



Democratic Republic of Congo: Leveraging Tanganyika's Provincial Strategy to Scale up the Response and Advance the National Durable Solutions Agenda

Tanganyika shows a practical pathway for how a government-led provincial Durable Solutions Strategy can help progressively scale up the response through joint efforts and generate national political commitment to advance the broader durable solutions agenda.

Case study



At a glance

Country	Democratic Republic of the Congo - Tanganyika Province
Displacement context	Conflict linked to armed-group presence and intercommunal violence between Twa and Bantu communities in parts of the province; protracted displacement, with most IDPs living with host families and a smaller share in displacement sites, alongside ongoing return movements in relatively stable areas.
Government partners	Provincial Governor, Provincial Government especially the Ministry of Planning; territorial and local authorities; Population Movement Commission (CMP); Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme (P-DDRCS); and the national Ministries of Planning, Interior and Humanitarian Action.
Solution pathways	Voluntary return, local integration and relocation, in safety and dignity, supported by security and State presence, access to housing, land, basic services and livelihoods, and community dialogue and social cohesion.
Main barrier	Persistent insecurity and weak State presence in some areas, land-related disputes, and insufficient access to services and economic opportunities continue to hinder sustainable return, local integration and relocation.
UN contribution	The United Nations system supported the analysis of movements and intentions, joint multi-sectoral assessments, the elaboration of the provincial durable solutions strategy and its costed operational action plan as part of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach.
Headline evidence	Provincial Durable Solutions Strategy officially endorsed and costed Operational Action Plan validated; Tanganyika's experience helped drive the national dialogue, Government Declaration of Commitment and renewed progress on Kampala Convention domestication. The recorded IDP population declined from 391,374 in July 2024 to 333,371 in January 2026 and further to 270,358 in June 2026 – an overall reduction of 121,016 people (30.9%) – showing steady progress toward the Strategy's target of reducing conflict-induced internal displacement by 80% by 2029. This reduction has been supported by Government efforts and partner support to improve security, peace and other conditions conducive to return, alongside durable solutions interventions supporting return, relocation and local integration. For example, IOM supported 14,639 people in return areas through integrated services, while UNHCR provided housing and economic empowerment support to around 6,000 people in Hongwa and Kikumbe through relocation and local integration interventions.
Remaining gap	Financing remains fragmented and insufficient to implement the Strategy at scale, while stronger monitoring is needed to better assess the contribution of durable solutions efforts to observed reductions in displacement.



Leveraging a Government-Led Provincial Durable Solutions Strategy for National Policy Change

Tanganyika's displacement crisis is driven by armed violence, intercommunal conflict, including tensions between Twa and Bantu communities, and the destruction of basic social and economic infrastructure. Even where violence eased, displacement could not be resolved through return alone, as many return and settlement areas lacked adequate housing, water, schools, health care, viable livelihoods, secure land tenure, functioning conflict-resolution mechanisms and a dependable state presence.

The scale of need has been substantial. Provincial reporting cited more than 391,000 internally displaced people in July 2024. Earlier site-closure processes had already shown both the demand for solutions and the complexity of delivering them: between 2020 and 2022, more than 31,000 people from 7,961 households were supported across return, relocation and local-integration options.

An IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix intentions survey conducted in September 2023 covered 14,797 people across 15 displacement sites in Kalemie and Nyunzu. It found that 54.73% preferred return, while 41.17% preferred relocation or local integration; 4.08% were undecided. UNHCR, UNDP and IOM then worked with the provincial land and property working group on a joint multisectoral assessment of 13 potential return villages in April 2024. Together, these exercises turned household preferences and territorial conditions into a basis for prioritization. Against this backdrop, the province moved from individual solutions initiatives towards a common, government-led framework for durable solutions.

