



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

## RESEARCH CHAIR ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT



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IDRC · CRDI

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**IDRC's President and CEO Julie Delahanty During her visit to University of Dar es Salaam**



**Dr. Kathy Tonre, DRC's Director, Eastern and Southern Africa, shaking hands with Prof. Bonaventure Rutinwa, DVC Academic, University Of Dar es Salaam**



**Dr. Martha Mutisi, IDRC's Senior Program Office-Governance for Justice Program for Eastern and Southern Africa, shaking hands with Prof. Bonaventure Rutinwa, DVC Academic, University of Dar es Salaam**



**IDRC's UDSM's Government's and NGO's officials in a group photo during the visit of IDRC's President and CEO, Julie Delahanty**

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



**Dr. Opportuna Kweka - Chair**

The UDSM's Research Chair of Forced Displacement, which started in July 2022 is now one and a half years old. Hosted in the Department of Geography, the Chair receives funds from the International Development Research Centre through its project titled "Strengthening Knowledge, Evidence Use, and Leadership in the Global South on Forced Displacement: with a Focus in East Africa." The fund is for five years. The Chair is comprised of 32 members from different disciplines and from five East African countries.

Our second year started with welcoming the new President and CEO of the IDRC. Research wise, this was a year of fieldwork in which nine research proposals from seventeen members were submitted, reviewed and field work was conducted in three regions, between October and November 2021. The results of this fieldwork have been shared in a symposium organized by the Research Chair and in Geneva during the Global Refugee Forum. Most of these papers are now submitted to journals for publication.

This newsletter is produced twice a year, following the first one which combined two issues. I hope it will inform you of our various activities, from seminars, research, and outreach to training and capacity building.



**Ms. Careen Amani, Chair's Research and Administrative Assistant**

## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGES



**Dr. Veronica Buchumi, Policy Coordinator**

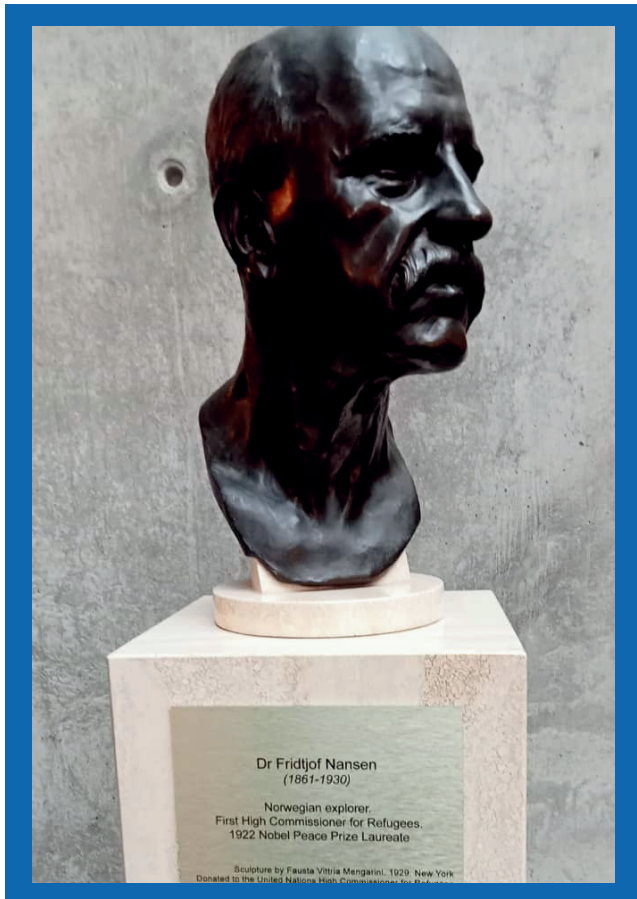
Our seminar series has fostered knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration within and beyond the Research Chair on Forced Displacement. We have explored climate change policies and displacement, identifying gaps and proposing integration measures. Additionally, our discussions on East African Community and refugee issues emphasized historical context, challenges, and the need for a people-centered approach to integration.

