

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Tanzania, H.E. Peter Huyghebaert and senior representatives from the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium and Enabel visit project activities in Nyarugusu Camp in November 2024. ©UNHCR/Godfrey Mchunguzi Oyema

Improving Climate Resilience in Refugee Hosting Districts in Kigoma, Tanzania

Final Report, 2023-2025

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project title	Improving Climate Resilience in Refugee Hosting Districts in Kigoma Region, Tanzania
Location of intervention	Kasulu District, Kibondo District, Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps
Objective(s)	The project seeks to protect, conserve, and restore degraded ecosystems, while protecting biodiversity and building community resilience and adaptive capacity
Number of beneficiaries	Target: 66,500
Implementation period	01/01/2023 to 31/12/2025
Total budget	EUR 4,000,000
Reporting period	01/01/2023 to 31/12/2025 (Final Report)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTUAL UPDATE

Tanzania maintained its long-standing commitment to hosting forcibly displaced populations throughout 2025. As of 31 December, the country hosted 226,300 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from Burundi (138,600) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (87,000). Approximately 82% (around 185,000 people) resided in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps, with around 132,300 in Nyarugusu and 52,700 in Nduta, while the remainder lived in the Old Settlements, Kigoma villages, and urban areas. Strict encampment policies and limitations on livelihoods continued to restrict freedom of movement and self-reliance, leaving most refugees dependent on humanitarian assistance amid significant funding shortfalls.

Operational capacity declined following the departure of key partners -IRC, the Danish Refugee Council, and the Norwegian Refugee Council- creating notable gaps in GBV response, child protection, and education. Access to quality education deteriorated further as Burundian learners were unable to sit examinations due to increased fees and Government policy adjustments linked to the ongoing repatriation process.

Despite ongoing insecurity in eastern DRC, Tanzania received 3,943 new Congolese arrivals in 2025, up sharply from 408 in 2024. Access to border points remained restricted, with only one joint border monitoring visit conducted in March 2025. Continued application of the first-country-of-asylum principle limited access to asylum for some onward movers. Financial constraints also prevented UNHCR from supporting the National Eligibility Committee, contributing to a growing backlog of asylum claims.

Two Tripartite Commission meetings were convened in late 2025. For Burundian refugees, parties agreed to accelerate voluntary returns, setting a target of 3,000 returnees per week. For Congolese refugees, the Commission reaffirmed the right to informed, voluntary return. In practice, some 7,700 Burundians repatriated in 2025, down from about 13,900 in 2024, with most departures occurring in November and December. Reduced resettlement quotas further limited refugees' access to third-country solutions.

Resource constraints also hindered multisectoral assistance and energy and environment interventions. No lighting distributions were possible, and expansion of clean-cooking initiatives was stalled despite rising household demand. Additionally, the Government's

decision not to approve tax exemptions for locally available non-food items (NFIs) added operational pressure.

A key development in 2025 was the Comprehensive Protection and Solutions-based Assessment for Burundian refugees jointly conducted from May to September by UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The assessment was an outcome of the December 2024 Tripartite meeting and was intended to inform future solutions planning and policy dialogue.

Overall, the operational context in 2025 was shaped by reduced humanitarian capacity, pressure to accelerate Burundian returns, restricted asylum space for new arrivals, and significant resource constraints. These factors limited protection outcomes and underscored the need for sustained advocacy, predictable financing, and strengthened partnerships to safeguard protection and humanitarian assistance space and advance durable solutions in Tanzania.

Environmental restoration and climate resilience in refugee-hosting Kigoma Region remains a priority for the Government of Tanzania, reaffirmed during the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner (ExCom) in October 2024. In this context, UNHCR's engagement in environment and climate delivers critical protection dividends. The Belgium-funded project exemplified a nexus-oriented approach, transforming refugees and host communities while strengthening social cohesion and biodiversity outcomes.

The urgency of resilience-building was underscored by the El Niño-related heavy rains in late 2023 and early 2024, which caused flooding, infrastructure damage, protection risks, and setbacks to restoration efforts such as mass die-off of young trees and damaging culverts. These shocks further strained limited resources, reinforcing the need for climate-smart humanitarian investments that reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity.

Tanzania's strong political momentum on climate action and clean energy presents opportunities for sustainable impact. Initiatives, including a USD 19 million GCF-UNEP project co-implemented with UNHCR and the transition to clean cooking in camps, align closely with the project's objectives. By promoting nature-based solutions and alternative cooking technologies, this intervention supported inclusive, forward-looking solutions that contribute to climate resilience, environmental protection, and refugee self-reliance.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project sought to protect, conserve, and restore degraded ecosystems, while protecting biodiversity and building community resilience and adaptive capacity. The project had two distinct outcomes and six outputs. The different outputs were mutually reinforcing and contributed to the achievement of the outcomes of enhanced community adaptive capacity and more climate resilient landscapes in the target areas. The two project outcomes were:

1. Degraded landscapes in and around the refugee camps are restored.
2. Community resilience and adaptive capacity is enhanced through strengthened sustainable livelihoods and skills.

