



TANGANYIKA CHRISTIAN REFUGEE SERVICE

TCRS PROFILE IN BRIEF – 23RD MARCH, 2020

TCRS Background

The Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS) with its headquarters located at Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam was operated by the Lutheran World Federation - Department of World Service, on behalf of the World Council of Churches and in consultation with the Christian Council of Tanzania. The entity was established at the request of the constituent member churches of the Christian Council of Tanzania, as an ecumenical expression of concern and a programme of assistance to refugees who have found asylum in Tanzania. The Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service has been conducting its programme of assistance in co-operation with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees over the years.

Since its establishment in 1964 until 2006, TCRS was carrying out a programme of humanitarian relief and development activities with refugees and marginalized poor people in Tanzania. As part of the LWF/DWS strategy for local empowerment, TCRS became an autonomous and independent Tanzanian registered NGO in January 2006. TCRS is registered as a Trust Association and continues to be engaged in humanitarian, relief and development work in Tanzania on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the Christian Council of Tanzania and the global ecumenical network.

TCRS VISION

"Empowered communities living in a just, democratic society, united in diversity and enjoying quality of life and God-given dignity."

TCRS MISSION

"To empower vulnerable, marginalized, and displaced communities to achieve self-reliance and sustainable development and to reduce human suffering and poverty"

TCRS CORE VALUES

- **Universal Justice:** access by all to fundamental human rights:
- **Dignity:** inherent self-worth

- **Self-reliance:** people empowered to strive for their own development
- **Sustainable Livelihoods:** when it can cope with and recover from the stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets without undermining the needs of future generations
- **Humanity in harmonious stewardship with all creation**
- **Transparency and accountability:** openness about and being responsible for actions taken

TCRS FOCUS GROUPS

TCRS focuses on the vulnerable, marginalized and displaced (VMDs) poor people whose livelihoods are threatened by the effects of natural and human-made disaster, with special regard to internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and disadvantaged communities in the remote areas of greatest vulnerability and endemic need. Special attention is paid to women, children, youth, elderly, people with disability and People Living With Communicable diseases.

TCRS FOCUS AREAS

TCRS works in some selected villages of districts and locations with highest vulnerability to disaster and greatest concentration of poverty. It focuses on remote and vulnerable areas where adequate local capacities and services are not available. Currently, TCRS is working in 11 selected districts in Tanzania. These districts are Kibondo and Kikonko in Kigoma region, Kilwa district in Lindi region, Kishapu district in Shinyanga region, Morogoro Rural in Morogoro region, Ngara in Kagera region, Temeke, Ilala, Kinondoni, Kigamboni and Ubungo in the Dar es Salaam region.

TCRS MAIN GOALS

The overall program goal is to reduce human suffering and poverty, and to achieve self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable, marginalized and displaced people (VMDs) in the areas of intervention in the next five years from this year 2018.

Vulnerable, marginalized and displaced communities are empowered to achieve economic self-reliance, effectively participate in national governance processes and enjoy fundamental human rights.

1. TCRS gets capacity to effectively and efficiently respond to the challenges of the changing environment in fulfilling its mission.
2. Extremely vulnerable groups (EVGs) are accorded humanitarian assistance to access basic needs.
3. Communities develop resilience and appropriate coping mechanisms to respond to climate change and disaster situations.

TCRS OBJECTIVES

1. **Reduced suffering** of refugees and internally displaced people and people suffering from calamities by providing timely and adequate relief and humanitarian support in the form of WASH, psycho-social and other needed emergency services per clear criteria.
2. **Reduced poverty** of VMDs through capacity building and support to local initiatives building livelihoods, so that they have acquired increased capacities, generated income, and fulfilled basic needs (water, food, shelter) achieved socio-economic security, human rights compliance, disaster risk resilience and gender justice
3. **Ensured self-reliance** by empowering VMDs to provide for themselves in their basic needs and take control of their livelihood without the help of TCRS by supporting the formation of groups, networking with other stakeholders and joint action in the acquirement of knowledge, soft and technical skills, agricultural inputs, materials and equipment, access to finance, and to markets.
4. **Sustainable livelihoods** by enhancing good governance practices, leadership skills, adherence to procedures and systems and building social accountability capacities at local level so that VMDs are able to participate in decision making on issues affecting their livelihood, have a voice in expressing their needs, claim their rights and hold government and service providers accountable.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