The UDSM's Research Chair on Forced Displacement is centered on the objective and belief of conducting high-quality, demand-driven and action-oriented research to inform policies on forced displacement in East Africa. Thus, the chair targets to work with policymakers to discuss the state of the knowledge, constraining factors and possible angles for inclusion of the marginalized displaced populations. Organizing and conducting policy dialogues, preparing policy briefs, and attending conferences and/or symposiums are tools adopted by the chair to achieve the objective stated above. In 2024 the chair intends to prepare a series of events aiming at providing for a stakeholders' involvement in the activities of the Chair.



**Ms. Glory Lyimo, Seminar Coordinator**

## RESEARCH



UNHCR Headquarter

### THE JOURNEY TO THE DISPLACED: WHAT IT TAKES TO SEEK ASYLUM IN TANZANIA –

*Dr. Petro Protas*

If anything is to be told, then it is the story of what it takes to seek asylum in Tanzania, especially from entry to Tanzania to the stage of being heard by the National Eligibility Committee (NEC). It is essential to point out at this juncture that the NEC is the main authority in Tanzania responsible for considering all asylum claims and recommending to the Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) whether refugee statuses should be granted or denied.

To be able to meet with the NEC, the process always starts with an asylum seeker himself or herself. This means that he or she has to present herself to the relevant authorities within seven (7) days after entering the territory of the United Republic of Tanzania. However, this is merely a rule of thumb, an asylum seeker can present herself even after the lapse of seven (7) days provided that he or she can furnish good reasons. To see the practicability of this process, our research journey to the displaced landed us at the NMC Transit and Nyarugusu Refugee Camps.

We noted from March to October 2023, Tanzania had already received more than 13,000 asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Immediately after entering Tanzania, these people presented themselves to the relevant authorities in Kigoma and after their initial records were taken, they were transferred to NMC Transit Camp for pre-screening procedures.

The pre-screening procedures check among others; the general understanding of the country of origin and places where the asylum seeker came from, his or her ethnicity, the knowledge of the vernacular or tribal language associated with asylum seeker's community, the location of the fowl pox vaccination mark on the body, the ability to sing the national anthem of the country of origin and the overall reasons for

the flight. Concededly, this has never been an easy task for the government officials and other relevant stakeholders involved. Some asylum seekers and their children are normally in a very devastating condition in terms of health and clothes. In some circumstances, humanitarian consciousness has demanded that the officers use their own money to assist the displaced.

Those who succeed in the pre-screening procedures are permitted to 'kufinga'. This is a famous Swahili word used in this process which literary means allowing an asylum seeker to register his or her fingerprint on the asylum-seeking documents as an affirmation of being accepted as an asylum seeker in Tanzania. They are then transferred to Nyarugusu refugee camp and wait for NEC to sit and consider their asylum application. Those who fail to meet the pre-screening requirements are told in Swahili 'Kalalie godoro' which literary means go and sleep on the mattress. Such a response is normally not very well welcomed by the asylum seekers, it strikes their hearts and minds like a rumble of thunder because they know more days await them in the transit camp until they provide a convincing story. That is what it takes to seek asylum in Tanzania.



**UNHCR Headquarter**

## **LIFE OUT OF THE CAMP: A QUEST FOR SURVIVAL - By Dr. Judith Wanda**

Due to war, persecution, or other acts of violence, a large number of people are forced to escape their homes. They could have to move great miles in search of safety, leaving behind everything they know and love. They might experience prejudice and be refused access to essential services and rights after they relocate to a new nation.

The conventional perception of refugees living in large, tent-like camps is no longer accurate. Large towns and cities are becoming the new home for refugees as urbanization transforms much of the globe. Furthermore, as cities grow quickly, they become more susceptible to both natural and man-made calamities. There are new hazards, vulnerabilities, and potential humanitarian disasters associated with this rapid growth.

The traditional image of a camp refugee is evolving. People who have been uprooted or are refugees relocate to the city in search of a sense of belonging, security, and financial independence. But in actuality, what many discover are impoverished living conditions, a lack of security, and severe living conditions.

