

# Uganda

June, 2018

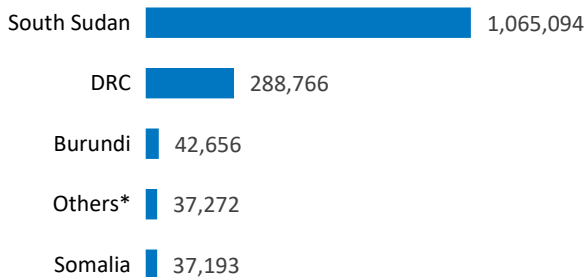
Uganda is currently hosting the highest number of refugees in the country's history, and is receiving simultaneous emergency influxes from **South Sudan, DRC** and **Burundi**.

The number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda has exceeded one million, and the daily arrival rate remains high. Arrivals from DRC have risen since Late December 2017.

**Chronic underfunding** of the refugee response is threatening humanitarian organisations' ability to continue delivering **lifesaving and critical assistance**.

**POPULATION OF CONCERN: 1,470,981**

## Countries of Origin



\* Others include refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan and other countries of origin.

Figures are based on data from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) as of 30 June 2018 and are subject to ongoing biometric registration and verification.

**FUNDING NEED FOR UGANDA**  
**USD 470.5 M**  
requested for 2018

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

430 National Staff

163 International Staff

### Offices:

One Country Office in Kampala

Six Sub Offices in Arua, Hoima

Mbarara, Moyo, Pakelle and

Yumbe

One Field Office in Lamwo

Eight Field Units in Nakivale,

Kyaka II, Kisoro, Oruchinga,

Rwamwanja, Kiryandongo and

Kyangwali



Refugees performing on World Refugee Day in Adjumani (UNHCR/E. D'Urzo)

# Main Activities

## Protection

- UNHCR works with the Government of Uganda to provide effective protection for refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda. Uganda's vision, as articulated in the 2016-2020 Multiyear Multi Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy, is to ensure that, through Uganda's Comprehensive Refugee Response approach, Refugees are protected by the Government, live in safety and dignity with host communities, and progressively attain lasting solutions. The aim is to transition emergency response into sustainable solutions and government-led actions in refugee-hosting districts.

The strategic objectives include the following:

1. Uganda's asylum space is maintained, unhindered access to territory is preserved and government's emergency preparedness and response capacity is progressively strengthened.
  2. Promoting the full enjoyment of rights and international protection standards throughout the displacement cycle.
  3. Progressively attain inclusion and self-reliance of refugees and host communities through development of individual capacities and the promotion of a conducive environment for livelihoods opportunities.
  4. Provision of integrated basic social services, including health, education, child protection, WASH, provided by national authorities in refugee hosting districts.
  5. Improved opportunities for durable solutions, either for refugees to return voluntarily to their countries of origin; have found 3rd Country Solutions or have attained sufficient socio-economic empowerment including ability to exercise their full range of rights to integrate locally in Uganda.
- The recently established National Refugee Protection Working Group (NRPWG) is tasked to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the protection and solutions strategy. The NRPWG is co-chaired by Government of Uganda's OPM and UNHCR and is attended by some 26 protection partners.
  - Immediate priority areas of focus, in addition to the verification of the refugee population amongst others include: Prevention, mitigation and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA); strengthening safeguards for child protection; Promoting peaceful coexistence, resilience and integration; and improving accountability to persons of concern through effective and efficient complaints and feedback mechanisms.

## Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

- The Government of Uganda formally launched the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in March 2017. The Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), and its incorporation into the National Development Plan (NDP II) paved the way for the CRRF and created entry points for line ministries and development actors into Uganda's refugee response, consolidating the current model. A CRRF Steering Group, including a whole-of-government representation, was established to ensure efficiency of the CRRF application and coordination at national and sub-national level. The CRRF Secretariat is the technical body ensuring coordinated planning, programming and resourcing between humanitarian and development partners. It is co-led by OPM and the Ministry of Local Government, ensuring government ownership of the CRRF and optimizing coordination both at central and local level within the existing legal frameworks.

