

Uganda

February 2019

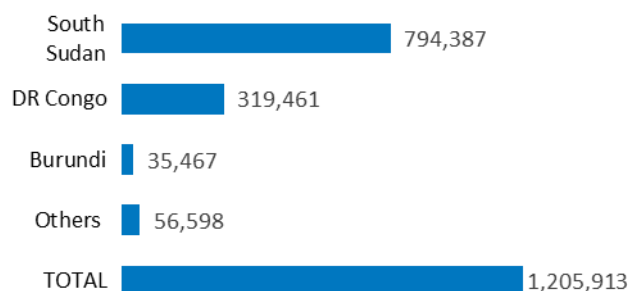
Uganda is currently hosting **1,205,913** refugees, the highest number in the country's history, and continues to receive simultaneous arrivals from the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan** and **Burundi**.

The number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is close to eight hundred thousand, and arrivals from the DRC have been on the rise since the beginning of 2019.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN: 1,205,913

Countries of Origin*

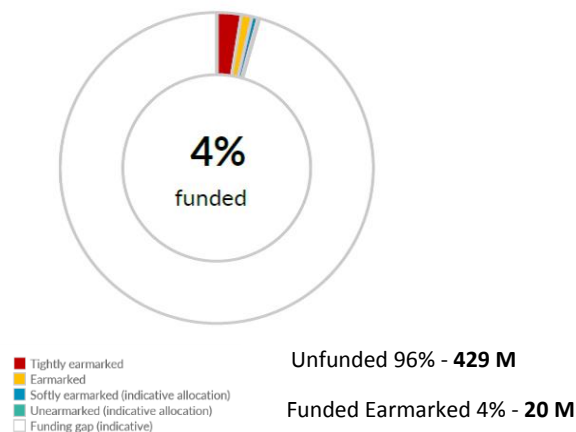


Total **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 January 2019

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

USD 448.8 M

UNHCR's Financial Requirements 2019



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 455 National Staff
- 123 International Staff
- 17 IUNV
- 3 NUNV
- 32 Deployees
- 1 Contractor
- 1 Intern
- 39 UNOPS

Offices:

- One Country Office 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



Training of young artists by *Artolution*, funded by *Education Above All*, in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Yumbe district. Photo ©Max Frieder/January 2019

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 (MYMPSS), is to ensure that, through Uganda's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), 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 under the MYMPSS are as follows:

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.
- To advance refugee's rights, a number of initiatives were commissioned in 2018, in collaboration with the Government and partners. They include: introduction of the Interagency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanisms (FRRM), to provide a safe and confidential channels for communication with refugees; Joint Interagency Assessment on Safeguards for women and children; the National SGBV mainstreaming Action Plan; Age Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Deep Dive exercise; the Joint UNHCR/UNDP assessment on Rule of Law and Access to Justice; and security for refugees and host communities.
 - Since March 2018, Uganda deployed the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and ProGres Version 4 for registration of refugees.
 - The SOPs on Registration of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees were developed by OPM and UNHCR, to ensure countrywide standardization and harmonization of all registration processes. Compliance monitoring will be a major activity in 2019. The Memorandum of Association (MoU) is in its final stages of completion.

- The operation has launched an inter-agency comprehensive Feedback, Referral and Resolution mechanism (FRRM) to improve communication with refugees. The system is currently operational in all settlements within the 12 refugee hosting districts, including Kampala. In January 2019, 1,351 calls were recorded, the highest number of calls (742), received from Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Of the snapshot of calls made, 232 calls related to general/community based protection; 222 calls related to resettlement and local integration; 193 calls related to health and nutrition; and 104 calls related to registration.

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 a protection tool for refugees with acute protection needs, as well as a durable solution for refugees in protracted situations. As of December 2018, 5,478 cases were submitted for resettlement consideration and 3,999 departed to third countries including USA, Norway, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Netherlands, France and Finland. Of those submitted for resettlement, 38 percent were survivors of violence and torture.

Education

- The First lady and Minister for Education and Sports, in September 2018, launched the *Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda*. If well-funded, the Education Response Plan will provide quality education for hundreds of thousands of refugee and host community children in Uganda. It was developed to align closely with Uganda's Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for 2017-2020. The plan aims to improve access to, and quality of learning across all forms of education in Uganda's 12 refugee-hosting districts, through activities including:
 1. Construction of new classrooms and repairing existing ones to make schools safer and more accessible – for example - to provide access to children with disabilities;
 2. Providing essential materials such as textbooks, desks and stationery;
 3. Addressing teacher gaps and capacity to deliver quality education to refugees and host community learners;
 4. Strengthening the national and district level education system for effective and sustainable service delivery;
 5. Running Accelerated Education Programmes to enrol out-of-school youth who are now over age for the grade which matches their current academic ability.
 6. Piloting innovations in education.
- 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 supports District Education Offices in the implementation of strategies such as:

1. Piloting the double shift system to meet the high demand on education services;
 2. Train and remunerate South Sudanese teachers to work as Classroom Assistants supporting 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*);
 3. Support refugee children with English language / language of instruction difficulties;
 4. 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 and quality of education of its children;
- Through partners, UNHCR also supports the teacher professional development of refugee and host community teachers, on aspects such as 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.