1. **Conducive policies** at national level in order to create an enabling environment for the implementation of strategies aimed at achieving the above-mentioned objectives.
2. **Gender justice:** by creating awareness with men and women on the need for gender equality, changing their mind set and including women in all interventions in all stages as equal members of society, empowering them through their inclusion in capacity building, formation of groups, VICOBA's and IGAs, to generate income and to have control over the generated benefits. Gender Based Violence is addressed and considered unacceptable in the community, and women can claim their rights.
3. **Conserved environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation:** by ensuring the availability of the natural resources in the future/on long term by promoting conservation practices for the use of the natural environment, and climate smart

methodologies in agriculture integrated in the humanitarian and relief support as well as in the sustainable development approach.

TCRS STRATEGIC APPROCHES

- i. The **EMPOWERMENT APPROACH** builds people's capacity and competences as individuals and community members.
- ii. The **FACILITATION APPROACH** allows TCRS to facilitate the empowerment of people affected by disasters to rebuild their livelihoods, be aware of their rights, live dignified lives as active members of their community and hold duty bearer accountable.
- iii. The **INTEGRATED APPROACH** focuses on environmental issues, HIV and AIDS, gender justice, as being integral parts of any action taken in any given sector.
- iv. The **RIGHT BASED APPROACH** emphasizes on awareness raising on human rights standards and ensures that the root causes of poverty and exclusion receive proper attention in the formulation and implementation of communities development programs

TCRS CURRENT ACTIVITIES

a. Community Empowerment Programs (CEPs)

CEPs are being implemented in TCRS focus areas and targeted to uphold the poorest of the poor in the community. It builds people's capacities and competencies, both as individuals and as active members of groups and communities, to critically examine their potential to achieve results for themselves. Disadvantaged community members, and indeed the poorest of the poor, and local groups are equipped with enough knowledge, skills and attitudes that broaden their options, build their confidence and self-esteem, and empower them to take control of their lives and enjoy their human rights.

CEP activities include the facilitation of participatory poverty analysis to determine the definitive characteristics of the marginalized and vulnerable people in a village context, Household surveys to identify the marginalized and vulnerable people, the direct target groups, Community leaders training on good governance, Literacy training, Agricultural practices, Income Generation Activities (IGA), peacebuilding initiative between refugees and host communities, Advocacy on human rights and Support for community initiatives.

TCRS works jointly with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the respective District Executive Director's Offices and shares with the government annual plans

and reports, and uses District Management Committees formed by the Institution, which also includes some technical experts from the Government, for example Community Development Officers and Water Engineers.

1.1. Kibondo Field Project: TCRS empowers the marginalized and poor communities, facilitates and strengthens community formed Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS) village committees on budgets and public projects tracking. Climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions, TCRS trains communities on construction and usage of improved fuel saving stoves and facilitating and supporting establishment of community-based tree nurseries, supporting and encouraging communities' income generating activities and ensuring food security by encouraging communities to plant drought resistant crops.

Good governance. Gender justice, training community leaders on human rights, civic education and democracy (Good governance). TCRS also trains communities on human rights, civic education, gender justice, democracy and their roles and responsibilities. Awareness raising campaigns on HIV and AIDS in order to prevent new infections and encourages voluntary blood testing for early use of ARVs. TCRS empowers communities on economic activities like establishment and running of Inter-religious Village Community Banks (IR-VICOBA) for depositing and getting loans so that establish their new project.

Training communities and community leaders on planning tools on Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O&OD) to help them make their own plans.

1.2. Kilwa CEP: Training on human rights, governance and accountability, local leader's roles and responsibilities and gender justice. Other activities include training communities on modern animal husbandry, Income generating activities, Trainings and awareness creation on HIV and AIDS and empowering communities on resource governance including Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS).