- Momentum continues to ease pressure on refugee-hosting districts and to benefit refugees and host communities in three key areas. To bridge the gaps between NDP II and full refugee inclusion into NDP III, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Water and Environment have significantly advanced on response plans to include refugees into the current national sector plans to facilitate early recovery en route to the next NDP III (2020). The government plans enable Uganda to clearly highlight where the international community may usefully channel support for a comprehensive and people-centred response in its refugee hosting districts. In turn, Uganda is well positioned to welcome greater responsibility sharing, making clear where concrete contributions are needed to bring these plans to life.

### Education

- UNHCR works in partnership with central and local district government, Ministry of Education and Sports -MoES, UN agencies, international and national NGOs and educational actors toward strengthening equitable access to and quality of education services for refugee and host community children and youth. District Education Officers (DEO) and district local government support with a range of administrative and quality functions such as provision of capitation grants, teacher deployment, school inspection, assessing and registration of schools, as well as a support and supervisory function to ensure basic standards are met.
- UNHCR and UNICEF co-led, with the MoES, the development of the 3.5-year Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda (2018-2021) (ERP). Linked to the sector-wide Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2017 - 2020, the ERP represents the operationalisation of Uganda's refugee response in education. The Plan has undergone a recent revision of its pre-primary component, a process co-led by UNHCR and UNICEF with the MoES. Upon the Minister of Education and Sports' endorsement, the Plan's launch is anticipated to be held in September 2018. UNHCR is represented on the ERP Steering Committee co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary MoES alongside the chair of the Education Development Partners. UNHCR also co-chairs the monthly Education in Emergency Working Group meetings with the MoES.
- To strengthen access to and quality of education services for refugee and host community children and youth, UNHCR implements activities both directly and through partners. UNHCR is supporting District Education Offices in the implementation of strategies such as the double shift system to meet the high demand on education services; training and remuneration of Southern Sudanese teachers to work as Classroom Assistants in support of Host Community teachers to help manage the large classrooms sizes (average pupil teacher ratio 1:85, but can be as high as 1:130 in lower primary classes) and support refugee children with language difficulties; set up and/or revitalize school governance mechanisms such a Parent Teacher Associations within Settlement schools which play a critical role in strengthening community ownership over and the quality of education of its children. UNHCR through partners also supports the teacher professional development of refugee and host community teachers on aspects such a multi-grade and large size classroom teaching techniques, positive discipline, teacher and children's psycho-social wellbeing. Teaching Circles and peer support networks are positive support interventions for teachers to help motivate, capacitate and connect them.

### Health

- Ministry of Health (MoH) completed the development of the Health Sector Refugee Response Plan 2018 -2023 that was cleared by the top management of MoH and is currently undergoing final review and launch. The memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and MoH was finalized and signed. This is intended to provide the

formal framework for the current integrated working between UNHCR and MoH, in addition to the Compact that UNHCR also signs as a member of the Health Development Partners group.

- Refugees continue to access health services at the health facilities—a total of 209,255 consultations were made at the 95 refugees serving health facilities (both government and private), of which 18% were nationals. As part of MoU with MoH/Academia, we have just concluded a multidisciplinary surgical camp to 4 districts that benefited 3,596 refugee/host, who would otherwise have to travel for tertiary care.
- Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response for disease of outbreak potential in all districts.

#### **Food Security and Nutrition**

- WFP provides food rations for persons of concern at transit and reception centres as well as a monthly food ration once refugees are moved to settlement plots. The settlement policy where refugees are settled on land plots provides them with the opportunity to produce some of their own food. In addition, UNHCR partners carry out agricultural and livelihood activities.