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. It created entry points for line ministries and development actors into Uganda's refugee response, consolidating the current model.
- The CRRF Steering Group is the main decision-making body for the CRRF. It coordinates and helps strengthen existing government and partner institutions as a whole for the government response to refugees. It is co-led by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Local Government, optimizing coordination both at central and local level, within the existing legal frameworks. It comprises of members from line Ministries; Departments and Agencies (MDAs); Local Governments; refugee representatives; development and humanitarian actors; UN agencies; national and international NGOs; the private sector; and international financial institutions and refugees representatives. It oversees and serves as a knowledge hub and platform for strategic as well as policy discussions. The CRRF Secretariat is the technical body ensuring coordinated planning, programming and resourcing between humanitarian and development partners.
- The CRRF Roadmap 2018-2020 defines the results of the CRRF in Uganda up to 2020, when the next National Development Plan III will take effect. In order to ease pressure on refugee-hosting districts and to enhance service delivery for both refugees and host communities, gap plans have been formulated which link the refugee response to government sector plans. These government-led response plans bridge the gaps between NDP II and full refugee inclusion into NDP III in 2020/21. It enables Uganda to clearly highlight where the international community may usefully channel support for a comprehensive and people-centred response in its refugee hosting

districts. The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities was launched in September 2018, the Integrated Health Response Plan in January 2019 and plans for water and environment, as well as jobs and livelihoods are under development.

Health

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) completed development of the Health Sector Refugee Response Plan (HSRRP) 2018 – 2023 that was launched on Friday 25 January 2018.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and MoH was finalized and signed. It is intended to provide the formal framework for the current integrated partnership between UNHCR and MoH. This is in addition to the Compact that UNHCR also signed as a member of the Health Development Partners group.
- Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response for diseases of outbreak potential in all districts is ongoing. Strengthened Ebola preparedness and response activities are being implemented in the wake of ongoing Ebola outbreak in DRC. UNHCR is part of the National Task Force and has received funding to improve preparedness and response for Ebola including support to 12 refugee hosting districts. Key activities include heightened surveillance, training of health staff, procurement of Ebola related medicines and supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and construction of isolation facilities.

Food Security and Nutrition

- **WFP** provides high energy biscuits and warm meals to Persons of Concern at transit centers and reception centres. Refugees are also provided with monthly food rations once they are settled in their OPM-allocated plots. The settlement policy where refugees are given extra land provides them with the opportunity to produce some of their own food. In addition, UNHCR partners support refugees with agricultural and livelihood activities, to supplement the WFP monthly food ration. Implementation of the 2018 Food Security and Nutrition Survey (FSNA) data collection in refugee settlements and host communities is currently underway. It is led by the Ministry of Health and jointly supported by UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF. Data collection concluded in January 2019.
- For accurate representation of the assisted refugee population, UNHCR with WFP and OPM deployed new food collection procedures using the biometric tools Global Distribution Tool and BIMS.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to refugee and host communities. Generally, service provision is evolving from emergency to medium and long term WASH infrastructure development as well as strengthening linkages with local government and line ministries. Significant progress has been made in engaging refugees to participate in service delivery, thus promoting ownership. Capacity strengthening and resilience building through training, requisite studies, resource mapping and service levels optimization, characterized activities in this quarter.

- On average 21.7 million litres of potable water is supplied daily to UNHCR Persons of Concern ensuring per capita access is an average of 18 litres per person per day in all settlements. In October to December 2018, a total of 9 production boreholes were successfully drilled, 22 water schemes completed and commissioned whilst 9 others are underway. Over 7500 family latrines were constructed raising latrine coverage to 68%. Ebola preparedness activities continued to buoy and inform hygiene promotion activities. Capacity building trainings for partners and UNHCR WASH staff were conducted on various technical areas including KAP surveys administering, groundwater monitoring and designing water schemes. The sector developed a draft operation and maintenance framework for water schemes. In addition, several steps were made with National Water and Sewerage Corporation, with regards to inclusion of 2 refugee settlements in their management portfolio.