The project supported and brought 4,000 acres under sustainable agroforestry and saw another 4,000 acres of degraded forestland restored. The project benefitted 66,500 individual

refugees and host community members by strengthening their climate resilience and adaptive capacity through several project interventions including climate-smart adaptation (CSA) and sustainable livelihoods such as the growing of mushrooms and environmental restorative activities.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS AGAINST PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATORS

Output 1.1 vegetation cover is increased through promotion of agroforestry and reforestation

The objective was to increase the tree cover across the project landscape. This included promotion of agroforestry and reforestation of (village) forest land to increase resilience of land use and protect and promote biodiversity. Reforestation activities were implemented both in the camps and host community by two funded partners, Danish Refugee Council and Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS). The Danish Refugee Council focused more on the refugee camps for reforestation initiative and agroforestry in the host community. On the other hand, TFS only implemented reforestation activity to restore and protect 60 meters of buffer zones of waterways in the host community. TFS intervention was aligned with the National Environmental Management Act 2004 and the Water Resources Management Act 2009. Both environmental protection laws treat 60 meters waterway buffer zones as no go areas due to their importance in ensuring water governance and security. Achievements against two activities under this output are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Output 1.1 Indicators

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	2023	2024	2025	End of project achieved
Raising tree seedlings	# of trees raised	0	3,020,000	1,880,931	1,168,200	1,214,436	4,263,567
Establishment/strengthening of tree nurseries	# of nurseries operational	0	11	12	11	9	11

Output 1.1 Narrative

During the project period, a total of 4,263,567 various tree species (see Table 2) were raised and planted in the two camps and host community to restore degraded areas either through agroforestry or reforestation activities.

Table 2: Number of trees raised per location (2023 – 2025)

Location	# of tree nurseries	# of trees planted
Kasulu – Nyarugusu Camp	2	775,265
Kasulu – Host community	3	1,252,478
Sub-Total	5	2,027,743
Kibondo – Nduta Camp	1	675,393

Kibondo – Host community	4	1,320,431
Kakonko – Host Community	1	240,000
Sub-Total	6	2,235,824
Grand Total	11	4,263,567

Out of the total 4,263,567 trees, 675,393 were planted in Nduta Camp, 775,265 in Nyarugusu Camp whereas 1,320,431 were planted in the host community in four Kibondo villages (Kigendeka, Kumhasha, Maloregwa, and Mukabuye); and 1,252,478 were planted in five villages in Kasulu host community (Kalimungoma, Kumkambati, Kuntundu, Mvugwe, and Nyamidaho) and 240,000 planted in former Mtendeli Refugee Camp in Kakonko host community as part of UNHCR commitment to the Government to restore and rehabilitate degraded areas following the official closure of the camp in 2021. Equivalent to 7,614 acres of land planted with various mentioned quantity of trees, the trees were raised from a total of 12 tree nurseries, three permanent nurseries in the two refugee camps and six flying nurseries in the host community managed by the Danish Refugee Council and three permanent nurseries managed by TFS also in the host community of Kakonko (to former Mtendeli Refugee Camp), Kasulu, and Kibondo districts.

The community run nurseries supported by the Danish Refugee Council raised a variety of tree species, including high value timber species, fruit species, and indigenous species for restoration activities in and around the village where the community nurseries were located (linked to output 1.2). In addition, some trees were distributed to local institutions, like schools and religious institutions. TFS provided guidance to the Danish Refugee Council on the type of trees to raise for restoration purposes. Additionally, in the community tree nurseries fruit trees and some vegetable varieties were grown in support of the agroforestry and perma- and kitchen gardening activities supported under output 2.2. The types of trees grown for productive purposes were determined in consultation with the community members, making sure that trees grown in the host community nurseries met local demand.

In consultation with Government notably local authorities, restoration efforts in the host communities prioritized sites around critical water sources. Water pollution in the project target areas was mostly related to siltation due to agricultural activities. This, in combination with relatively steep riverbanks, led to high risk of erosion and sediment transported by water. To enhance efforts to restore and conserve the 60 meters buffer zone either side of the waterways, TFS in collaboration with the Lake Tanganyika Water Basin (LTWB), delineated and installed 540 reinforced beacons (250 in Kasulu; 290 in Kibondo) and 20 signposts (10 in each district of Kasulu and Kibondo) to increase the visibility of the restoration initiatives to host community members. Placement of the beacons and the signposts helped local authorities and community members in the enforcement of the bylaws that prohibit human and agricultural activities around water sources under restoration to avoid further environmental damage and strengthen water resources governance and sustainable utilization and management. In Kasulu host community, restoration activities targeted two water bodies of Kamve Wetland in Kuntundu Village and River Makere in Kalimungoma Village whereas in Kibondo host community River Bururuma and Nyangwa were the focus of restoration by TFS.

Figure 1. TFS tree nursery in Kakonko was instrumental in the restoration activity of former Mtendeli Refugee Camp in Kakonko district. ©TFS 2023

On the other hand, camp-based nurseries also produced several tree species to restore degraded areas in the camps. As part of restoration of degraded areas in the refugee camps, in 2024 UNHCR supported the Danish Refugee Council to establish 10-acres orchard (four in Nduta; six in Nyarugusu) woodlots. Over 5,000 various fruit trees at planting density of 500 trees per acre were raised and planted to boost nutrition diversity and to increase vegetation cover in the camps. Fruit species raised and planted were avocado, jackfruit, lemon, mango, orange, pawpaw, soursop, and tangerine.