Most refugees in developing country cities reside on the socioeconomic periphery. They face the same difficulties as other urban poor people in their community. They all struggle to provide for their basic needs and live in unstable situations, frequently in crowded slums. Their access to security, education, health care, and other services is inadequate. Due to their unclear legal status, refugees can face uncertainty, violence, bigotry, discrimination, and linguistic hurdles. Many of them must deal with trauma and injuries brought on by their experiences with conflict and forced migration, and they have few networks of support. Urban refugees are particularly susceptible as a result of all of these.

The knowledge gathered from doing field research revealed that urban refugees are particularly susceptible to bias because they lack the resources to resolve issues brought about by preconceptions and discriminatory actions. Urban refugees can feel alone and unable to obtain services and rights due to the widely held belief that authorities disregard their needs and rights. In order to get over their fears and complaints, refugees have therefore developed coping mechanisms that could lead to more marginalisation and hence the resulting to them concealing their identities.



**Men and women during a focus group at Kigogo, Dar es Salaam**

## **Land Shortage in Uganda: A Consequence of Refugee Influx - By Ms. Patra Bwogi**

Uganda, renowned as the "Pearl of Africa," has encountered considerable obstacles in recent years, most notably the influx of refugees. The country, which was already dealing with land concerns, has found itself amid a crisis due to the increased number of migrants. This article examines the case of land scarcity in Uganda, using pertinent case law and analogies to illuminate the complicated problems at hand.

Uganda has been lauded for its progressive refugee policies, which frequently serve as a haven for refugees escaping violence and persecution in neighboring countries. However, this generosity has not been without cost. The legal framework in Uganda recognizes refugees' rights to use land, but reality on the ground has revealed the difficulties in implementing these regulations.

One noteworthy case is *Mulindwa Kenneth vs. Attorney General*, Constitutional Petition No. 16 of 2011. In this case, the petitioner contended that the government's allotment of land to refugees in certain locations was discriminatory and infringed on Ugandan residents' rights. The court's judgement emphasised the importance of a balanced approach that considers both the rights of refugees and the rights of the host population.

The inflow of refugees has worsened existing land-related problems in Uganda. Tensions have arisen between host communities and refugee populations as a result of competition for limited resources. Land conflicts have erupted into violence in certain situations, further exacerbating the issue. One example is the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, where confrontations between host populations and refugees have been documented. The strain on available land resources has fostered discontent and increased the possibility of war in the region.



**Outreach at Nduta Refugee Camp, Kigoma**



## **BETWEEN COPS AND GRFS: A PROPOSAL FOR KILLING TWO BIRDS USING ONE STONE**

- By Dr. Opportuna Kweka

This year I attended the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2 for the first time. The Forum which is meant for countries to pledge their commitment towards the displaced is organized by the UNHCR. It is in-fact a global fundraising activity for humanitarian needs. About a week or so before that was the Conference of Parties (COP) 28 in Dubai which I did not attend but was very much following the outcomes in the social media. What really puzzled me is the way in which these two meetings are happening differently with somehow the same participants, while in reality the problems are related. However,

I learnt that in the COP 28 there was a section on displacement caused by climate change and so is the GRF which had side meetings on climate change and displacement. These two meetings are dealing with two global problems of increasing number of refugees and global warming. In other words, the people and their nature. This is to say, if the world struggle to deal with humanity and reducing greenhouse gas emission or taking care of the humans and the earth only, it will be a better place to live. Ironically, those who have funds and knowledge, and power are not ready to view these two as related and reinforcing each other. One of the major voices of the GRF was on how to mobilize the private to take part in funding the humanitarian. We forgot that the private however, take part in issue of profits. The private and the state have been the main cause of displacement, through some large-scale development project or emission of carbon, the very problem they meet to solve in Geneva and Dubai and other places for years. This calls for a little bit look on the shoulders of both the state and the private sides, they will see the solution. Displacement has impact on development and in turn on the environments and can lead to climate change. Likewise, climate change can lead to displacement. So, displacement is a cause and consequences of climate change. Looking at these challenges in their reality we can actually kill two birds using one stone and reduce the 17 sustainable development goals into two, dealing with displaced or marginalized communities and climate change.

