

Annual Results Report

2022

Uganda

Acknowledgements

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

As of 31 December 2022, the operational context in Uganda remained unchanged with reference to the Government of Uganda's "Open Door Policy." The existing policy allows refugees and other asylum-seekers to access humanitarian assistance and other government services including legal protection, health, and education. The basic rights of refugees and asylum seekers are respected allowing them to enjoy freedom of movement and the right to work. Refugees who live in settlements have access to land for both agriculture activities and shelter construction.

The ongoing armed conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continues to pose a threat to peace and stability in the region. Armed attacks on civilians have caused massive population displacement both internally and into neighbouring countries. The conflict has caused continuous influxes of more than 150,000 asylum-seekers into Uganda prompting the declaration of an L2 emergency in 2022. While the international community and the government continue to take actions aimed at consolidating the peace in South Sudan, sporadic inter-ethnic and communal conflict coupled with declining economic situation have caused asylum-seekers to flee into Uganda. During 2022 the Uganda Operation simultaneously received influxes of asylum seekers in the West Nile and Southwest regions of the country.

In 2022 the Uganda Operation conducted an individual verification exercise which confirmed a 17% reduction in the total targeted population of 1,624,612 individuals. Despite the decrease, the operation registered 25,112 new births and 124,845 new arrivals into the proGres database during the year, bringing the population of concern in Uganda as of 31st December 2022 to 1,495,688 individuals, 97% refugees and 3% asylum seekers. Gender breakdown stands at 49% male and 51% female. The refugee population is comprised of 57% South Sudanese, 32% Congolese, 4% Somalis, and 7% representing a host of other nationalities including refugees in Kampala and other urban cities. Most (92%) of the refugees and asylum-seekers live in settlements located in the Southwest and West Nile regions of Uganda. Women and Children make up 81% of the population.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Uganda's asylum space is maintained, equal and unhindered with access to territory preserved, ensuring international protection standards are adhered to and essential services are provided to refugees in accordance with their specific needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

Asylum space in Uganda was maintained allowing for fair and efficient refugee status determination activities to progress in accordance with international protection standards. UNHCR supported the government to enhance the capacities of the Refugee Appeal Board and the Refugee Eligibility Committee. This initiative resulted in fast tracking asylum cases and a reduction in the backlog. The forcibly displaced enjoyed equal and unhindered access to territory. Uganda did not report any cases of refoulement during the reporting period. Capacity development training was conducted to enhance understanding of border officials and security sub-committee on international protection.

The proportion of individuals seeking international protection who were able to access asylum procedures remains at 100% due to UNHCR support to the Government's asylum office. All refugees and asylum seekers are able to move freely within the country.

Throughout 2022, Uganda continued to receive asylum seekers fleeing conflict from eastern DRC, South Sudan, and Somalia. In total 124,845 individuals were received and registered by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Despite a generally favorable protection environment, the increased number of asylum seekers coupled with the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ebola outbreak and reduction in food rations continued to impact on the vulnerability of refugees. The situation is further exacerbated with the scarcity of financial resources and strain on existing social services.

While the Government of Uganda pledged to maintain a progressive open-door policy, UNHCR advocacy for meaningful inclusion of refugees and host communities in development plans has created tangible impact on de facto integration. With the roll out of several response plans (education, livelihood, health, water, and energy) UNHCR continues to provide technical and financial support towards integration of refugees in national development plans.

The Refugee Act acknowledges the right of free movement for refugees in Uganda subject to reasonable restrictions specified in the national laws. In addition, the Act also provides for the right of refugees to obtain a travel document for the purpose of travel outside Uganda.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Comprehensive approaches for all Persons of Concern to progressively benefit from provision of integrated basic social services, including health, education, water and sanitation, to be provided by national authorities.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	1.60%
2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	84.00%

All the refugees had access to good quality health and nutrition services within a 5 KM radius from refugee households and accessed the government health facilities at the same level as nationals including national products like mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying and referral services. UNHCR also ensured that transit and reception centers had functional health outposts to provide new arrivals and asylum seekers with health and nutrition services. Health services were provided at no cost and UNHCR supported health staff and provided medical supplies and equipment. In addition, health facilities conducted outreach in hard-to-reach communities hence ensuring everyone in the community had access to health and nutrition services.

