

Uganda

1 – 31 January, 2020

During the month of **January 2010**, **6,172 new refugee arrivals** from Democratic Republic of Congo (3,799), South Sudan (1,932) and Burundi (441) sought safety in Uganda, bringing the number of new arrivals since 1 January 2020 to **6,172**. The humanitarian situation remains unpredictable in South Sudan and the DRC.

Refugees from the DRC cited inter-ethnic violence in Ituri as well as fighting and attacks on civilians in North Kivu as reasons for fleeing. Those from South Sudan reported insecurity, food insecurity and lack of access to basic services such as education and health as the main causes of flight.

Burundians indicate several reasons for leaving their country including, insecurity, family reunification, reported violence and fear of forcible conscription by militia groups.

6,172

Number of **new arrivals** during January 2020, based on border monitoring.

199

Daily average of new arrivals during January 2020, based on border monitoring.

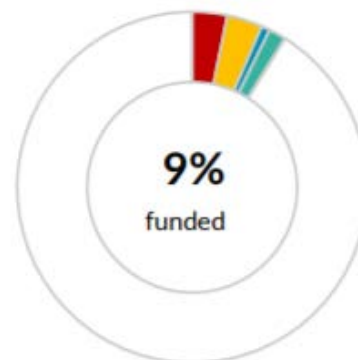
1,394,678

Total **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 January 2020.

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2020:

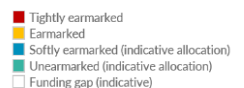
USD 331.2M

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 January 2020)



Unfunded 91% - **302 M**

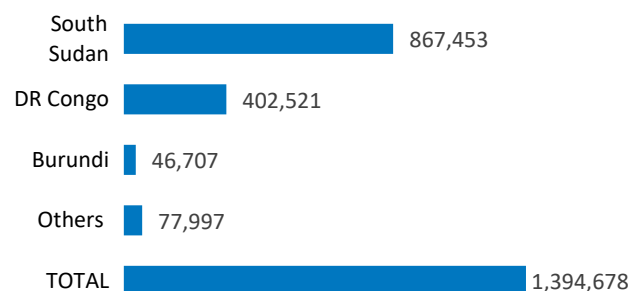
Funded 9% - **29 M**



Young ladies return home from fetching firewood in Kyangwali refugee settlement, Kikuube district. Photo ©Girl Up/Edward Echwalu

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality





Ina Bhoopalam, a Girl Up Teen Advisor and activist, plays with the female pupils at Maratatu primary school, Kyangwali refugee settlement, Kikuube district. Photo ©Girl Up/Edward Echwalu

Operational Context

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan and the DRC remained unpredictable during the reporting period. Most of the new Congolese refugees arrived from Ituri province across Lake Albert and were transferred to Kyangwali settlement. Those arriving at the transit centres and collection points through Nyakabande and Matanda came from Rutshuru, Goma, Uvira, Masisi, Biriza, Bukoma, and Buanza; those passing through Ntoroko mainly came from Ituri and North Kivu, Tchoma, Kasenyi, Boga, Beni, and Nyamamba. All were settled in Kyaka II. Asylum-seekers from South Sudan continued to arrive through Lamwo district (Ngomoromo, Awenolwi, Madi Opei, Waligo Entry points), Adjumani (Elegu Collection Point) and Koboko district (Kuluba Collection Point, Oraba, Busia border point and Ocea TC).

Operational Highlights

On 15 January, UNHCR and Canada hosted Uganda's first Complementary Pathway Working Group in Kampala with a view to mobilize receiving countries to support, expand and further develop migration schemes of refugees based on labour, education, private or community sponsorship. Dennis Cole, Canadian Assistant Director for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship delivered a presentation on the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI), addressing Ambassadors and Immigration, Work/Cultural visa staff.

On 24 January, UNHCR published a story highlighting the increase in the number of suicides and suicide attempts among South Sudanese refugees living in settlements in Uganda in 2019 compared to the previous year. There were 97 suicide attempts, with 19 deaths. Mental health initiatives offer space for refugees and host communities to overcome pain, isolation and prevent more deaths. Read more:

<https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2020/1/5e2afb5b4/suicides-rise-among-south-sudanese-refugees-uganda.html>



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Legal Mapping Project: The UNHCR protection team embarked on the second phase of the legal mapping exercise which involves consultations with Persons of Concern (PoCs) and stakeholders in Kampala, Arua, Bidibidi, Kiryandongo, Mbarara and Nakivale. On 17 January 2020, the first consultations were held with host community local leaders, leaders of the refugee community (all nationalities), to capture information on access to rights and protection by urban PoCs and host communities. Key issues highlighted include delayed Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processes for Eritreans, access to employment, education, freedom of movement as well as documentation, admission and access to the asylum process for Pakistani PoCs among others.