## RESEARCH SUPPORT



**Bwogi Patra Leoney,**  
Masters in Regional Integration and EAC Law

As a master's student researcher at the University of Dar es Salaam's Research Chair of Forced Displacement, I'm exploring "The Quest for a Common Mechanism for Refugee Management in the East African Community." Thanks to the Chair's sponsorship, I've attended seminars and training sessions, connecting with UNHCR and other key stakeholders. This experience has been transformative, enhancing my understanding and network in the field of forced displacement.

As a doctoral student at the University of Burundi, I'm grateful to the Research Chair on Forced Displacement for funding my thesis data collection. Working with esteemed multidisciplinary researchers through this support has been invaluable for my future career in the field. The Chair's assistance has enabled me to produce influential results that will impact policies for sustainable integration of returnees in Burundi. This doctoral research grant is a significant opportunity, providing me with knowledge and a valuable research network in the sub-region.



**Canesius NDAYIKEZA**  
PhD student from Burundi

I had the privilege of collaborating with researchers at the University of Dar es Salaam's Chair of Forced Displacement, where I engaged in refugee studies, a new area for me. Through seminars and outreach programs with NGOs, I formed connections with urban refugees, gaining valuable insights. A writing retreat further honed my research skills, leading to the production of two papers and the development of diverse perspectives.



**Dr. Judith Flora Wanda**  
A Kenyan postdoc studying how local media shapes refugee and internally displaced person acculturation in East Africa.

## SYMPOSIUM



University of Dar es Salaam  
College of Social Sciences  
Department of Geography

**RESEARCH CHAIR ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT**

# SYMPOSIUM

**INCLUSIVE POLICIES FOR RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD,  
SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGAL  
PROTECTION OF THE REFUGEES, INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED, AND REMOVED POPULATION**



7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 | 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



Audition Room, New Library  
University of Dar es Salaam



**IDRC • CRDI**



**A representative from International Rescue Committee (IRC)**



**A representative from the Government**



**A representative from United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR)**



**Sitting in the Middle is a representative from the Immigration Department**



**A representative from Dignity Kwanza Contribution in the Symposium**



A group photo taken during the symposium, featuring government officials, stakeholders, and representatives from international organizations.



Participants during the symposium



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

## Research Chair on Forced Displacement Seminar Series



**Dr. Petro Protas,**

**Topic:**

“Traversing the Paradox of Having East Africans as Refugees in the East African Community”



**Prof. Khoti Kamanga,**

**Topic:**

“EAC Regional Economic Integration: Dream v Reality”

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 | **Time:** 1600 Hours (EAT)

To receive a participation LINK  
send email to Caren Mtui:

[careenmtui1@gmail.com](mailto:careenmtui1@gmail.com)

Hekima ni Uhuru  
[www.udsm.ac.tz](http://www.udsm.ac.tz)



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**RESEARCH CHAIR ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT  
SEMINAR PRESENTATION SCHEDULE  
JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024**

S/No.	Date and time	Topic	Presenter/ coordinator	Chair
1.	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 04:00-05:00 pm	Climate change policies and Displacement Nexus	Mr. Rikanga	Dr. Andrea
2.	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 04:00-05:00 pm	East African Community's people centrist approach and what it offers for regional durable solution	Dr. Protas and Prof. Khoti Kamanga	Mr. Rikanga
3.	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 04:00-05:00 pm	Social rights of the refugees	Dr. Veronica	Dr. Faraja
4.	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 04:00-05:00 pm\	Legal rights of the refugees	Prof. Peter and Leonard	Dr. Veronica
	3-6 <sup>th</sup> April	Writing workshop special issue	Ms. Careen	Dr. Kweka
5.	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 04:00-05:00 pm	Exile and poverty: An unfortunate legacy for children of Burundi's 1972 crisis returnees	Mr. Canesius	Dr. Judith
	31 <sup>st</sup> of May	Policy dialogue	Dr. Veronica	Dr. Kweka
6.	June 20 <sup>th</sup> (TBC)	Regional policy dialogue	Dr. Kweka	TBD
7.	July	Proposal presentation, interns reports	Careen	Dr. Kweka
8.	August 2024	Proposal presentations	Careen	Dr. Kweka
9.	September	Fieldwork	Approved proposals	Dr. Kweka
10.	October	Data analysis and writing workshop	All from fieldwork	Dr. Kweka
11.	November	Presentations in the voice of Social Sciences	All with papers	Dr. Kweka
12.	December	Submission of papers for publication	All with papers	Dr. Kweka