To ensure effective management of tree nurseries, tree planting, and after-planting activities both in refugee camps and host community, the Danish Refugee Council and TFS engaged a total of 3,887 casual labourers (in the host community) and incentive workers (in the refugee camps). Of these engaged individuals, 1,228 were Nyarugusu Camp resident refugees (660 women, 568 men); 1,089 Nduta Camp resident refugees (588 women, 501 men) whereas in the host community 745 individuals were involved in Kasulu (433 women, 312 men) and 825 individuals from Kibondo (433 women, 392 men).

These individuals acquired far-reaching skills from the project including establishing and managing tree nurseries, transplanting young trees (saplings) from nurseries to restoration sites, and caring for young trees in the field through implementing activities such as installing firebreak lines, total and spot weeding, brush clearance, and the counting of tree survival rate through plant health monitoring to boost survival rate of young trees. With these gained tree management experience, these individuals have huge potential to be employed and/or self-employed in forestry activities as part of green jobs. These individuals were instrumental in ensuring that the average survival rate of trees across the entire period of the project was at least 80% which ecologically, is a success story in restoration initiatives.

Moreover, it is vital to highlight that, as well as the project's benefits of increased vegetation cover and enhanced capacity of individuals in forestry management, the Belgium-funded project in the long run will generate other co-benefits encompassing improved water governance, enhanced local biodiversity, boosted carbon removal and sequestration, strengthen soil conservation, as well as better local microclimate conditions, boosting agricultural production and ultimately enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of the environment and the communities which was the core objective of the project.

Output 1.2 Community-led landscape restoration and rehabilitation

The objective of this intervention focused on reviving degraded landscapes in the communities and villages near Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Kasulu District and Nduta Refugee Camp in Kibondo District. The aim was to ensure these revitalized landscapes became more productive, effectively catering to the needs of the targeted population. Achievements against the activity under this output are summarized in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Output 1.2 Indicators

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	2023	2024	2025	Details
Restoration of	# of community-led landscapes	0	10	10	10	10	Villages remained the same throughout the project period.

landscape sites	restored and resilient						
	# community assets created (water harvesting earthwork and/or irrigation constructions), rehabilitated or upgraded, through FFA	0	226	204	432	2,688	Increased community awareness, enabled identification of additional implementation sites, leading to a revision of asset targets in consultation with local authorities

Output 1.2 Narrative

To contribute to Resilience and Climate Adaptation, the World Food Programme (WFP), in partnership with UNHCR's funded partners and local authorities, implemented landscape restoration and climate-resilient community asset creation in environmentally degraded refugee-hosting villages including Kalimungoma, Kasasa, Kumkambati, and Kumtundu in Kasulu District and six villages including Kumbanga, Kumhasha, Kumshindwi, Kumugwa, Maloregwa, and Mukabuye in Kibondo District. The intervention combined cash-based transfers for vulnerable households with the creation of productive community assets and capacity strengthening to reduce environmental degradation, support climate change adaptation, and strengthen community resilience to climate and disaster risks.

Implementation was carried out through WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) approach, which promotes sustainable livelihoods and adaptive skills. A total of 2,025 participants (57 per cent women, 43 per cent men) received cash-based transfers while engaging in asset creation activities, helping meet immediate food needs and improve dietary diversity. Overall, 5,000 beneficiaries (inclusive of FFA participants; 57 per cent women, 43 per cent men) across 10 villages in Kasulu and Kibondo districts were reached.

Key interventions included excavation of water catchments (charco dams and contour ridges-fanya juu fanya chini), compost making, gully treatment, hill terracing, canal rehabilitation (weir construction), and wetland demarcation. These interventions contributed to improved access to water, reduced soil erosion and flood risks, restoration of degraded land, and protection of natural resources, thereby strengthening livelihoods and enhancing community resilience to climate and disaster risks. Climate-smart agriculture activities such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training such as perma-gardens and kitchen gardens achieved 83 per cent of targets, while- fruit tree planting and compost making reached 95 per cent, for improving soil fertility and productivity.

Asset creation activities were implemented in all 10 villages, with interventions tailored to local needs and landscape characteristics. The composting and construction of contour ridges (fanya juu and fanya chini) were the only activities implemented across all villages. A total of 225,990 meters of contour ridges were constructed, 47,384 meters in Kasulu and 178,606 meters in Kibondo districts, engaging 1,064 participants (697 women, 367 men). The overachievement was due to strong community engagement and adoption of micro-catchment

techniques. The compost making resulted in 1,776 composting units, 553 in four villages in Kasulu and 1,223 to six villages in Kibondo and engaged 1,160 participants, of whom 771 were women and 389 men. The compost was used in established vegetable gardens and some to maize farms. Positive results encouraged household-level adoption, enhancing sustainability.

Additional tailored activities included the excavation of four charco dams: two in Kasulu and two in Kibondo. Additional tailored activities included the excavation of four charco dams—two in Kasulu District (Kasasa: 2,800 m³; Kalimungoma: 1,600 m³) and two in Kibondo District (Kumbanga: 2,800 m³; Kumhasha: 3,000 m³). The activity engaged 596 participants, including 378 women and 218 men. The dams support livestock and domestic water needs during the dry season, with Kasasa and Kumbanga further enhanced through solar-powered pumps, storage tanks, and cattle troughs. Village authorities established guidelines to regulate water use for gardening and livestock. Hill terracing through stone bund construction was implemented in five villages, with targets adjusted to local landscape conditions. A total of 21,277 meters of stone bunds were constructed; 31 meters in one village in Kasulu District and 21,246 meters across four villages in Kibondo District engaging 442 participants of whom 233 were women and 209 men.