1.3. Kishapu CEP/CCAP: TCRS intervention is based on water and sanitation, gender justice, human rights and good governance, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and environmental management. The direct groups involved in these interventions are village councils, water committees, land committees, disaster committees, social welfare committees, environment committees and Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) committees, water user groups and special groups such as people living with HIV and AIDS, People With Disabilities, youth, boys and girls in schools. TCRS also trains village

animators who stand as a bridge between TCRS and the communities the organisation serves.

TCRS collaborates with the Government on sharing expertise by using government employees on secondment basis. This includes occasional hiring of trainers on environmental management, good governance, human rights, education and water and sanitation.

1.4. Morogoro CEP: Local leadership empowerment, community empowerment and support for local initiatives. This includes conducting class sessions to the marginalized, literates and illiterates on writing, reading and counting skills and Income generating activities particularly to youth and women. TCRS supports local initiatives by providing construction materials like cement, iron sheets and iron bars. On Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion (WASH), TCRS conducts campaigns to create awareness on how to avoid water borne and hygiene related diseases. The services given extend to supporting special groups like People With Disabilities and those living with HIV and AIDS.

1.5. Ngara CEP: In Ngara District and through conducting trainings, TCRS runs good governance and accountability activities by strengthening the capacities of village leaders and Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS) committees. TCRS also supports VICOBA activities to communities as a sustainable way to economic empowerment and livelihoods.

On climate change mitigation and adaptation, and as Ngara District has been experiencing poor agronomic practices such as extensive and shifting farming, mining, lumbering, charcoal making, livestock keeping and bush fire, TCRS' intervention has, since 2008, been promoting sustainable land management and environmental conservation activities like tree planting, modern bee keeping, sustainable energy; and soil and water conservation.

b. Refugee Work

TCRS is a long-time implementing partner of UNHCR in refugee operations, demonstrating strong competencies in managing refugee settlements, refugee camps, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH).

TCRS implements also assistance program to urban refugees who leave camps and settlements to urban areas for various reasons.

c. Emergency and Relief Services

TCRS responds to emergencies and disasters by providing relief services to affected communities and, within the ACT network and in the framework of ACT Forum Tanzania. Over the years, TCRS has been in the fore-front, building capacities of member churches for disaster preparedness, focused at minimizing people's vulnerabilities in case of potential or recurrent disasters. In year 2015, TCRS intervened in the Mwakata Ward, Kahama District rainy storm victims by supporting them with food and seeds. Likewise, in 2016, TCRS intervened by providing food, seeds, clothes, plastic sheets, school uniform and psycho-social support to the earthquake victims in the Kagera Region. In 2018, TCRS intervened in the Nyumba Ya Mungu flood victims in the Same and Mwanga districts in Kilimanjaro region by providing food, assorted clothes, plastic sheets for shelter, water treatment tablets, mosquitonets, mats as beddings, mattresses for pregnant and lactating mothers and the elderly. Kangas and health kits were given to reproductive women. Psychosocial-counseling was also done to the entire population of victims.

d. Organizational Development

As a learning Organization, TCRS continues to strengthen her capacities in several areas that will enable the Institution to be a leading national organization in humanitarian and development work.

TCRS WORK AND LIFE IN A NUTSHELL

Year 1964

- Formally established in January 1964, TCRS began its work under a Tripartite Agreement signed on 25th May 1964 between the Government of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Lutheran World Federation/World Council of Churches.
- TCRS started working with Rwandan Tutsi refugees, establishing the Mwese Settlement in Mpanda District and became UNHR partner agency in the already established settlements in Muyenzi, Ngara and Karagwe, in North-western Tanzania

Year 1965

Civil War in Mozambique: More than 50,000 people displaced by the conflict between the colonial government and the liberation army sought refuge in Tanzania. TCRS established settlements for these refugees in southern Tanzania in:

Rutamba – 1965

Lundo - 1966

Muhukuru – late 1966

Mputa - 1969 and

Matekwe -1969 and in

Likuyu – much later in 1989

Year 1972

Civil War in Burundi: A genocidal war erupted in Burundi in April 1972 between the President Michombero's Tutsi minority regime and the majority Hutu, culminating to thousands of Hutu civilians fleeing insecurity into Tanzania. Under a tripartite agreement, again, TCRS established refugee settlements for these refugees in Western Tanzania, in:

- Ulyankulu in 1972

- Katumba in 1973 and later Mishamo in 1978.