Under the Governor's leadership, Tanganyika validated and politically endorsed its Provincial Durable Solutions Strategy on 10 December 2024 through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus coordination structure and the provincial durable solutions working group. Its ambition is to resolve at least 80% of conflict-related internal displacement in five years, reducing the displaced population from more than 391,000 to fewer than 79,000.

Despite declining humanitarian funding, humanitarian, development and peace actors progressively aligned their interventions and investments around the Strategy, strengthening synergies and complementarities across the three pillars.



Tanganyika’s experience also informed the development of a similar Durable Solutions Strategy in Ituri. In May 2026, the two provincial strategies were presented to national authorities at the first National Strategic Dialogue on Durable Solutions, convened through the Groupe de Concertation Nexus (GCN). The Dialogue culminated in a joint Government Declaration of Commitment on Durable Solutions, signed by the Vice-Prime Minister/Minister of Interior, the Ministers of Planning and Humanitarian Action, and the Governors of Tanganyika and Ituri.

The May 2026 Declaration by the Government of the DRC established durable solutions as a national strategic priority linking humanitarian action, security, development and social cohesion, while reinforcing national–provincial coordination.

This political momentum marked a shift from provincial experience to a national durable solutions agenda, securing high-level political commitment, drawing the attention of international financial institutions, laying the foundations for a roadmap towards a national policy, and helping to relaunch the domestication of the Kampala Convention.

Government-led strategy supported by multi-stakeholder HDP action

Barrier	Displaced families faced insecurity, limited access to services and uncertain land access in areas of origin, while host communities were already under pressure.
Government action	The province endorsed a Strategy structured around four pillars: (1) return, relocation or local integration; (2) State authority, security and stabilization; (3) housing, land, basic services and livelihoods; and (4) community dialogue, transitional justice and land-conflict resolution, with prioritized actions and clear institutional responsibilities.
UN contribution	UN entities combined displacement and intentions data, multisectoral assessments and area-based programming to better align protection, basic services, livelihoods and peacebuilding around priority locations.
Institutional alignment	Durable solutions, as a provincial collective Outcome of the HDP Nexus approach, are part of the Provincial Government Action Programme, and the 12 UN entities, through the Provincial UN Team, strengthened their alignment around this priority.



Who does what

- The Provincial Government leads the Durable Solutions Strategy under the Governor and Provincial Ministry of Planning, within the HDP Nexus approach, while the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) supports government engagement, coordination and partner alignment around the Strategy, including through support to the Tanganyika Provincial UN Team.
- The operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach has further strengthened the institutional foundation for durable solutions in Tanganyika. With UN technical and financial support, the Provincial Government established a Nexus coordination architecture comprising the Provincial Nexus Committee, Technical Secretariat and Results Groups, alongside territorial Nexus results frameworks for the two pilot territories of Kalemie and Nyunzu. These mechanisms provide a common framework for aligning interventions and promoting joint programming among UN agencies, funds and programmes around provincial Nexus and durable solutions priorities.
- UNHCR, UNDP and IOM provided technical support through the provincial Durable Solutions Working Group and, with the HLP Working Group, conducted multisectoral assessments of potential return villages to inform territorial priorities. IOM also provided DTM displacement and intentions data, contributing to population-movement analysis validated by the provincial CMP
- Collective UN offer has also been translated into successive joint programmes supported by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), bringing together several UN entities around peacebuilding, social cohesion, livelihoods, protection and access to basic social services in conflict- and displacement-affected areas. It is further reflected in the Joint Resilient Programme II (JRP II) in Kabalo and Nyunzu, jointly implemented by WFP, FAO, UNICEF and UNFPA, combining complementary UN mandates to strengthen basic services, resilience and social cohesion in line with provincial Nexus and durable solutions priorities.
- UNDP supported the updating and finalization of local development plans to ensure that they reflected the specific needs of displaced and returning populations and incorporated durable solutions priorities. Its interventions also covered transitional shelter, income-generating activities, psychosocial assistance and support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Government institutions, UN agencies, NGOs and civil-society organizations contribute to the development and implementation of the Strategy according to their mandates across security, protection, livelihoods, basic services and peacebuilding. IOM, for example, supported multisectoral durable-solutions interventions combining land, infrastructure, livelihoods, protection, mental health support and community engagement.
- Displaced people and host communities actively participated in shaping the Strategy, with intentions surveys capturing IDPs' preferences on return, relocation and local integration and multisectoral assessments informing territorial priorities. Participation also continues at programme level through structured consultations with IDPs, including in Kalemie, to inform age, gender- and diversity-sensitive programming.
- Technical and financial partners helped sustain financing and keep durable solutions on the donor agenda in a context of declining humanitarian funding, with the Nexus Donor Group, co-chaired by Sweden and Belgium, maintaining engagement and the Peacebuilding Fund providing catalytic financing to leverage additional resources.