In consultation and with support from the district water and natural resources conservation technical team, six water sources and wetlands were identified in three different villages of Kumkambati in Kasulu District and Kumhasha and Kumkugwa villages in Kibondo District for demarcation to protect the springs which were at a threat due to encroachment and human activities. While initial planning figures by the project team estimated a total of 120 beacons would be required to cover the six water sources, based on further guidance and the district water sources demarcation guidelines by district technical team, the actual number of beacons required was reduced to 37 in total. By the end of project period, a total of 37 beacons were installed around three water sources at the three mentioned villages. A summary of types and quantity of assets the project supported to create across villages is summarized in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Assets Created Per Village

Quantity of village	District	Type of Asset	Quantity of Asset created
4 villages	Kasulu	Composting (composting pits)	Kasulu - 553
6 villages	Kibondo		Kibondo –1,223
4 villages	Kasulu	Contour ridge construction (Fanya Juu/Chini)	Kasulu – 47,384
6 villages	Kibondo		Kibondo – 178,606
Mukabuye Kumkugwa Kumshindwi	Kibondo	Gully treatment (gabion wall/check dams)	2047 m ³
Kasasa Kalimungoma Kumbanga	Kasulu Kibondo	Charco dam construction (volume - 2,800cbm/dam)	Kasulu – 2 Kibondo - 2

Kumhasha			
Kalimungoma Kumbanga Mukabuye Maloregwa Kumkugwa	Kasulu Kibondo	Hill terracing	31 meters 21,246 meters
Kumkambati	Kasulu	Canal rehabilitation	40 meters
Kumkambati Kumhasha Kmkugwa	Kasulu Kibondo	Wetland demarcation/beaconing	

Figure 3. Solar powered water pumping from the man-made charcodam at Kasasa and Kumbanga villages. ©WFP

Figure 4. Assets created by WFP through Danish Refugee Council including installing of water tanks and solarized water pumping in the villages of Kasasa in Kasulu District and Kumbanga in Kibondo District. ©DRC/2025 John Mnzava

Table 5. Activity-level Asset Creation

No	Activity	Unit	Planned	Achieved	% Achieved	Status	Comment
1	Composting (Compost pits)	Number	400	1,776	444%	Completed	The target was overachieved due to positive response from the community across 10 villages
2	Contour Ridge Construction (Fanya Juu/chini)	Meter	50,000	225,989	452%	Completed	The target was overachieved due to positive response from the community across 10 villages
3	Gully treatment (Gabion Wall/Check Dam)	Cubic meters	1,234	1,105	90%	Not fully completed	The remaining 10 per cent was diverted to activities including planting of vetiver grasses, micro-catchment (stone bunds and contour ridges) in order to stabilize soil and reduce the speed of water runoff from upstream.
4	Charco Dam Construction (Volume= 2800 cubic meters/dam)	Number	4	4	100%	Completed	Completed with strengthening the embarkment of 1 charco-dam and solarization of the two (Kasasa & Kumbanga)
5	Hill terracing	Meters	10,000	21,277	213%	Completed	Overachieved due to high interest from the community and presence of many landscapes requiring this intervention.
6	Canal Rehabilitation	Meters	2,500	40	1.6%	Modified	After a consultation with district engineers and the Lake Tanganyika water basin board, only forty meters of canal were rehabilitated with additional activity of weir construction for sustainable water tapping and channelling to farms for irrigation purposes.

7	Wetland Demarcation/ Beaconing	Number of villages	3	3	100%	Completed	25 beacons placed near 3 water sources in one village and 1 water source in one village. One village remaining 2 main water sources 12 beacons.
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Table 6. Village-level Asset Creation– Cumulative Achievement from 2023-2025

N o.	Village	Composting (# of Compost pits)		Contour Ridge Construction (Meters)		Gully treatment - Gabion Wall/Check Dams (Cubic meters)		Charco Dam Construction (Number)		Hill terracing (Meters)		Canal rehabilitation		Wetland demarcation (# of beacons)	
		Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved
1	Kalimungoma	198	181	7,500	8,757	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Kumtundu	114	97	7,500	8,344	-	-	-	-	-	31	2,500	-	-	-
3	Kumkambati	117	106	7,500	7,797	-	69	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	1	1
4	Kumuhasha	265	265	7,500	33,332	-	-	1	1	3,000	9,364	-	-	1	1
5	Kumbanga	222	219	7,500	4,454	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Mukabuye	247	247	7,500	52,150	650	200	-	-	3,000	3,970	-	-	-	-
7	Maloregwa	153	125	7,500	25,254	-	-	-	-	3,000	5,614	-	-	-	-
8	Kumkugwa	182	181	7,500	40,085	80	104	-	-	3	2,298	-	-	1	3
9	Kumshindwi	194	186	7,500	23,331	504	836.4	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-
10	Kasasa	170	169	7,500	22,486	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		1,862	1,779	75,000	225,990	1,234	1,209.4	4	4	14,000	21,277	2,500	-	3*	5

* 120 represents the initial beacon planning figures from the project team. Based on the district water sources demarcation guidelines and guidance from the district technical team the planning figure was reduced to 37.

