, care for vulnerable individuals, Gender Based Violence (GBV)

awareness and prevention, support for GBV survivors, training on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, youth recreation and development, vocational/business skills training, modern agriculture training, primary education, literacy training, and skills development.

KIGOMA DISTRICT In September 2005, UNHCR, the Tanzanian Government and the DRC formulated a plan to assist voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees through Kigoma. IRC provides health services including, nutritional screening, vaccination, health education, GBV/Protection awareness sessions, and counseling at Kibirizi reception center and National Milling Center Transit/Clinic. Beneficiaries include new arrivals, planned repatriation cases, spontaneous returnees, resettlement cases, refugees in transit, and patients in transit to and from the other regional camps. IRC provides medical referral services to hospitals within the region and outside Kigoma region.

LOOKING FORWARD TO REPATRIATION 20 June 2006, World Refugee Day, marked UNHCR's official transition from refugee facilitation to promoting repatriation of Burundian refugees. Prospects for lasting peace in Burundi look good in accordance with recent peace talks taking place in Tanzania. UNHCR hopes that positive political developments will encourage many refugees to return to Burundi, despite remaining skepticism over safety and food/land security. IRC will continue to provide services in the camps for the remaining refugees, as well as focus on capacity building, health, education and vocational skills training to equip refugees with skills they can use upon return to Burundi.

IRC supports refugee repatriation to Burundi and DRC in all sites. In Kibondo and Kigoma, IRC provides medical escorts during the journeys to Burundi and DRC, respectively. In Kasulu, as part of camp management responsibilities, IRC supports registration for repatriation. At all sites, IRC is involved in information dissemination as an important aspect of informed and voluntary return.