Following consultations, validation workshops will be conducted with stakeholders, partners and multifunctional teams to validate the findings and agree on priorities. The validated information will then be fed into the Rights Mapping Tool (RiMa) for Uganda. RiMa is an online tool on the UNHCR platform developed by the Division of **Resilience and Solutions (DRS)**, that aims to comprehensively map the extent to which a country's legal instruments and entities support the rights of PoCs. The tool also captures obstacles that PoCs face in the exercise of their rights and generates analyses that help inform strategic planning processes of country operations.

Registration: During the reporting period, Global Distribution Tool (GDT) servers were upgraded with the new enhanced version 3.8.8 and deployed to all food distribution points. Additionally, the Access Management Portal that will allow the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), to manage government proGres users is in the final development and testing phase. Government users will also be involved in the testing as requesters and approvers: the portal will be ready to go live in February 2020.

In line with the continued effort to address fraud identified in refugee SIM card registration, UNHCR is also supporting the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and OPM, to establish a live linkage to authenticate refugee biometrics and documentation for the issuance of SIM cards. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was carried out for the initiative and the main recommendation of the assessment is the finalization of a Data Sharing Agreement between UNHCR, OPM and UCC, prior to the live launch. Meanwhile, testing is ongoing with challenges being addressed by the UNHCR headquarters development team.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

World University Services Canada and complementary pathways: World University Services Canada (WUSC) launched a call for applications to their 2021-22 intake of the Student Refugee Programme. Applications were made online (facilitated by the Refugee Law Project in Kampala and UNHCR in the field). Paper applications were also accepted, given that online access and/or connectivity may not be accessible in many parts of the settlements. Interviews, selection and screening will be done by WUSC and supported by UNHCR and partners in March or April 2020.

Now in its second year in Uganda, WUSC's Student Refugee Programme combines resettlement with opportunities for higher education in Canada. The programme targets secondary school graduates of 18-25 years and, refugees sponsored through the program become permanent residents when they arrive in Canada. WUSC facilitates access to a post-secondary academic institution in Canada for selected students and makes the final decision about where students will study. Students may be placed at a university, college or CEGEP (college in the province of Quebec).

Furthermore, resettlement and education teams in Uganda are exploring opportunities with embassies and development agencies for tertiary scholarships. WUSC have agreed to support with guidance on their model and potentially combined interview/selection modalities.

World Bank: The World Bank are in the process of finalizing the design of their Uganda Secondary School Expansion Project (USEEP) which is seeking to address the extremely low enrolment rate at secondary level; inequitable access to secondary school for girls – both refugees and Ugandans; and the lack of comprehensive education system reforms. Refugee enrollment in secondary school in 2019 stood at 15 percent, of whom, 10 percent were girls and 19 percent boys. UNHCR is supporting the design with data and analysis of secondary school enrollment from the refugee settlements; infrastructural update and gaps; and have accompanied the World Bank team on scoping missions in the development of their secondary school framework.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Overcrowding is a continuous challenge that is risky for both children and teachers, affecting the capacity for effective teaching and learning. In overcrowded classrooms (with an average of 100 children per class), the ability of teachers to know the learning and support needs of their individual students is extremely challenging. As a result, the role of schools and teachers as key actors in the protection and wellbeing of children is compromised.

There is an urgent and critical gap in our budget of at least US \$6m to cover core activities, including payment of salaries for the teachers already deployed in schools. This shortfall will have real and urgent consequences for keeping schools open in the second school term of 2020. District Local Governments also have insufficient budgets to carry out regular inspections of schools in the settlements and surrounding areas. This persistently compromises on quality, accountability, teacher morale and development.

In order to reduce the very high teacher pupil ratio, there is a need to enroll 2,522 more teachers at primary school level and 2,633 more caregivers for pre-primary Early Childhood Development centers.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

During the month of January 2020, a total of 195,729 consultations were made in all the refugee serving health facilities within the refugee settlements in Uganda. Of these, 78 percent were refugees and 22 percent were from the host populations. Top morbidity causes were: Malaria at 41 percent; skin diseases at 6.9 percent; watery diarrhea at 4 percent; Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) at 10.3 percent; Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) at 9.4 percent; intestinal worms at 3 percent; and eye disease at 2 percent.

In January 2020, 9,231 patients were admitted in the wards within the health clinics. Of these, 70 percent were refugees and 33 percent were host population. The main causes for admissions were: malaria at 55 percent; LRTI at 11 percent; and watery diarrhea at 4 percent.