Table 7. Number of FFA Participants Targeted Per Activity

Activity	# of villages	Quantity in the FFA budget (planned targets)	# of targeted FFA participants	Overall reached FFA Participants (2023-2025)	Comment
Composting	10	400 pits	100	1160 (771F, 389M)	Completed Target was 400; Achievement y1 was 200 and y2 achieved 481 pits/heaps
Contour Ridge Construction, micro catchment level i.e., (Fanya juu/fanya chini)	10	50,000 Cubic Meters	275	1064 (697F, 367M)	Completed
Gulley treatment (Gabion Wall/Check Dam)	3	1,234 Cubic Meters	120	226 (172F, 54M)	Completed
Charco Dam Construction	4	2,800 Cubic Meters	740	596 (378F, 218M)	Completed
Hill terracing	6	10,000 Cubic Meters	205	442 (233F, 209M)	Completed
Canal/Water Intake/Livestock Drinking Point	1	2,500 Cubic Meters	25	23 (16F, 7M)	Completed point of location changed a bit
Wetland Demarcation Beacon establishment	3	120 beacons*	8	26 (12F, 14M)	Completed
Orchard /Perma-gardens and Forest management/Planting deep-rooted perennial pastures, and trees along drainage line	2	32,000 trees	32	1302 (804F, 498M)	16,000 in Year 1 and 16,000 in Year 2. Activity implemented during the rainy season
Grand Total			1,505		

Output 2.1 Environmental awareness level raised among refugees and host communities

The project supported community awareness raising initiative on the need to protect, restore and conserve the environment and its natural resources. Messaging was designed to resonate with the communities' main priorities and concerns, making a direct link between sound environmental management, natural resources management, and household resilience and food security.

Table 8. Output 2.1 Indicators

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	2023	2024	2025	Achieved

Organization of environmental awareness campaign	% (proportion) of targeted population with increased awareness of environmental protection and management	0	75	To be determined at end of project term			
Organization of environmental awareness campaign.	# of awareness campaign sessions conducted	0	36	17	27	6	50
Organization of community environmental events.	# of community environmental events	0	6	3	5	4	12

Table 9. Number of Individuals Reached Yearly Through Environmental Awareness

Year	Refugees		Host Community		Total
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
2023	31,041	23,302	3,732	2,017	60,092
2024	58,671	24,585	5,642	1,983	90,881
2025	66,941	49,672	2,573	1,803	120,989
Total	156,653	97,559	11,947	5,803	271,962

Output 2.1: Narrative

Fifty environmental awareness campaigns were conducted using different approaches, including home visits, patrols, and a Friday information campaign through public announcement to disseminate environmental protection messages as well as community meetings. Also, 12 community environmental events were conducted including joint environmental patrols, monitoring, yearly World Environment Day (WED), National Uhuru Torch as well as post-planting activities. The aim of environmental awareness was to promote eco-stewardship to refugees and host community members. Some 271,962 individuals acquired knowledge and skills in the protection, conservation, and overall sustainable management of natural resources. Of these individuals, 254,212 were refugees (156,653 women, 97,559 men) and 17,750 were host community members (11,947 women, 5,803 men). Overall, 62 per cent of the individuals positively impacted by environmental awareness events were women which indicates strong interest of women in protecting the environment and the sustainable utilization of natural resources as they are the most affected by adverse consequences of degrading environment, dwindling natural resources, and dire shocks of

changing climate. In particular, the Belgium-funded project imparted to the individuals, several skills important in the conservation of natural resources including soil, water, trees, forests, and biodiversity. Additionally, reached individuals acquired practical knowledge in the designing and implementation of nature-based solutions (NbS) notably the application of indigenous vegetation to address risks of soil erosion and flooding mostly in the refugee camps. The project was also instrumental in enhancing skills of the participants in establishing and managing tree nurseries which is crucial in projects to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems as one of the adaptive and resilience strategies to coping with climate change shocks.

Figure 5. The 2025 World Environment Day events formed part of environmental awareness campaigns. ©UNHCR/Godfrey Mchunguzi Oyema

Output 2.2: Capacity strengthened of farmers in host communities in agro-forestry and climate smart agriculture

Activities under this output complement tree planting activities in output 1.1 and the landscape restoration, rehabilitation, and water management activities under output 1.2, by promoting host community farmers' adoption of climate-resilient agricultural technologies and management practices, including agroforestry. Farmers targeted under these activities are primarily those who live downstream in the catchment areas to be rehabilitated under output 1.2.

