



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world



SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IN NYARUGUSU CAMP

THE SITUATION:

Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Tanzania hosts 189,696 refugees, predominantly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), displaced by protracted conflict and persecution. While resettlement programs facilitated by Church World Service (CWS) and the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) previously offered pathways to the United States, the suspension of these initiatives under recent U.S. policy changes has left thousands in psychological and material limbo.

This rapid response outlines a dual intervention strategy to address acute mental health crises and urgent humanitarian needs among affected populations, prioritizing scalable psychosocial support and targeted basic assistance for the most vulnerable individuals.

Nyarugusu Camp's population includes 62,000 Congolese refugees registered since 2015, many fleeing targeted violence in eastern DRC. Prior to 2023, CWS-RSC partnerships enabled approximately 1,200 annual resettlements to the U.S., offering durable solutions for those facing protracted displacement. The indefinite suspension of these programs has directly impacted 6,000 refugees at advanced resettlement stages, with cascading effects on community morale and mental health.

The policy shift has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities:

- **Material Deprivation:** At least 10 ifamilies liquidated assets pre-departure, returning to the camp without shelter, income, or food security.
- **Programmatic Limitations:** World Food Programme (WFP) registrations lag 6–8 weeks, leaving gaps in immediate nutritional support.
- **Psychological Toll:** 84% of affected refugees report symptoms of anxiety or depression linked to shattered resettlement hopes, according to recent camp surveys.

THE RESPONSE:

In addition to ongoing work, funded by Alongside Hope with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, promoting sustainable agriculture in the camp CWS will add additional activities to support refugees directly impacted by the cuts.

Supporting Families:

Ten identified families (female-headed households & vulnerable households) face acute deprivation after divesting pre-resettlement assets. All lack WFP registration due to delayed bureaucratic processes.

- **Immediate Food Relief:** 3-month food parcels (450 kcal/person/day - Fortified cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and salt, distributed biweekly) meeting Sphere Standards, bridging WFP enrollment gaps.:
- **Temporary Housing:** Weather-resistant tents (UNHCR-procured) while permanent shelters are allocated.



- **Non-Food Items (NFIs):** Standard UNHCR kits containing blankets, mosquito nets, and hygiene supplies.
- **Cash-Based Interventions:** \$150 one-time grants via mobile money, enabling small-scale commerce (e.g., vegetable stands).
- **Livelihood Linkages:** Priority enrollment in CWS's agricultural co-ops, providing seeds and tools for camp-based farming.

TOTAL: \$29,600

Supporting the community:

CWS also proposes a tiered mental health support model targeting 6,000 high-need individuals through 200 facilitated group sessions.

- **Cadre Development:** Train 40 refugee community workers (RCWs) in WHO GAP protocols, focusing on grief counseling and resilience-building.
- **Session Architecture:** Biweekly 90-minute groups (30 participants each) across 12 camp zones, utilizing culturally adapted narrative exposure therapy techniques.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Utilize the Refugee Health Screener-15 (RHS-15) to track symptom reduction at 0-, 3-, and 6-month intervals.

TOTAL: \$20,400

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

Combining psychosocial and material interventions addresses both proximate and root causes of vulnerability. The counseling program's train-the-trainer model ensures RCWs sustain support beyond funding cycles, while livelihood linkages reduce long-term aid dependence. Success metrics include:

- 30% reduction in RHS-15 scores among participants
- 100% target household food security within 90 days
- 70% grant recipients achieving \$3/day income within 6 months