1974 – 10 Years on

TCRS was now caring for over 115,000 refugees, mostly Burundians and expanded its staff to 400. Four refugee settlements for the Rwandese and Mozambicans attained self-sufficiency in food production and were handed over to the Government of Tanzania.

Year 1975 – Mozambican Independence and repatriation of refugees. Mozambican refugees began returning home following the independence of their country. TCRS effectively assisted

the repatriation process and continued managing the settlements for the remaining Mozambican refugees and the Burundians settlements

Year 1977

- Anti-Apartheid Protests in South Africa: The South West Township (SOWETO) students led uprising in 1977 forced 500 mostly black South Africans to flee to Tanzania.
- TCRS provided material assistance to these South Africans, together with other refugees from Zimbabwe and Namibia.
- TCRS helped liberation movements with humanitarian aid, educational assistance and scholarships.

Year 1979

The Kagera War – between Tanzania and Uganda:

- Idd Amin Dada invaded Tanzania leading to Tanzania Vs Uganda War beginning on the 30th of October, 1978 and ending on 11th April, 1979. Tanzania retaliated and defeated Amin. TCRS availed assistance to Ugandan refugees and other victims of war.
- Along other mixed nationalities, Kigwa Settlement in Tabora had hosted the Ugandan refugees who were fleeing Idd Amin Dada dictatorship and persecutions since 1972.

Year 1980

- New Governments in Zimbabwe and Uganda: Zimbabwean and Ugandan refugees returned home after the respective government changes back home.
- Ulyankulu Burundian refugee Settlement became self-sufficient and was handed over to the Government of Tanzania.
- Rwandan Refugees were granted citizenship, en masse, by a Presidential decree.

Year 1982

TCRS Refugee Host Areas Operations

- Kigoma Project: The more than 30,000 Burundian and Zairean/Congo refugees had spontaneously settled among local communities whom they shared a common language and culture. Their lives and that of their hosts was destitute.
- TCRS began, for the first time, to work with spontaneously settled refugees and refugee host communities in Kigoma Region.
- TCRS assisted in the construction of schools, dispensaries, agriculture and community development. TCRS formally started intergraded development work in Kibondo in 1983 and has since, strategically, remained there.

1984 – 20 Years.

- TCRS continued to gain more experience in managing refugee settlements and related operations; expanded to more than 1000 staff; served more than 250,000 refugees since its inception in 1964.

1985 - TCRS diversified focus to Tanzanian needs. Started a non-refugee related development project in Singida, a drought-prone region, suffering from overgrazing.

- TCRS supported Tanzanian efforts for Universal Primary Education (UPE) by assisting the construction of schools in Lindi and Arusha regions.

Year 1992

- Anarchy in Somalia following the assassination of President Siadi Bare. Some Somali refugees arrived in Tanzania in mid-1992, after the disintegration of the government in Somalia.
- TCRS established and managed the Pangale Refugee Settlement for these Somalis, in Mkuyu, Handeni District.
- Burundi democratic election of a Hutu President.
- Hopes for peace were raised when Burundians elected their first Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye.
- UNHCR through TCRS started to implement plans for repatriation of the refugees from the 1972 settlements of Ulyankulu, Katumba and Mishamo

Year 1993

- The Great Lakes Refugee Crisis sparked off, following the assassination of the first democratically elected Burundian Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye.
- In the middle of the TCRS facilitated repatriation, Burundian Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye was assassinated. Raged Hutus went wild killing Tutsis, but the reprisals by the Tutsi army turned bloody.
- Repatriation centres run by TCRS turned into Reception centres. Convoys of repatriation buses quite literally made a U-turn, as repatriating refugees were forced to flee yet again.
- TCRS received and assisted new Burundian refugees in Kibondo District camps, not settlements. Other refugees went to Ngara.