Table 10. Output 2.2 Indicators

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	2023	2024	2025	Details
Training of farmers on climate smart agriculture	% (proportion) of farmers adopting at least 2 climate-resilient agricultural practices	0	75%	-	To be determined at end of project term	80	The end assessment indicating 96% on compost manure utilization and 64% soil conservation
Training of farmers on climate smart agriculture	# of farmers trained on climate-smart agriculture	0	5,000 (50% women)	-	3,500	650	completed and the 50% of women participants were adhered
Training and support for perma gardens and kitchen garden inputs	# of people trained in and supported with permagardens	0	2,000 (50% women)	-	2,320		Training was completed in 2024
	# of people trained in and supported with kitchen gardens	0	3,000 (50% women)	Host communities: 1,139 (806 female) Refugees: Nduta 574 (482 female), Nyarugusu 565 (324 female)	Host communities: 1,191 (806 female) Refugees: 1,324 (817 female)		405 were lead trainers and 1925 (50% women) people were reached through cascading trainings

Output 2.2: Narrative

The Belgium-funded project made notable progress in strengthening community resilience through climate-smart agriculture (CSA). By 2025, 80% of farmers had adopted at least two climate-resilient agricultural practices, surpassing the end-of-project target of 75%. This achievement reflects the effectiveness of training and extension approaches, including cascading models led by trained lead farmers. As by 2024, a total of 4,150 (50% women) farmers were trained on CSA practices, based on the 50% gender target). Endline findings indicate particularly strong adoption of key practices such as compost manure utilization (96%) and 64% of soil conservation structures demonstrating improved knowledge and application of sustainable agricultural practices at household level.

Progress was also recorded under the perma-garden initiative, which aimed to enhance household food security, improve nutrition status and dietary diversity. As of 2024, a total of 2,320 individuals were trained and supported to establish perma-gardens, with an estimated gender distribution of 1,320 women and 1,000 men in line with program targets. The

intervention, completed in 2024, contributed significantly to increased access to diverse and nutritious foods at household level. By prioritizing inclusive participation, the initiative ensured that both women and men were empowered with skills to improve food production and strengthen resilience against climate-related shocks.

The kitchen garden component achieved substantial outreach across both host communities and refugee populations, with women consistently representing most participants. In 2023, a total of 2,278 individuals were supported, including 1,612 women and 666 men. This increased in 2024 to 2,515 individuals, comprising 1,623 women and 892 men. The high level of female participation exceeded the planned 50% target, highlighting the project's success in engaging women in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and household food production.

Output 2.3: Community biomass briquette production supported

Only planned for implementation in 2023, this output and its associated interventions aimed at building the adaptive capacity of the host community to reduce reliance on firewood which is attributed to environmental degradation and deforestation. Some 713 individuals from Kasulu and Kibondo districts were trained and provided with equipment to make biomass briquettes.

Table 11. Output 2.3 Indicators

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Interim achievement	Details
Production of biomass briquettes at household level.	# of individuals who are producing biomass briquettes.	0	700	713	Trained and received equipment – activity completed

Output 2.3: Narrative

UNHCR engaged the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), a government agency, to implement activities and deliver project objectives. The objective was to promote individual and group production of biomass charcoal briquettes (briquettes) through theoretical and practical capacity building. SIDO conducted 23 training in eight villages, four from each Kasulu and Kibondo. Kasulu villages were Kalimungoma, Mvugwe, Kuntundu, and Kumkambati. Kibondo district villages were Kumhasha, Kumbanga, Maloregwa, and Kigendeka. Project activities implemented were the fabrication of 32 improved carbonization kilns which were distributed to four groups from each district composed of eight individuals. This sub-activity was intended to promote group-briquettes production for commercial purposes. Additionally, SIDO provided training to 713 individuals (427 women, 286 men) across the eight villages in the two districts. Besides receiving training, each of these individuals received handheld toolkit for manual production of briquettes for household

Figure 6. One of the 713 host community individuals benefitted from briquettes initiative. ©UNHCR/2023 Godfrey Mchunguzi Oyema

consumption. The two sub-activities (individual and group) sought to promote the adoption and utilization of briquettes in the host community as an alternative and

sustainable cooking solutions with long-term contribution to the protection and conservation of environment and natural forests and trees.

Output 2.4: Alternative livelihoods developed among host communities and refugees

The primary objective of the project's livelihood diversification activities is to strengthen food security and nutrition in the event of extreme climate events and provide alternative income as a safety net in case of yield loss and sustain the implementation of climate resilient agricultural practices. Focus is on supporting mushroom production activities among host communities and refugees. These skills can also support refugees upon return to their countries of origin, providing them with opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods.

Table 12. Output 2.4 Indicators

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	2023	2024	2025	Details
Training and capacity building on mushroom production	# of people trained and with means to undertake mushroom production	0	300 (70% women)	-	150 (84F & 66M)	150 (128F & 22M)	300 (212female, 88 male) community members from both refugee and host communities.
Setting up of mushroom production facilities	# of mushroom production facilities set up	0	30	-	15	15	30 mushroom facilities have been established, 15 in Kasulu and 15 in Kibondo.

Output 2.4: Narrative

The implementation of mushroom production as an alternative livelihood intervention was grounded in a robust technical and institutional preparation phase, consistent with the project's objective of strengthening food security, nutrition, and income diversification under climate stress conditions. In advance of field-level delivery, SIDO conducted a comprehensive technical feasibility assessment in Kigoma Region. The assessment moved beyond basic viability analysis to define a context-specific operational model tailored to displacement-affected settings, identifying mushroom cultivation as a low-land, climate-resilient, and nutritionally dense livelihood option suitable for both refugee and host communities.