Consistent with its pledge at the Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Uganda and UNHCR are working collaboratively to promote access, quality, and inclusiveness of national services including health, education, WASH and sustainable management of energy and environment. The government has taken initiatives to include refugees into national development plans and the national statistical systems. Under the National Development Plan II, refugees were included through the Settlement Transformation Agenda. As a matter of priority, the National Development Plan III at its mid-term review has evaluated progress made towards the implementation of Refugees, Statelessness, Disaster Preparedness, and Migration ("RSDPM") interventions pursuant to the refugees' statutes, policies on disaster preparedness and migration.

The District Development Plans (DDPs) for the refugee-hosting districts also include the refugee population in the settlements. Through the Education Response Plan and the National Health Response Plan, several UNHCR funded schools and health facilities have been coded and integrated into the national system. The water system in Rwamwamja Refugee Settlement which hosts some 150,000 refugees has been integrated into the national water system of Uganda. These initiatives are a clear demonstration of integration and inclusion in refugee response.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Empowering communities to obtain their rights safely and in dignity, live peacefully with their neighbours without facing discrimination related to their displacement, while striving toward self-reliance through development of individual capacities and the promotion of a conducive environment for livelihoods opportunities.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	79.24%	88.73%
3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.65%	11.57%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	51.20%

The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in primary education increased from 79% in 2021 to 86% in 2022. The total number of refugee children enrolled in 2021 was 264,470 compared to 298,019 (47% girls and 53% boys) in 2022. The number of primary school age refugee children slightly increased from 336,478 in 2021 to 345,007 in 2022 indicating positive trends. Primary school enrolment compares well to the national

context and the global refugee average. The GER in secondary decreased from 15% in 2021 to 10% in 2022. However, further analysis reveals a slight increase in the number of those enrolled, which grew from 23,339 in 2021 to 23,516 in 2022. The data indicates that the number of secondary school age children in the refugee population (denominator) increased from 159,676 in 2021 to 246,647 in 2022. This accounts for the reduction in the GER in 2022 despite slight increase (in absolute numbers) of refugees enrolled in secondary education. The low transition rate from primary to secondary education points to the level where most children stop attending formal education. Enrolment in secondary education remains below the national context and the global refugee average.

Community empowerment initiatives were pursued with the objective of ensuring the basic rights and dignity of the forcibly displaced. Refugees and asylum seekers continued to live peacefully with Ugandan nationals in the various refugee hosting districts. No incident of discrimination related to displacement was reported during 2022. Refugees and asylum seekers living in settlements and urban centres alongside their Uganda neighbours share communal resources and facilities including farmlands, water points, schools, and health centres. The peaceful co-existence atmosphere prevailing in the settlements and surrounding communities enabled refugees and asylum seekers to pursue livelihood and economic activities for the enhancement of their self-reliance. UNHCR fulfilled its responsibility of coordinating with government and other partners to strengthen the enabling environment for refugee economic inclusion through strengthening coordination structures at both settlement and national levels. Sustained advocacy for refugee access to economic resources such as arable land, formal employment opportunities and enterprise development continued during the 2022 implementation period.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Refugees and stateless persons access durable solutions: with refugees either able to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, have found 3rd Country Solutions; or are able to access complementary pathways, while operation pursuing the necessary legal reforms and actions to address to statelessness.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,451	1,747
4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	192	161

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2022 one of the major challenges faced by the Representation was limited financial resources. The Representation started the year with a reduced OL compared to previous years. The budgetary shortfall amounted to some US\$ 25 million which mainly accounted for unearmarked funding. This budget shortfall hampered the timely implementation of essential services including procurement of medicine for health services, fuel, and spare parts for fleet of some 460 vehicles, as well as provision of core relief items (CRIs) and menstrual hygiene kits were negatively impacted. The budget shortfall also affected the Representation's capacity to respond effectively to the declaration of L2 emergency in the Southwest. Due to budget shortfall and delay in procurement, the Representation had to rely on regional stockpiles for timely procurement and deployment of CRIs. As a solution to the budgetary situation, the Representation commenced the formulation of cost saving measure plan for the reduction of services in the settlements. Implementation of the plan will severely affect health and education staff of the partners. Lack of dependable data on stateless persons, the substantive law in the Constitution and operational nationality laws make it difficult for stateless persons to be identified and supported.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

During 2022 UNHCR continued to play its catalytic and coordination role through the Refugee Coordination Model working with diverse groups of partners and stakeholders including NGOs, government counterpart, sister United Nations agencies, donors, private sector, civil society organizations, development actors and refugee led organizations.