Documented early results

Level of change	Evidence of progress
Institutional	The Provincial Governor-endorsed Tanganyika Durable Solutions Strategy and its Operational Plan established a shared framework for Government, the UN and partners. The approach was subsequently replicated in Ituri and helped catalyze high-level national commitment, including the May 2026 Government Declaration, and renewed progress on the domestication of the Kampala Convention.
Land and settlement	Progress included strengthened land-tenure security and housing support. IOM supported the relocation of 2,140 households who received land-tenure documentation, while 104 shelters were constructed with PBF funding under durable solutions interventions. UNHCR provided housing support and economic empowerment of around 6,000 persons in Hongwa (420 households) and Kikumbe (308 households) respectively in relocalisation and local integration - including through formally registered land plots and livelihood support, with additional housing provided to host-community families.
Return areas	IOM supported a total of 14,639 persons in returned areas (10,912 returnee and 3,727 host population) in Saliboko, Kyamusenji, Lukwangulo, Mulengi and Eyia/ Hongwa through integrated services including social cohesion, access to basic social infrastructure, mental health and well-being and livelihoods. UNHCR also supported 266 households in return areas, by granting them houses and shelter's kits so that to enable them to build their houses in their return villages located along Kalemie – Nyunzu axis and within Nyunzu. Moreover, houses building is ongoing in Nyunzu especially in 3 villages (Mabuki, Kikanyaga and Mulongo) for 100 households. UNDP is supporting the construction of semi-durable shelters equipped with family latrines for 102 vulnerable returnee households. The intervention includes 22 large shelters and 80 smaller shelters, adapted to household size. UNFPA in Hongwa supported with a 20-bed maternity unit enabling quality care for pregnant women and deliveries, as well as the management of obstetric emergencies. As the only facility of the village, the provincial government decided to designate it as a referral center for the entire area.



Documented early results

Level of change	Evidence of progress
Services shared by communities	Durable solutions investments expanded access to education, health, water and protection services in return and displacement-affected areas. In Saliboko and surrounding areas, integrated investments delivered a primary school, health centre, vocational training facilities, commercial facilities and a community space. One UN approach in Saliboko bringing complementary support in education, health and nutrition. In Saliboko, 2,500 people gained access to safe water through a solar-powered borehole supplying three water points located at the health centre, school and within the community. Across Saliboko, Kikumbe and Hongwa, 2,009 students received school supplies; 14 classrooms were constructed and equipped with desks in Kikumbe and Hongwa, while teachers across the three locations received training and ongoing pedagogical support from education inspectors to strengthen the quality of teaching. In Saliboko, the health center was equipped with essential materials to strengthen access to health services for the community. In Kikumbe, 120 vulnerable girls and/or survivors of gender-based violence were supported with vocational skills training in income-generating trades, organized into cooperatives and provided with start-up kits to strengthen their socioeconomic empowerment. Other interventions provided 9 boreholes, 4 water sources and school reintegration support for 480 children. Broader investments complemented these efforts by expanding shared access to schools and health services across Tanganyika. as well as access to justice through the new Provincial Justice Palace in Kalemie.
Economic inclusion	Efforts focused on vocational training, income-generating activities, savings and access to finance. In displacement-affected communities, 455 women received vocational training and 122 Village Savings and Credit Associations were supported in Tanganyika. Other resilience interventions in Nyunzu and Kabalo strengthened savings and access to credit, contributing to a 35.3% increase in average weekly household income compared with 2023 and support to 200 households in Kikumbe and 160 households in Nyunzu in economic activities (AGR, farming, poultry) after the site closure and during their local integration in the same village. In Tabac Congo, Mulitsha and Katanika, the economic inclusion focused on returnees, refugees and their host communities in vegetable farming.