The findings were validated through multi-stakeholder consultations held in Kasulu and Kibondo districts in December 2023, convening Local Government Authorities and key humanitarian and development actors, including Danish Refugee Council, World Vision International (WVI), International Rescue Committee (IRC), TFS, Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS), and UNHCR. These consultations ensured alignment with district-level land use planning, market systems, and existing humanitarian programming frameworks.

The validated assessment provided a clear implementation roadmap, directly informing the phased scale-up approach and ensuring coherence with the proposal's emphasis on sustainability, community ownership, and institutional linkages.

Building on this foundation, implementation commenced in 2024, marking the transition from design to delivery. A total of 15 mushroom production facilities were established, seven in Kasulu District and eight in Kibondo District, through a community-based approach that leveraged in-kind contributions, including labour and locally available materials such as agricultural residues (e.g., maize peelings, banana leaves and grasses) for substrate preparation. The intervention reached 150 participants (84 women, 66 men), drawn from both refugee and host communities, with beneficiary selection undertaken through community consultations and in coordination with district authorities and camp management structures, in line with the proposed targeting criteria.

Training and capacity building were delivered through established community platforms, including Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCCs) and decentralised community sites, ensuring accessibility for both refugees and host populations. The training focused on the full mushroom production cycle, including substrate preparation, inoculation techniques using locally available materials, moisture and temperature control, and post-harvest handling. This approach ensured that beneficiaries acquired practical, transferable skills aligned with both local market opportunities and potential future reintegration contexts.

Within the first production cycles, the intervention demonstrated clear progress toward the intended outcomes of Output 2.4. Host community participants successfully accessed local markets, generating supplementary household income, and establishing early-stage value chain linkages. Concurrently, both refugee and host households reported improved dietary diversity through direct consumption of mushrooms, contributing to enhanced nutrition outcomes, particularly in contexts of reduced food rations. For refugees, who face structural limitations in accessing formal income-generating opportunities, mushroom production primarily functioned as a food security buffer, reducing reliance on external assistance.

In 2025, the intervention scaled in line with the proposed targets and sustainability framework. An additional 15 production facilities were established (8 in Kasulu, 7 in Kibondo), bringing the total to 30 facilities, fully achieving the planned output indicator. The expansion engaged 150 new participants, with a strong gender focus, 128 women and 22 men, thereby exceeding the minimum target of 70 per cent women and reinforcing the intervention's alignment with gender-responsive programming objectives. Participants were largely drawn from existing community structures, including savings groups, strengthening the linkage with financial inclusion mechanisms and enhancing sustainability through collective procurement of inputs such as spawns.

In parallel, 150 participants from the initial 2024 cohort received refresher training, reinforcing technical capacity, improving yield consistency, and strengthening market engagement. This

iterative capacity-building model ensured that beneficiaries not only adopted the technology but also progressed toward more efficient and market-oriented production systems. Over the two years, a cumulative total of 300 individuals were trained and equipped with the means to undertake mushroom production, fully meeting the project target.

The intervention delivered measurable multi-dimensional outcomes consistent with the project's theory of change. First, household food security and nutrition improved through sustained access to a high-protein food source, particularly critical during periods of climate-induced agricultural stress. Second, income diversification was realized, especially among host communities, through regular sales in local markets, providing a safety net against crop failure and seasonal income fluctuations. Third, the intervention contributed to protection outcomes: by reducing reliance on forest-based livelihood activities such as firewood collection, it decreased exposure of women and girls to environmental risks and gender-based violence.

Furthermore, the establishment of production facilities functioned as decentralized demonstration and learning hubs, facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge transfer and strengthening social cohesion between refugee and host communities. The use of locally sourced agricultural waste for substrate preparation also reinforced circular economy principles and fostered inter-community collaboration, as host community farmers supplied raw materials to facilities located within or near refugee settlements.

Importantly, the skills developed through this intervention have strong applicability

SUCCESS STORY – BUILDING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

"We were able to take our children to school, started a chicken farm, got health insurance for treatment, and everything is going on well," says Sada Jumanne, a Tanzanian woman and mushroom production training participant.

Sada was born and raised in Kumkambati Village in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region where over 230,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are hosted. She is one of the host community members whose life changed after attending the mushroom production training facilitated by the Danish Refugee Council through the support of UNHCR and funding from Belgium.

"Our lives and income were extremely low before this project, and it was difficult for us to get even 500 Tanzanian shillings," recalls Sada. In the training, Sada learned the essentials of mushroom production, from farming and harvesting to processing and business development. Mushroom production not only supports climate resilience, but also improves nutrition of communities.

"Our surrounding community also benefit from the training as they get mushrooms in and out of season. Even our neighbors are buying mushrooms at a reasonable price," explains Sada. To support her community, Sada is educating and training others on mushroom production and its nutritious benefits. She hopes that the training continues so people like her can have a sustainable source of income for themselves and their families.

beyond the immediate project context. Evidence from comparable initiatives in Burundi indicates that small-scale mushroom enterprises can achieve profitability and sustained market demand, underscoring the relevance of this livelihood pathway for refugees in the event of voluntary repatriation. This aligns directly with the proposal's objective of equipping beneficiaries with transferable, climate-resilient skills that remain viable across different geographic and socio-economic contexts.