In 2022 the Representation had 52 PAs signed with 27 Government entities, 16 international NGOs, 8 Local NGOs and IOM. It should be noted that two INGOs have their HQ in Uganda and four local partners have twinning agreement with INGOs to build their capacity.

In 2022 the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) was launched, which represents the collective advocacy of 69 humanitarian and development partners responding to the needs of the refugees (2022-2025). It is a coordinated, joint planning and resource mobilization tool between OPM, UNHCR, international and national partners. While it mostly seeks to meet humanitarian needs, it also serves as a sustainable refugee response programming in Uganda, in line with the GCR.

UNHCR provided technical and financial support to strengthen multi-stakeholder national arrangements for responsibility-sharing as contemplated in the GCR leading to good level of dialogue established with all key partners. This support to the Government, local authorities, development, and donor community has ushered in the principle of one system for the delivery of basic services in an integrated and sustainable manner.

Through the RHPG, donors, UN agencies, national and international NGOs discuss strategic and operational issues related to the RRP. It also serves as a forum to highlight opportunities and challenges arising in the coordination with other stakeholders in the refugee response, including development partners contributing to CRRF goals. In 2022, UNHCR and partners continued to provide updates on priorities and consequences of underfunding, calling for action and support whenever necessary.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group, co-chaired by UNHCR, OPM, and the Ministry of Local Government held six national level coordination meetings. Due to the influx in Southwest and West Nile regions, twelve ad hoc national level meetings were held with all stakeholders in the refugee response.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Refugees and asylum seekers are registered on an individual basis and issued with identification documents

Reception conditions Improved

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.36%	100.00%	94.18%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority. [SDG 16.9.1 - Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.28%	40.00%	39.96%
1.3 Proportion of PoC with legally recognized identity documents or credentials [GCR 4.2.2].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.56%	100.00%	94.18%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

While the operation succeeded in verifying population of refugees and asylum seekers in all 13 settlements in 2022, the verification exercise for the urban population in Kampala was not completed due to the outbreak of Ebola. Of the total targeted population of 1,624,612 individuals across the country, the verification confirmed a 17% reduction in the persons of concern population present and participating in the verification. Despite the decrease, the operation also registered 194,043 new arrivals and new births during the year, bringing the population of concern in Uganda as of 31st December 2022 to 1,495,688 individuals. The population is comprised of 97% refugees and 3% asylum seekers and remains relatively balanced between males (49%) and females (51%). The refugee population is comprised of 57% South Sudanese, 32% Congolese, 4% Somalis, and 7% other nationalities residing in Kampala and other urban communities. Most (92%) of the refugees and asylum seekers are living in settlements located in the Southwest and West Nile regions of Uganda. Women and Children make up 81% of the population. Household and individual documents were renewed/issued during the verification exercise, and data obtained from the Individual Profiling Exercise is being used by WFP to prioritize persons of concern for assistance based on vulnerability and socioeconomic criteria. The resettlement unit is also exploring the data and prioritization approach for adoption.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

During the year, Uganda experienced an Ebola outbreak that affected staff and refugees' movements which resulted in backlogs in registration and documentation. Approximately 12,000 new asylum seekers were not registered/documented; updating of changes in family compositions was also halted. Unregistered and undocumented refugees and asylum seekers were exposed to arbitrary arrests and detention by security personnel, while also not being able to access basic services, including health care, food, and non-food assistance. In some rural locations, reception facilities meant to temporarily host asylum seekers became overwhelmed by newly arriving individuals. In Kampala area, the verification and Individual Profiling Exercises (IPE) were halted after completion of only 50% of the targeted 125,000 population of concern. In

some settlements where verification and IPE were concluded just before the outbreak, the grace periods were also not fully realized.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Persons of concerns have access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD)

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision (disaggregated by individual and group procedures).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	730.50	90.00	547.87
2.3 Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Uganda's legal framework provides a progressive asylum system for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. The right afforded to refugees generally comply with international standards. The 2006 Refugee Act sets ninety days to consider and determine the refugee status of an applicant, however the increase in the number of asylum seekers against the existing government capacity, continuous increase in the number of asylum seekers, limited funding and Ebola and Covid-19 pandemics affected the realization of this provision. As a result, many asylum seekers waited between 1-2 years for RSD interviews and adjudication of their cases. This falls short of the 90-day statutory requirement for adjudication of an asylum application.