A total of 4,966 children under 5 years (70 percent refugees) were vaccinated against measles and 4,081 (71 percent refugees) completed the polio vaccination. The deliveries registered in January 2020 were 3,522. Of these, 71 percent were refugees and 29 percent nationals. An immunization campaign was carried out in Nakivale, following an outbreak of measles within the refugee settlement. It had affected 52 persons by the end of January 2020. A total of 4,475 refugees within the settlement were vaccinated, broken down as: 0 – 59 months (2,098) and 5 – 15 years (2,377).

People tested for HIV were 14,149 of which, 60 percent were refugees and 40 percent host population. All those who tested positive for HIV were enrolled into HIV care and treatment. The total number of patients on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) by end of January 2020 is 18,058 of which, 35 percent are refugees and 65 percent are host population.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Inadequate staff accommodation in the health facilities with 2-3 health workers sharing one room as accommodation.



FOOD SECURITY

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR, in collaboration with Food and Nutrition Solutions (FONUS), OPM, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), UNICEF, WFP, District Local Governments (DLGs) and partners, supported the implementation of primary data collection of the Refugee Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA). The annual periodic survey is carried out in refugee settlements and their hosting districts, to estimate the situation of Food Security, Nutrition, WASH and Health. This survey helps identify priority areas and inform programming by all stakeholders for the benefit of refugees, their host communities, and the population in Kampala. The 2019 FSNA round was funded by UNICEF.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

Refugees and hosting populations continued to access potable water at 17 litres per person per day, by operating and maintaining 167 pumped water schemes and 1,200 hand pumps.

The Water and Environment Development Partner Group fielded a mission to Kyaka II refugee settlement, as part of the annual retreat. Opportunities for improving service delivery from a development angle were discussed, with possibilities of linkages to broader projects planned for the region.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Due to unpredictable funding for Operational Partners (OPs), proper transition of management of water schemes in several settlements is lacking. This is leading to loss of institutional memory and adequate capitalization of experiences from exiting partners.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENTS AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

1,200 plots were demarcated in January 2020 in Byabakora and Mukondo zones to accommodate new refugee arrivals from DRC, easing the pressure on transit and reception facilities.

Mapping of roads and other facilities for the Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements were completed with support from Kampala office. The mapping is meant to have an updated settlement map, for proper planning and distribution of social and physical facilities. This is the second updated settlement after Kyangwali, which was done in December 2019.

Maintenance of Ofua 6 main access road (200m) and Ofua3 junction to Vura Corps Ofua 1 Road (3.1Km) in Arua district is at 85% (earth works) completed while, construction of drainage systems is still ongoing. Full completion and commissioning is expected to take place on 15 February 2020. This will ease transportation of goods, services and PoCs, to and from the settlement.

Construction of overnight shelter at Imvepi Reception Center is nearly complete and is expected to improve accommodation facilities. It is important to note that, this is the first of 20 shelters to be upgraded at the reception centre, pending works on the remaining 19.

In Kyangwali refugee settlement, a 30,000-litre fuel tank at the warehouse compound was tested, commissioned and handed over for use. This is now facilitating easy access to fuel.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Ongoing arrivals from the DRC continue to stretch the capacity of Nyakabande transit centre. UNHCR is looking into solutions to speed up relocation of new arrivals to refugee settlements.

The state of roads in settlements is dire. Access roads to some pumping stations, Food Distribution Points (FDPs) and health centres are nearly impassable, as a result of prolonged rains in 2019 and a limited budget to cater for road rehabilitation and maintenance. Priority on road rehabilitation maintenance is necessary to avoid further degradation. This situation is across all settlements in South West, Midwest and the West Nile.

There is still a need to have all settlement maps updated to ensure efficient distribution of social services and physical facilities.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

Preparation for the 2020 restoration of degraded forest land are on-going, cumulatively from December 2019 through January 2020. In Arua, approximately 700,000 seedlings of assorted tree species are being raised in various nurseries under different partners. A total of 300,000 seedlings are being raised by Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile (RICE-WN) of which 120,000 were funded by UNHCR. The National Forestry Authority (NFA), is producing 600,000 seedlings for Arua and Yumbe districts, as an overall target. In the two NFA nurseries, a combined 300,000 seedlings have germinated and are being nurtured. In Moyo/Obongi district, NFA has already raised a total of 130,000 seedlings, out of the target of 200,000 seedlings expected to be achieved at the Palorinya Basecamp nursery. Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has constructed a tank base, installed a tank tower, a 10,000 litres tank and trenching for water pipeline extension at the same site, to address the critical need for water to raise the seedlings.