In summary, Output 2.4 has been fully achieved, with 30 mushroom production facilities established and 300 individuals trained, exceeding the gender inclusion target. The intervention demonstrates a scalable, climate-resilient livelihood model that simultaneously advances food security, income generation, gender equality, and protection outcomes in displacement-affected settings.

COORDINATION

Regular coordination meetings were held between UNHCR, WFP and the Danish Refugee Council at the Dar Es Salaam level with participation of key field colleagues. In addition, at field level regular coordination takes place, including through technical working groups. UNHCR sector focal points continue to work closely and support government partners in the

Figure 7. Refugees harvesting mushrooms in Nyarugusu Camp. © UNHCR/Andrew Ching'ole

Figure 8. Oyster mushrooms sprouting from substrate. © UNHCR/Andrew Ching'ole

framework, and its activities have been reflected in the KJP annual joint workplans and reporting. Being part of the KJP framework means that the project updates, achievements, and planned activities are regularly shared with and endorsed by regional authorities, ensuring continued buy-in and local ownership. Moreover, KJP coordination structures and meetings are used to look for complementary synergies with other UN actors, for example, but not exclusively FAO on environment and alternative livelihoods, and UNCDF, UNDP, and UNIDO on sustainable cooking energy interventions.

LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS AND WORKING TOWARDS LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

The project engaged local government authorities in all project activities. This deliberate engagement was maintained to ensure sustainability of the project activities beyond the implementation period. Advocacy and discussions, including through the KJP framework were conducted alongside local government authorities to ensure that critical activities will increasingly be incorporated in local plans and budgets.

The approval of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded project for Kigoma Region means that additional finances will be available for the next five years for the Government, to be channelled through the Vice President's Office, to support activities similar and complementary to those

of the Belgian-funded project. Moreover, the implementation of the GCF project will benefit from the experience and lessons learned from the Belgian-funded project.

In terms of direct partnerships with government entities in the project implementation besides regional and district officials, TFS will continue to be a key implementer of the GCF and will provide advice on critical technical matters. The TFS central nurseries will be instrumental in the GCF funded activities in the host community and UNHCR handed over these facilities to TFS to continue using them in the environment protection initiatives including restoration of the degraded areas. The LTWB was a key partner in the efforts to restore and protect water bodies involved in the project. With water regulatory responsibility in the protection of and sustainable utilization of water sources, restored water catchment ecosystems, will benefit from the environmental stewardship of the LTWB meaning that destructive environmental activities will continue to be monitored and mitigated to ensure complete recovery of the area under rehabilitation and restoration.

For the community run nurseries, the final year of implementation focused on building community's capacity to not only operate and manage tree nurseries but also to raise and plant tree commercially. There is increasing needs of tree planting in the host community as part of livelihoods but also protecting the environment. Trained community tree planters, acquired necessary and basic knowledge, experience, and skills needed to establish, manage, and monitoring tree health to ensure they meet market demand of various tree species.

Trained community members expressed interest to continue the operation of these nurseries on a commercial basis upon conclusion of the project, noting the high community demand for trees.

From 2023-2025 some additional resources were leveraged through the KJP for both UNHCR and WFP through the UN Tanzania SDG Acceleration Fund building on the achievement and plans of the Belgian-funded project. This included some modest additional resources for UNHCR to undertake kitchen gardening, and a small sum to expand biomass briquette production activities inside the camps. WFP mobilized some additional UN Tanzania SDG Acceleration Fund resources to expand the scope of the asset creation activities under output 1.2.

VISIBILITY

Implementation from 2023 to 2025	
Area	Type and details
Camp level	Multi-donor signage acknowledging Belgium's support is placed in Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps in Kigoma

National level	A total of 400 calendars including the Belgium logo were printed and distributed to government counterparts, local and regional authorities, members of the diplomatic community and partners.
Global level	UNHCR produced a total of 38 social media posts about Belgium's contribution on UNHCR Tanzania channels on X (formally Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram. 18 Dec 2025, courtesy meeting, X (formally Twitter) link here 20 June 2025, World Refugee Day, X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 6 June 2025, World Environment Day – Instagram link here 20 March 2025, Tree Planting – Instagram link here 8 October 2024, throwback joint donor mission – X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 26 September 2024, joint donor mission, X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 23 September 2024, joint donor mission, X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 19 September 2024, tree nursery, X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 21 July 2024, Belgium National Day, X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 17 July 2024, mushroom production, X (formally Twitter) link here, Instagram link here, Facebook link here 21 November 2023, tree growing, X (formally Twitter) link here 4 October 2023, field visit, X (formally Twitter) link here 18 August 2023, tree nursery centre, X (formally Twitter) link here 4 July 2023, joint mission, X (formally Twitter) link here 13 June 2023, joint mission, X (formally Twitter) link here 8 June 2023, joint mission, X (formally Twitter) link here 7 June 2023, joint mission, X (formally Twitter) link here, link here 6 June 2023, launch ceremony, X (formally Twitter) link here, link here, link here, link here UNHCR issues externally a monthly country Funding Update, which highlights the contribution from Belgium. The document is regularly shared with various stakeholders, including donors and available online for public consumption. Link here to the latest update. UNHCR issues externally a monthly country Operational Update, which highlights the contribution from Belgium. These documents are available on our data portal, link here. Link here to the latest update.

EXPENDITURES – See Annex 1



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