Year 1994

Rwanda Genocide:

- In March 1994, the plane carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundi President Cyprian Ntaryamira was shot down as it was about to land in Kigali Airport. The dreadful death of the two Presidents ignited tremendous fear and genocide in Rwanda.
- About a million Tutsi and Hutu moderates were brutally killed. Millions of Hutus fled Tutsi-led rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army which invaded and took over the country.
- In a spate of 24 hours, on 28th and 29th April 1994, more than 270,000 refugees crossed the Rusumo Bridge into Ngara District, hitting the World's headlines. By December, there were more than 750,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania Camps being cared for by a massive aid effort - BENACO camp.



Photo 1. Massive influx of refugees from Rwanda to Tanzania in 1994

- TCRS marched the hour by putting on hold its less urgent activities and diverted all available resources and manpower to alleviating the crisis.
- On a positive note, all the remaining Mozambican refugees returned home, after the signing of the Peace Accord. The TCRS capacity was therefore mobilized for the new operations in north-western Tanzania.
- By the end of its 30th year (1994), TCRS had expanded its staff compliment to over 1600 and had assisted over one million refugees.

Year 1995

Over one million refugees:

- As more and more Rwandan and Burundian refugees continued to arrive in the country, Tanzania temporarily closed its borders in 1995.
 - TCRS continued to assist UNHCR in serving the needs of over 600,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees, in camp management, operating a fleet of 75 Lorries to transport food, drinking water, non-food items, and refugees.
- As the situation in Burundi, started to calm, repatriation started.

Year 1996

Coup in Burundi and Civil War in Zaire (Currently named the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

- Tutsi army toppled the Hutu President; a new wave of refugees poured into Kibondo Ngara and Kasulu camps. TCRS managed more than 70,000 refugees in Kibondo.

- Banyamulenge uprising in Congo led to a civil war, to oust President Mobutu. The destabilization in Zaire forced spontaneous repatriation into Tanzania of more than 500,000 Rwandese and Burundians who had fled to Zaire.

- Tanzania, faced by this tragedy of events and a diminishing donor interest to fund north-western Tanzania refugee operations, issues an ultimatum and more than 700,000 Rwandan refugees return home within the space of a few days, end of December 1996.



Photo 2: Rwandese returnees crossing the Rusumo river back to Rwanda in 1996.

Year 2000

- Hopes of return to peace raised after signing of the Burundi Peace Accord between the Tutsi regime and the main rebel group, to pave way for handing over power to a Hutu President and multi-party elections to be done within 3 years.
- But hopes were dashed as rebel groups that did not sign the accord intensified fighting. A new wave of 40,000 refugees entered Tanzania in this period. TCRS was now caring about 150,000 refugees in Kibondo alone.

Year 2003

- As the peace process kept on track and power handed over to an Interim Hutu President, some refugees began to return to Burundi.
- UNHCR encouraged the program for refugees to visit and see the developments in Burundi, as an incentive, to enable them make an informed decision to return home. Together with LWF Burundi, TCRS facilitated establishment of cross border development interventions in Burundi that would provide a welcoming environment to returnees.

Year 2003-2010: TCRS Participated in refugee camps consolidation and voluntary repatriation of refugees. As repatriation was going on, small caseloads of refugees were left in the camps necessitating step by step closure of until the final camp of Kanembwa was closed leaving only a resettlement processing center. TCRS was fully involved in transporting refugees from one camp to another and supporting refugees to settle in the new camp.

Year 2007 – 2014: The 1972 Old Settlements protracted Burundian refugee caseload and the Tanzania Comprehensive Solutions Strategy (TANCOSS). TCRS participated in doing registration of both repatriation and naturalisation candidates, led by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. TCRS was fully involved in providing food and transport to over 54,000 returnees from the Old Settlements to Burundi and registration of over 162,000 naturalisation candidates.

Activities in the Old Settlements again involved provision of health services to refugee and local communities.

Year 2015 – 2019: Burundian refugees return to North-Western Tanzania in a fresh influx. In this refugee response, TCRS participated in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities in Nyarugusu Camp in Kasulu district, Nduta Camp in Kibondo district and Mtendeli Camp in Kakonko district. TCRS also responded in terms of psychosocial support,

community-driven dialogue and social cohesion activities. Further to this, TCRS participated in the distribution of various non-food items to refugee communities.