## SUPPORT FOR INTERNSHIP, CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING



REDESO's Director receiving certificate of appreciation for hosting the interns and conducting outreach with the Research Chair on Forced Displacement



Dignity Kwanza's representative receiving a certificate of appreciation for hosting the first cohort of the interns and conducting the outreach with the Research Chair

## First cohort of interns receiving their certificate?



**Mr. Bethuel Swema**

Receiving a certificate of completion of his internship program with Research Chair on Forced Displacement

**Ms. Maryum Msamya**

Receiving a certificate of completion of her internship program with Research Chair on Forced Displacement



**Mr. Bahati J. Padri**

Receiving a certificate of completion of his internship program with Research Chair on Forced Displacement



## VISITS AND LINKS



Chair attending a conference on Climate and Health in Rabat, Morocco



12 Chairs in Geneva with other delegations



Towards a network of academic scholars on forced displacement in East, Horn and Great lakes region of Africa



A visit of Elysia from ReDSS

## IOM Links

### ***UDSM RCFD Represented at the IOM Training in International Migration Law, Zanzibar Serena Hotel, 23-28 November 2023***



Dr. Veronica Buchumi, a lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law and a member of the UDSM Research Chair on Forced Displacement successfully attended and represented the Chair at the International Migration Law Training. The training was organised by the International Organisation for Migration and took place at Zanzibar Serena Hotel, Zanzibar. The training was facilitated by two IOM officials from the IOM headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland: Mr. Vassily Yuzhanin, Head of the International Migration Law (IML) Unit IOM,

and Ms. Reshman Mathews, International Law Migration Specialist at the IML Unit, IOM. Other facilitators were Mr. David Hofmeijer and Mr. Ken Heriel from IOM Tanzania.

The objective of the training was to equip the participants with the legal skills and knowledge in their dealing with international migrants. It was an opportunity to refresh the participants' understanding of the various standards and principles essential for the protection of various classes or categories of international migrants as they may be subjected to varying circumstances necessitating differential and sometimes specialised treatment.

To achieve the intended objectives the training programme was designed to cover a wide range of topics including Migration in Tanzania: Overview and Trends; Introduction to International Migration Law; Human Rights at Borders: Authority and Responsibility of States; Labour Migrations: Rights of Migrant Workers; Rights and Protection of Children in Migration Context; Right of Women Migrants; and Human Smuggling and Trafficking. Generally, the topics were designed in a manner that allowed participants to get a glimpse of the international and regional standards and principles for the protection of migrants' rights without jeopardizing the authority of states in managing migration and mobility flows in their jurisdictions.

The International and Regional frameworks for the protection of migrants were unpacked and facilitators went a step further to specifically identify Tanzania's commitment to these standards and principles.



One of the key takeaways from the training is: International Migration Law is not a homogenous legal framework as principles and standards relevant to international migration are found in a range of general and specific international and regional instruments both binding and non-binding. Moreover, depending on the nature of migrants one is dealing with, different principles may need to be adopted and applied. Importantly, states need to adhere to the principles of human rights for migrants and balance the need to protect the national interest and rights of migrants coming into their jurisdictions. Migrants are human beings whose rights and dignity need to be respected, promoted and protected by state authorities.

Such an understanding is essential for the various types of research going on at the UDSM Research Chair on Force Displacement as sometimes categories of forced displaced population may be international migrants.



***IDRC's Vice President, Julie Shouldice with the Research Chair, Dr. Kweka***



University of Dar es Salaam  
College of Social Science  
Department of Geography  
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

**Contact Chair @**

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