#### **Water and Sanitation**

- UNHCR and partners endeavour to meet the minimum water requirements following UNHCR Standards (15 litres per person per day) during the emergency and UNHCR minimum standard (20 litres per person per day) when the situation is stable. This includes drilling and motorisation as well as maintaining boreholes, connection to main water lines, or water trucking. Sanitation activities are supported by partners to achieve one latrine per household and public health promoters are trained on an ongoing basis in all refugee-hosting sites, to enhance knowledge and improve on practice.
- Over 21.5 million litres of potable water is supplied daily to UNHCR persons of concern ensuring per capita access is on average 16 litres per person per day in all settlements. UNHCR and partners continue to drill and motorize boreholes to increase per capita access to 20lpd and also provide water for productive uses. Household latrine coverage is currently at 42% and construction of over 50,000 units is underway across settlements. Partners continue implement sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure shifting from emergency service provision for the DRC situation.

#### **Site Planning, Shelter and NFIs**

- The operation follows the standardised emergency shelter kits and non-food item (NFI) distribution scale, as revised and finalised in late January 2018. Procurement and provision of minimum shelter and NFIs is a priority for all new arrivals with blanket coverage for distributions.
- Direct labour support is provided to persons with specific needs for the construction of their household shelters, both at the emergency and semi-permanent phases. Labour support for these construction activities is achieved with refugee and host community participation, injecting cash into the local economy and diversifying livelihood opportunities for refugees.
- A revised shelter strategy is being developed to improve and expand on the 2016 official strategy that is outdated and lacks detail (such as cross-cutting protection and environmental issues).
- The tracking and monitoring of NFI distributions will soon be strengthened with the introduction of a KOBO tool for smartphones/tablettes. All IPs will be required to complete the KOBO form during all NFI distributions to non-biometrically registered

refugees to enable a more accurate recording of items delivered to beneficiaries and to facilitate the reconciliation with MSR Reports.

- Since January 2018, a total of 456 semi-permanent PSN shelters have been built with UNHCR funding in the settlements of Adjumani, Imvepi, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino and Rwamwanja.
- To date in 2018, in the settlements of Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Palabek and Rhino, a total of 3,327 emergency PSN shelters have been built by UNHCR IPs.
- There is an ongoing mapping pilot in Kyangwali and Kyaka II settlements to map out, in detail, the existing communal services, infrastructure, agricultural and environmental plots, as well as HH shelter plots. The intention is for OPM and MoLHUD to take leadership of this activity and scale up the efforts across all settlements, to contribute to Uganda's Land Information System (LIS) with comprehensive cadastral maps. These maps will also assist with any settlement improvement plans to optimise and rationalise land use within settlements.
- A Refugee Settlement Land Taskforce (RSLT) at national level has been created to address the settlement planning and land management needs for the refugee response. The members include representatives from OPM, MoLHUD and UNHCR.

#### Settlement Coordination and Management

- The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is primarily responsible for the Settlement Management.
- UNHCR, with the support of partners, coordinates the maintenance and running of three transit and four reception centres as well as five waystations and two collection points: in the northwest Nyumanzi transit centre (TC), Ocea reception centre (RC), Elegu Collection Point (CP) and Kuluba CP; in the Midwest of Kabwoya waystation (WS), Kagoma RC and Kiryandongo RC; and in the southwest of Bubukwanga TC, Nakayojo WS, Kyenjojo WS, Ishasha WS, Muhokya WS, Malembo RC and Nyakabande TC.

