

Uganda

8 June 2020

1,424,373

Refugees and asylum seekers as of May 2020

45

Refugees tested positive to date

2

Refugees recovered to date

408

Refugees and asylum seekers in quarantine

Operational context

- Since Uganda confirmed its first COVID-19 case on 21 March 2020, the number of positive cases increased to 657 as of 8 June 2020, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). Among them are 43 refugees currently under treatment, including 37 South Sudanese who were in quarantine in Adjumani's Nyumanzi reception centre, 5 South Sudanese who were in quarantine in Yumbe's Lokopio Technical Institute and 1 Eritrean who tested positive at Amuru's Elegu collection point. These refugees are currently in isolation in different hospitals across the country, including Kampala's Mulago National Specialized Hospital (30), Arua Regional Referral Hospital (11), Hoima Regional Referral Hospital (1) and Entebbe Grade B Hospital (1). A total of 118 people has recovered from COVID-19 to date, including two refugees. No deaths have been registered so far. Following a new presidential directive dated 19 May 2020, Uganda's total confirmed case count does no longer include the number of foreign truck drivers who tested positive for COVID-19 and were handed over to their country of origin – which stood at 653 as of 8 June 2020.
- In his 15th address to the nation on 1 June, President Yoweri Museveni underlined that cargo trucks will continue to be allowed into Uganda from neighbouring countries as they are essential to the success of local economy. Public transport (buses, mini-buses and taxis) resumed at half capacity on 4 June, with the exception of 40 border districts, where it remains suspended until further notice. The reopening of schools to allow students to sit their due examinations has been postponed until 1 July. The borders and the airport remain closed, with curfew still in place from 19hr00 to 6hr30. Wearing a mask in public is mandatory. Movement restrictions continue in all border districts.

Highlights

Protection

- The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) released the refugee population statistics for May 2020, putting the number of asylum seekers (28,190) and refugees (1,396,183) in Uganda to 1,424,373. South Sudanese make up the largest number, with 880,673 individuals, followed by refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (415,098) and Burundi (48,303). More than 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 18, with over 41,000 unaccompanied and separated children. Compared to April 2020, the population increased by 633 individuals, mostly due to registration of new births.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) remains concerned for the protection of several thousands of Congolese reportedly stranded in no-man land between Uganda and DRC, west of Zombo district following deadly attacks on civilians by the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) militia in DRC's Ituri province in late May. According to different sources, thousands of civilians crossed to Uganda and are being sheltered by the local communities in Zombo. UNHCR is looking into organizing an assessment mission to Zombo.
- UNHCR and OPM laid the groundwork to begin registration of nearly 20,000 asylum seekers currently in the country, including by adapting standard operating procedures for biometric registration to COVID-19 safety

measures and protocols. Whilst looking into additional requirements for registration personnel, especially personal protective equipment (PPE), UNHCR and OPM's plan is to start before the end of June.

- Under the guidance of the Child Protection Sub Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF, several partners undertook assessments and analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on refugee children in Uganda. In addition to child separation and child neglect, partners identified a significant number of teenage pregnancies and child marriages in most settlements. The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 has contributed to parents and children's distress, with resultant negative consequences on childcare and protection. The suspension of activities fostering children's play, learning and development, including the closure of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), continued to impact children's wellbeing and remains a major obstacle to preventing and responding to child protection risks. UNHCR and partners are looking into solutions.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners identified and provided life-saving support to 23 SGBV survivors in Rhino Camp, Imvepi, Palabek, Adjumani and Kyaka II settlements, including psychosocial and legal counselling and access to medical care. Awareness-raising activities on SGBV prevention continued across the refugee response.
- In May, the Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) helpline received 4,686 calls and resolved 3,934 queries (84 per cent) over the phone through standard Frequently Asked Questions. Another 752 queries were referred to UNHCR and partners for a follow-up. Compared to April, the calls increased by nearly 100 per cent across the response, with 3,589 calls (76 per cent) originating from Kampala.
- As part of UNHCR/WFP/OPM joint cash assistance programme to assist 42,694 refugee households in Kampala, UNHCR began on 30 May disbursement of mobile money to 2,489 households (7,041 individuals) to help them cover the cost of non-food items and rent for one month, corresponding to over UGX 553 million. Another 1,500 refugee households will receive mobile money in the week of 8 June. UNHCR continued to validate the identity of refugee households with an active SIM card (15,800) against the biometric refugee database (proGres v.4), with 90 per cent completed to date. Negotiations continued with Airtel to discuss timelines and modalities of distribution of SIM cards to 26,894 refugee households without a cell number.