The Refugee Act allows asylum seekers to appear before the Appeals Board in person or be represented by an advocate at his or her expense. All asylum seekers have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim. UNHCR continued to advocate with legal aid service providers including the Uganda Law Society to offer pro bono legal aid services.

The Act also allows a representative of UNHCR to make oral or written representation on behalf of the person whose appeal is being heard.

In terms of progress made towards planned outcomes, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held 14 sessions and adjudicated 18,168 asylum applications of 37,421 individuals with a recognition rate of 90% largely involving Somalis, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Sudanese, Rwandans, Burundians, and other nationalities. A total of 16,069 applications of 29,787 individuals were granted refugee status while 1,832 applications of 6,893 individuals were rejected. UNHCR attended the sessions and provided technical and financial support to both the Refugee Eligibility Committee and the Refugee Appeals Board. South Sudanese refugees were granted refugee status on prima-facie basis. Most Congolese refugees were also recognized on prima facie basis, specifically those who entered Uganda through the official border entry points. The Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) held 12 sessions and reviewed 277 appeal cases of 969 individuals. Despite the above achievements, the current asylum seeker statistics indicate that a total of 32,165 individuals are pending either initial interview and/or decision on their asylum claim. In order to address the backlog, OPM employed simplified RSD procedures for specific caseloads. Meanwhile, trainings were provided to the Government RSD body which resulted in its enhanced capacity to deliberate on asylum applications.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Increased new arrivals were reported and total of 32,000 asylum seekers were pending RSD process as of December 2022. The backlog was attributed to the large influx of asylum seekers, insufficient infrastructure notably inadequate interview rooms in Kampala and settlements, limited number of RSD eligibility staff to

handle the large number of applications (there are currently 8 interviewing officers against a backlog of 32,000), Covid-19 and Ebola pandemics resulting in the suspension and reduction of RSD-related activities. Some in person trainings were also suspended due to the pandemics. Limited funding was a challenge, and this affected the RSD process leading to a reduction of the Refugee Eligibility Committee and Refugee Appeals Board sessions.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Stateless persons are sensitized on statelessness and supported to acquire Ugandan citizenship

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Uganda 2006 Refugee Act and its 2010 Regulations are consistent with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. In this regard, the 2006 Refugee Act provides a broader definition of refugee pursuant to the 1951 Convention as well as under the 1969 Organization of African Union (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The legislation also prohibits refoulement of asylum-seekers and promotes protection of refugees and asylum seekers rights while in the territory. This includes the right to seek asylum and be issued with the appropriate identity documents including civil documents. The Refugee Act also ensures that the refugees have access to conventional travel documents as well as the right to engage in wage-earning employment and other workplace rights and social security.

The legislation further accords refugees the same treatment as nationals with respect to education, safe and healthy working conditions, healthcare, access to courts of law, freedom of movement, right to practice religion, and the right of association with respect to non-political and non-profit associations. The law also treats refugees no less favorably than other persons of concern generally in the same circumstances with regards to acquisition of movable and immovable property.

Uganda is in the process of acceding to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In this regard, the Cabinet Memo was approved by the Ministry of Justice and cleared by the Ministry of Finance and has been submitted to the Immigration Board for onward presentation to the Cabinet.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

There were delays in the implementation of the following pledges by the government notably the pledge to: accede to the 1961 Convention; finalize the National Action Plan to serve as the national strategy to eradicate statelessness in the country by 2024; conduct a legal study on statelessness and citizenship in order to better understand and address the factors leaving certain populations stateless or at risk of statelessness; support comprehensive legal and constitutional reform; introduce, and implement safeguard in its nationality law to grant nationality to children born on the territory who would otherwise be stateless; introduce law reform to prevent denial of attribution of nationality at birth on discriminatory grounds; and ensure that the Maragoli, Benet, Ugandan-Asian and other unrecognised communities present in Uganda since before 1926 are recognised as citizens of Uganda.