Similar activities are ongoing in all the other regional nurseries in both the South West and West Nile, with a combined total of 5 million assorted seedlings expected to be ready by the start of the March 2020 rainy season. The Adjumani Sub Office, working with LWF and the District Local Governments (DLGs) of Adjumani and Lamwo, have pre-positioned planting materials in local nurseries in preparation of planting 600,000 tree seedlings, expected to be available for first and second planting seasons in 2020.

Mapping and protection of the forest areas established in 2019 continued into 2020. In Arua district, five more sites, including the tree nurseries were mapped. In the same area, RICE-WN has continued to protect the established woodlots by creating firelines around them, with a total of 15 woodlots protected with 3m wide perimeter fireline.

Under Energy interventions, Raising Gabdho Foundation issued Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to 100 urban refugee households in Kampala. In Rwamwanja, Dan Church Aid (DCA) supported 392 PSNs with training on Lorena stoves heat retaining baskets. They also distributed certified portable briquette and firewood stoves to selected 746 households. DCA also completed construction of a briquette drier and store in clusters D and H within Kiryandongo refugee settlement. The plan is to help two groups trained by DCA, to produce briquettes. The groups have started collecting biomass and are just waiting to receive the machines for carbonization and production of briquettes. Within the same settlement, DCA also distributed 29 rocket Lorena stoves using local materials in clusters D, H, E, I, L, G and N. Adjumani received briquetting machines by Mandulis Energy, which are expected to reduce dependence on firewood and charcoal.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

The main challenge in the North and West Nile regions is the dry season combined with arson, which is threatening the tree restoration planting done in 2019. In Era Central Forest Reserve, Obongi district, 45 hectares were reported completely burnt down as result of suspected arson. DCA reported nearly 30 hectares of newly planted area burnt down in Zone 4, although hardy gmelina and teak seedlings were still surviving. Urgent fire management measures are recommended.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

Achievements and Impact

A joint technical mission by UNHCR and the World Bank took place from 13 - 24 January 2020, to Kyangwali and Rhino Camp refugee settlements. The team undertook a behavior change study, that will to inform the Energy Access Scale-up Project currently under development by the World Bank. The behavioral change study assesses options for increased uptake and adoption of clean off grid energy options, including clean cooking solutions and solar photovoltaic (PV) technology; with the aim of identifying potential behavior change interventions to increase energy access through off-grid technologies. The diagnostic study focused on behavioral analysis of refugees and host communities at household level and public institutions such as schools, hospitals and local markets.

In mid-2020, **Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) III will commence which is guiding public investments for** development in the next five years. Whereas refugees have been included in NDP II through the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), mainstreaming of refugees is foreseen for NDP III. The 4th draft of NDP III, where refugees are included in government planning and national statistics, was made available in January 2020. This will enhance the refugee response in Uganda, through targeted interventions in refugee-hosting districts, to strengthen service delivery, particularly for health, education and environmental conservation.

Working in partnership with:

Government - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local 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, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi, Yumbe.

UN - **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)**, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Migration Agency (IOM), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations World Health Organization (WHO).

NGOs - Action Africa Help (AAH), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Andre Foods International (AFI), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ), Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (ACAV), **A-Z Children's Charity, Baylor, Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)**, Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), CARE, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Caritas Uganda (CU), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Child Voices International, Communication and Education (PACE), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN), Concern World Wide (CWW), Cooperazione Sviluppo (CESVI), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), Drop in the Basket (DiB), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), Friends of Kisoro, German International Cooperation (GiZ), Give Directly, Global Aim, Global Refugee International (GRI), Healing Kadi Foundation, Help Age International, Humane Africa Mission (HAM), Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Humanitarian Open Street Map Team (HOT), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), IMPACT, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), InterAid, Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO Cooperation), International Aid Services (IAS), International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IsraAid, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Johanniter, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Malteser International (MI), Medical Teams International (MTI), Mercy Corps (MC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (NSAMIZI), OXFAM, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF), Plan International (PI), Programme for Accessible Health, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Right to Play (RtP), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile (RICE-WN), **Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children International (SCI)**, Self Help Africa (SHA), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (Tunado), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Trocaire, Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR), Uganda Law Society (ULS), Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDMC), War Child Canada (WCC), War Child Holland (WCH), Water Mission Uganda (WMU), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Windle International Uganda (WIU), World Vision International (WVI), **Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), ZOA – Uganda (ZOA)**.

External Relations

*Thank you to donors for providing generous un-earmarked
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The Refugee Response in Uganda is coordinated jointly by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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