Health & Nutrition

- Refugees continued to be included in the implementation of national and district level preparedness and response plans. UNHCR and partners helped MoH investigate 2,195 COVID-19 alerts, including by covering the costs of transporting samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute. The settlements with the highest number of alerts were Kyangwali (526), Adjumani (492) and Nakivale (372) during the reporting period.
- UNHCR and partners continued to support at least 18 quarantine facilities within the settlements and at transit centres across the country, including by covering the costs of medical supplies and PPE, site management, feeding and logistics. At present, 834 individuals are quarantined in these facilities, including 406 refugees, 2 asylum seekers, 416 Ugandans and 10 foreign nationals. Kabahinda Vocational Training Centre in Nakivale settlement currently hosts the largest number of quarantined individuals, including 91 Ugandans, 16 refugees and 10 foreign nationals. At the request of District Local Governments (DLGs), UNHCR agreed for several transit and reception centres to serve as institutional quarantine centres for the district, including Kuluba collection centre (Koboko district), Lokung reception centre (Lamwo district), Nyakabande transit centre (Kisoro district), Imvepi transit centre (Arua district) and Goboro transit centre (Yumbe district), with some of them requiring renovation and upgrading. UNHCR completed the expansion of Goboro transit centre during the reporting period, with a capacity to host up to 300 people. The current institutional quarantine centre for Yumbe district, Lokopio Technical Institute, is full.
- UNHCR together with the MoH, DLGs, UNICEF and IOM undertook a mission to northern Uganda to assess the level of preparedness and ongoing response to COVID-19 in refugee-hosting districts, including surveillance capacity, management of alerts and contacts, treatment of positive cases, and infection prevention and control

measures. In Bidibidi settlement, the isolation wards of four health centres are currently used as quarantine facilities and need to be urgently vacated. With all the regional referral hospitals already at full capacity, the joint mission advised that district hospitals and lower level health centres be ready and further equipped to treat COVID-19 cases.

- UNHCR procured PPE and medical equipment to treat COVID-19 cases with severe complications, including 650 infrared thermometers, 200 oxygen concentrators and 30 ventilators. The airlift, worth US \$1 million, is expected to arrive in Uganda before the end of June.
- UNHCR donated two blood bank refrigerators to Bidibidi Health Centre III in Zone one and Kombe Health Centre III in Zone III to ensure safe storage of blood and blood components in Yumbe's Bidibidi settlement.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNHCR and partners delivered 525 handwashing facilities in several settlements to enhance infection prevention and control, including 283 in Kyangwali, 135 in Bidibidi and 107 in Palabek.

Coordination

- UNHCR and OPM launched on 4 June the review of 2020 Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and its extension through to 2021, in coordination with the national Inter-Agency Coordination Group, with a view to factor the COVID-19 crisis into planning and to review response priorities and strategies accordingly. In that meeting, revised planning assumptions and population planning figures were discussed and validated. Consultations with sector co-leads will take place in the week of 8 June. It is expected that the RRP review and extension process will be completed by the end of July. The revised plan will feed the regional RRP's on South Sudan, DRC and Burundi as well as the August update of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19.

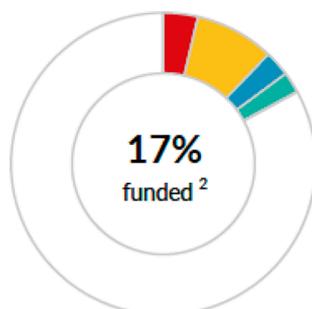


©UNHCR/O. Nasibov. UNHCR and partners expand Goboro transit centre to serve as a new institutional quarantine facility for Uganda's Yumbe district.

FUNDING UPDATE | 2020

\$335.7 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020 ¹



UGANDA

as of 28 May 2020



CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	14,463,000	-	14,463,000
Denmark	-	-	9,571,492	-	9,571,492
Norway	-	-	-	4,359,673	4,359,673
Germany	-	-	-	3,174,523	3,174,523
Republic of Korea	-	-	1,666,666	-	1,666,666
Japan	-	-	1,237,754	-	1,237,754
Ireland	-	-	-	1,114,827	1,114,827
Remon L Vos	-	-	-	1,091,703	1,091,703
Canada	-	-	1,090,909	-	1,090,909
Switzerland	-	-	1,023,541	-	1,023,541
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	998,628	998,628
CERF	-	-	-	799,742	799,742
Spotlight Initiative	-	-	-	674,113	674,113
Netherlands	-	-	-	644,247	644,247
Finland	-	-	596,810	-	596,810
IGAD	-	-	237,412	-	237,412
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	-	-	141,346	-	141,346
Sweden	-	-	-	139,640	139,640
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	40,700	40,700
Other private donors	-	-	5	105,087	105,093
Sub-total	-	-	30,028,935	13,142,883	43,171,818
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	7,546,470	9,181,375	(1,747,505)	(841,274)	14,139,065
Total	7,546,470	9,181,375	28,281,430	12,301,609	57,310,884

Appeals for COVID-19 preparedness and response plans

- The [UN Emergency Appeal and Facility for the response and impact of COVID-19 in Uganda](#) was launched on 23 April, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. The appeal amounts to US \$316.4 million, including US \$77.6 million for refugees.
- UNHCR launched its revised [COVID-19 preparedness and response plan](#) on 11 May, in line with the updating of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP). UNHCR Uganda's financial requirements amount to US \$25,856,852.

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