Shelter, Settlements and NFIs

- UNHCR works in partnership with OPM, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLH&UD), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), District Local Governments (DLGs) and partners, to settle the refugees.
- The operation approved a revised Non Food Items (NFI) Distribution Entitlement Scale in December 2018, providing more construction poles per emergency shelter kit, to decrease/mitigate deforestation, as well as other new non-food items, such as door latches and locks, to increase HH level security. Procurement and provision of minimum shelter and NFIs is a priority for all new arrivals with blanket coverage for distributions. However, not all items are being distributed according to the quantities and specifications outlined in the revised scale; there are gaps on the ground, especially for construction poles reaching new arrivals.
- UNHCR has revised the NFI SOP and will soon pilot improved controls in the overall management of NFIs in its operations. The tracking and reconciliation of Non-Food Items (NFIs) distributions will soon be strengthened with the introduction of a KOBO tool for smartphones. All Implementing Partners (IPs) will be required to complete the KOBO form during all NFI distributions to both non-registered and registered refugees to enable a more accurate recording of items delivered to beneficiaries and to facilitate the reconciliation with UNHCR Reports. For registered refugees, the beneficiary lists will be generated from Progres V4.
- To the extent possible, direct labour support is provided to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) 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.
- The Refugee Settlement Land Taskforce (RSLT) was constituted by OPM in July 2018 to improve and monitor land use planning, management and administration in Uganda's refugee settlements. The current taskforce membership comprises technical officers from OPM, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLH&UD), CRRF and UNCHR, with plans to extend invitations to the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the District Local Governments (DLGs).

- Reporting to the Permanent Secretary in OPM, the RSLT has been tasked to finalise and approve the Settlement Planning and Shelter Guidelines, as well as develop detailed physical plans and cadastral maps for all refugee settlements. The Task Force began in late November 2018, with the commencement of the 'Functional Emergency Planning' phase for Nakivale and Kyangwali; surveying and digitised planning of plots for a potential mass influx of new arrivals. The implementation is led by MLH&UD with strong technical support from the UNHCR site planners, WASH officers and Environment Focal Points.
- Since January 2018, UNHCR and implementing partners built 1,835 semi-permanent shelters for vulnerable households with specific needs across the operation. In the month of December alone, a total of 50 new such shelters were built in Rhino's Omugo Zone.
- For new arrivals, a total of 1,359 emergency shelters for vulnerable households with specific needs were repaired or built in Kyangwali (7), Imvepi (184) and Rhino (1,168).
- There was some good progress in December 2018 in efforts to address the construction works for DRC emergency influx and Ebola preparedness in the Southwest at points of entry (PoE), collection points (CP), transit centres (TC) and Reception Centres (RC).

Energy and Environment

- 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 OPM, co-chairs the Working Group on Energy and Environment for Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (WorkGrEEen for ReHoPE). The WorkGrEEen 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.

- In 2018, the working group developed 3 key objectives and targets for the sector in the 2019/2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan:
 1. Environment and natural resources protected and restored, and green livelihoods promoted using a catchment-based approach.
 2. Access to sufficient and sustainable basic energy services for lighting, power and cooking increased and climate change drivers mitigated with reduced reliance on wood and fossil fuels.
 3. Energy, environment and climate response planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring strengthened, and environmental mitigation measures mainstreamed across all sectors.
- UNHCR with support of partners continues to address environmental restoration by supporting environmental awareness campaigns, tree-marking for protection, tree nursery development, tree planting and maintenance among other activities. Access to sustainable energy is also being increased especially through skilling for construction of energy-saving stoves and briquette production as income generating activities. For example, UNHCR has coordinated efforts together with WFP and GIZ to ensure that all reception centres have access to energy-efficient institutional stoves by the end of 2018.
- The Ministry of Water and Environment has initiated the drafting of a Water and Environment Response Plan for the refugee response. In 2019, UNHCR plans to partner with the MWE Forest Sector Support Department and National Forest Authority and District Local Governments to scale up seedling production and reforestation efforts in refugee-hosting districts.
- The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development held its annual Joint Sector Review in October 2018 where an undertaking was drafted to develop a comprehensive Energy Response Plan for the refugee response.

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 Children's 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 Busket (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

Thank you to donors providing generous unearmarked and earmarked contributions to UNHCR Uganda in 2019.

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CONTACTS

Joyce Munyao-Mbithi, Senior External Relations Officer

munyao@unhcr.org Tel: +256 (0) 780 14 3813

Wendy Daphne Kasujja, Assistant Reporting Officer

kasujja@unhcr.org Tel: +256 780 143854

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