#### Energy and Environment

- At present, more than 80% of all refugees in Uganda are using fuel-wood to meet their energy needs for cooking on a daily basis: 10% are using charcoal, with less than 2% using improved cook-stoves. Heat energy for cooking (including boiling of water) comprises the largest component in energy demand in refugee settlements in Uganda. Up to 90% of the average refugee household's energy expenditure is spent on firewood purchase, with 5% of the household's energy budget reserved for purchasing charcoal and 5% for purchase of kerosene or torches (+dry cells) for lighting the houses and their courtyards and for general night-time visibility. Use of improved cook stoves is low, with 17% of refugee households in Uganda use improved energy-efficient cook-stoves. Working with partners, the UNHCR is developing an Energy Response Plan for Refugee Settlements. The plan will see UNHCR cooperate closely with national and international organisations in implementing refugee-focused energy interventions, with a bias towards incorporating livelihoods.
- As resources are extracted and environmental degradation occurs, access to resources declines in refugee hosting areas. To mitigate this degradation, UNHCR continues to promote access to energy saving stoves, solar lanterns and tree-planting in refugee hosting areas. In addition, environmental considerations are being mainstreamed across sectors, such as WASH, that has highlighted catchment management, source water protection, water for production, rainwater harvesting, solarization of all new water schemes, and development of energy from waste applications as priorities to provide more sustainable service. In addition, the livelihood and environment sectors are actively promoting agroforestry, tree nurseries

and planting, energy efficient stove construction, briquette production and sustainable construction practices as income generating activities with environmental benefits. To scale up these interventions and further mitigate environmental degradation, UNHCR in coordination with sister agencies (UNDP, FAO and WFP) and working closely with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), has launched the Working Group on Energy and Environment for Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (WorkGrEEen for ReHoPE). The WorkGrEEen Programme aims to work with government partners to develop inter-sector joint programming to bridge humanitarian and development responses and transform refugee hosting areas into sustainable and resilient communities with thriving environmental, social and economic conditions.

#### **Durable Solutions**

- UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation when conditions in the country of origin have improved and, on a limited basis, resettlement, whereby a refugee family leaves the country of asylum and legally settles in another third country. UNHCR is currently working together with the Government of Uganda on creative legal solutions for long-staying refugees that are unwilling or unable to return. In the current circumstance, UNHCR is not promoting voluntary repatriation to any of the countries of origin.
- Resettlement is used as an individual protection tool for refugees with acute protection needs, as well as a durable solution for refugees in protracted situations. Uganda is one of four countries implementing a sub-regional approach to enhanced resettlement for Congolese refugees, which was introduced in 2012.

#### **Logistics**

- UNHCR works with partners to ensure transportation of non-food items to the various sites is coordinated. It also works with relevant partners to ensure transportation support for newly arrived refugees and assisted spontaneous returns.

## **Working in Partnership**

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Government (DLG), Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Refugee Hosting Districts – Adjumani, Arua, Bundibugyo, Hoima, Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Moyo, Yumbe, UN - International organization for migration (IOM), United Nation Food Assistant Organization (FAO), United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), NGOs - Action Africa Help (AAH), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ), Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (ACAV), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Agency for

Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFORD), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), CARE International (CARE Int), Caritas (Caritas), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Cesvi Onlus - Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Concern World Wide (CWW), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), District Local Government (DLG), Drop in the Bucket (DiB), East Africa Ministries (EAM), East Africa Playgrounds (EAP), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), Global Refugee International (GRI), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Humanitarian Assistance & Development Services (HADS), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Healing Kadi Foundation (HKF), Interaid Uganda (IAU), International Aid Services (IAS), International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF), Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Malteser International (MI), Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F), Médecins Sans Frontières Holland (MSF-H), Médecins Sans Frontières Swiz(MSF-S), Medical Teams International (MTI), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nsamizi training Institute of Social Development (NSAMIZI), Oxfam (OXFAM), Programme for Accessible Health Communication and Education (PACE), Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF), Plan International Uganda (PLAN), Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services (RHITES), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Relief International (RI), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment - West Nile(RICE-WN), Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), Save the Children (SCI), Save the Children Uganda (SCU), Samaritan's Purse (SP), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Tutapona (Trauma Rehabilitation), Uganda Refugee and Disaster Management Council (URDMC), Ugandan Red Cross Society (URCS), War Child Canda (WCC), War Child Holland (WCH), Water Mission International (WM Uganda), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Windle International Uganda (WIU), World Vision International (WVI) and ZOA - Uganda (ZOA).

## External Relations

Thanks to donors providing contribution to Uganda in 2018

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