The absence of comprehensive constitutional and law reforms to address some of the gaps in the legislation was a challenge. UNHCR continued to advocate with the Government to review some legislations especially the Nationality law with the aim of addressing statelessness focusing on communities at risk of statelessness and stateless populations.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Refugee communities progressively change their attitudes and contribute to reduced risk of

GBV to Women, men, boys and girls, with adequate and timely access to quality multisectoral services.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71.67%	93.00%	96.60%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with SGBV case management services.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	67.03%	70.00%	94.74%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By the end of 2022, the proportion of persons we serve who knew where to access available services stood at 95% (5,574) out of 5,851 reported incidents recorded in the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS). All 5,574 survivors received psychosocial support alongside other medical (1,288), legal (1,146), safety and security (803) and livelihood support (262). However, fear of stigmatization and negative traditional norms resulted in an under-reporting of Gender Based Violence (GBV) within the communities. Due to the 2022 refugee influx from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through Bunagana axis, DRC population group registered the highest number of GBV reported incidents at 47.8% followed by the South Sudan population group at 40.1%. The least incidents ranging from 4.6% to 1% was registered among the Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Uganda population groups. The majority of the GBV incidents occurred in the refugees' country of origin. 18% of the reported incidents were child survivors (12%), elderly persons (3%), persons with specific needs (2%) and Unaccompanied /separated children (1%).

The SASA! Rapid assessment report showed that 84.55% (F=87.56%, M=79.84%) of the respondents were able to recognize forms of violence against women. This is in line with the high knowledge levels attributed to the various activities conducted during project implementation. 191 (130F, 61M) staff from UNHCR and partner organizations working in Arua, Moyo, Kyaka, Bidibidi, Kampala field offices were trained on the SASA Together model (Compared to 145 staff in 2021). The 3-day training enhanced the understanding of staff on the model and strengthened skills of staff on facilitation, budgeting, and planning for SASA Together activities. Similarly, community structures (community activists, religious & cultural leaders, youth pyramids, RWCs) were trained and empowered to take lead on SASA campaigns as well as support in community mobilization initiatives geared towards prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV cases.

In 2022, the client feedback survey was introduced as a standard practice in all GBV response programs. The tool was developed at the beginning of 2022 to assess the quality of services delivered and the level of satisfaction of GBV survivors with the support received. According to the RRP tool (activity information) results following partner assessments on client satisfaction conducted, 95 % (1,658) of the survivors said that they were satisfied with the services received and cited that they would recommend others for assistance while 5% were dissatisfied because of inadequate livelihood and cash assistance, delays at service points, long distances, lack of timely feedback and follow-up, and perpetrators not arrested. Partners were also challenged by the limited GBV staff (Caseworkers) employed due to limited funding despite the vast and scattered nature of settlements in the operation hindering quality and timely support to survivors. The sector will follow up to ensure that the feedback provided is used to improve services.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The surge in new arrivals severely strained the already limited resources available for the refugee programs within the country. Inadequate human resources, in terms of numbers of case workers, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) partners to address deep trauma and police personnel, as well as high turnover of partner staff negatively impacted quality of case management services, and the number of survivors who were satisfied with these services. Other challenges include limited menstrual hygiene kits, late reporting and concealment of cases arising from negative cultural beliefs, power imbalances and

stigma, limited livelihood assistance for teenage mothers, lack of lighting in areas in settlements, inadequate women and girls' centers to enhance confidential counselling and women empowerment activities, delays in accessing legal redress by survivors, and limited funds to support SASA Implementation.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children including those unaccompanied or separated, have enhanced access to quality prevention and response services comprehensively addressing their short- and long-term needs.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As of December 2022, children represent 58 percent (871,447) of the total refugee population in Uganda. Out of the total children population, over 95,000 children are registered with specific child protection risks, of which over 90,000 are unaccompanied or separated children (UASC). Following a verification exercise concluded in Nov 2022, the number of children with specific needs, including UASC, increased from 45,000 in October to 95,000 in December. This change significantly affects the year-end value for this report.

In 2022, the child protection (CP) programme focused on four output areas: strengthening the national CP system, CP case management, safe alternative care for unaccompanied children (UAC), and engagement of families and communities to protect children. UNHCR and UNICEF co-chair the monthly national Child Protection Sub-Working group (CPSWG), whereas UNHCR and OPM co-chair the monthly settlement/field-level child protection sub-working groups. In 2022, a child protection assessment was conducted under the leadership of the national CPSWG, which identified the key CP risks in Uganda operation.