Documented early results

Level of change	Evidence of progress
Peace and protection	Peacebuilding efforts targeted local security, socio-economic reintegration, reconciliation and transitional justice in less-served conflict-affected areas. Key results from the UN PBF included stronger local security committees, capacity building for 155 security actors, socio economic reintegration of 800 ex-combatants with 1,200 host-community members, 35 “Amani” peace villages promoting Twa-Bantu coexistence (PBF). The PDDRCS organized reconciliation processes and training on transitional justice principles. Protection in Kalemie was strengthened with HCR support through improved case management and closer coordination with justice actors. To enhance safe environment of protection in returnees areas, UNHCR set up a protection monitoring mechanism based on AlertBook, a tool managed by civil protection of the province and accessible to humanitarian community, so that protection incidents are collected, shared for appropriate response on time.

A HUMAN STORY

From a small household trade to a shared market business

Mariamamu’s experience showcases how economic agency is a critical solution pathway. According to IOM’s Tanganyika reporting, Mariamamu joined a village savings and credit association supported through a Sweden-funded programme. A small loan allowed her to begin selling flour and oil from home. She later moved the activity to a market stall and, with other association members, helped launch a growing shop.

Her story shows how a community-owned financial mechanism can convert skills and social networks into practical choices. When such mechanisms include displaced, returned and host-community members, they can also strengthen everyday cooperation across groups affected by conflict.



The remaining challenges for Tanganyika

- **Advancing Pillar 1 of the Strategy: Consolidating security and State authority in return areas.** Security remains fragile, particularly in the territories of Kalemie, Nyunzu, Moba and Manono, with persistent Twa-Bantu intercommunal tensions and evolving armed groups dynamics, including the movement of armed elements from neighbouring South Kivu. Recurrent insecurity in some return areas can make return unsafe or trigger renewed displacement, underscoring the need to strengthen State presence, police deployment and local conflict-prevention mechanisms.
- **Sustaining coordinated and complementary action across the other pillars of the Provincial Durable Solutions Strategy.** Security gains need to be matched by continued, complementary action across the Strategy's other pillars to ensure that returns and other solutions are sustainable.
- **Deepening participation of affected communities.** Participation is not yet systematic across planning, implementation and monitoring, especially for women, youth and marginalized groups.
- **Mobilizing the financing required to implement the Strategy.** The Strategy requires a total of USD 153.8 million for implementation. The priority is to move away from fragmented, short-term project funding towards multi-year commitments, greater pooling of resources, and stronger alignment of humanitarian, development and peace financing behind provincial priorities. This includes leveraging growing IFI investments, including World Bank-supported investments in Kalemie, to ensure that large-scale development programmes reach return and displacement-affected areas and contribute directly to durable solutions, while progressively integrating durable solutions into State budgets through dedicated national and provincial allocations.
- **Strengthening monitoring of durable solutions results.** Stronger monitoring is needed to measure more precisely the achievement of durable solutions by operationalizing the Strategy's M&E framework, including clear indicators, regular data collection and periodic reviews.
- **Consolidating the national momentum.** The challenge is now to sustain the momentum generated by Tanganyika and translate it into effective national implementation and scale-up.