In 2022, Best Interests Procedure (BIP) was enhanced in line with the UNHCR revised BIP Guidelines. A total of 7200 children (3672 girls and 3528 boys) benefited from compressive BIP, reaching 78 percent of the target for 2022. UNHCR also strengthened Best Interests Determination (BID), and 767 BIDs were completed. UNHCR and its partners increasingly utilized UNHCR ProGres v4 as a case management tool. Moreover, 2200 partners and government staff were trained on CP. The national Case Management Taskforce, held monthly, provided technical support for the child protection actors on CP case management.

Regarding alternative care for UASC, 15,338 UASC were placed in appropriate alternative care following proper comprehensive assessments. This represents 54 percent of the target. More than 6000 biological and foster parents received training on positive parenting. In 2021 through the case management task force and CPSWG, UNHCR and CP actors developed operational tools and SOPs for streamlining alternative care interventions. Later, these tools/forms were presented and discussed with the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) for harmonization with the national Alternative Care tools and were approved for rollout and application in the countrywide refugee operation. During the reporting period, UNHCR and CP partners supported the MGLSD in rolling out the national alternative care framework in some refugee settlements, namely, Bidibidi, Nakivale/Oruchinga, Arua, Palorinya-Obongi and Kampala. Moreover, UNHCR and its partners supported community-based child protection programmes across the refugee settlements and in urban Kampala. These activities are supported in child and youth-friendly spaces, and 68,076 children benefit from the community-based activities. Finally, more than 6000 adolescents were supported through targeted programmes.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite Uganda's conducive and inclusive child protection environment with a dedicated Child Policy, the capacity of the national Child Protection system is limited. Meanwhile, limited financial and human resources including Child Protection expertise to support child-friendly procedures remained a challenge. In addition, lack of adequate alternative care and psychosocial support as well as limited birth registration were reported. UNHCR continued its collaborative engagement with UNICEF to support the development of appropriate Child Protection procedures within the national Child Protection system. The two agencies are working towards ensuring the eventual leadership of MGLSD in the protection of refugee children. High staff

turnover among the Child Protection partners and high children-to-case worker ratio (97:1) is also affecting the quality of the child protection services for children. Following a verification exercise in November, the number of children with specific needs increased from 49,000 to 95,000, affecting UNHCR's response capacity.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Persons of concern live in safety and have access to legal remedies

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By the end of 2022, a total of 203 individuals (02 Adjumani and 201 Kampala) were arrested and detained in relation to legal status largely during the police round up. All the individuals were accordingly released following advocacy by UNHCR with the Immigration authorities and the continued capacity development facilitated by UNHCR.

In addition to the above, the activities detailed below were implemented in a bid to enhance access to justice.

Access to legal assistance is central to ensuring access to justice, especially for the most vulnerable persons of concern. A total of 35,732 (17,661F, 18,071M) persons of concern received various forms of legal assistance and remedies. Legal representation was provided to 262 (41F, 221M) by Uganda Law Society in Yumbe, Arua and a contracted law firm in Kampala. This enabled persons of concern to access justice and protection from potential arbitrary arrests and detention.

Further, quarterly joint detention monitoring visits were conducted in Adjumani, Arua, Gulu, Yumbe and Kampala districts and a total of 1451 (123F, 1328M) refugee detainees were reached despite challenges related to the Ebola pandemic specifically prison visit restrictions. The refugees received legal assistance and material support, and this resulted in the improvement in the wellbeing of the refugees and living conditions. Meanwhile, regular follow up of refugee cases with the courts and Police led to investigations of the reported cases, fair hearing, and grant of court bails, release of detainees.

Meanwhile, 15 mobile court sessions were held in Arua, Yumbe and Adjumani, and 263 (45F, 218M) individuals benefited. This enabled fair trial, and timely disposal of cases. A total of 284 cases were resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Kampala and settlements. This led to timely disposal of cases and strengthened relations amongst families, and between the host community.

Sensitization of the refugees and host community on the laws of Uganda, were conducted and this resulted in enhanced knowledge and understanding of the referred laws including refugees' rights and obligations. A total of 47,797 (24,745F, 23,052M) individuals were reached.

UNHCR facilitated trainings on international and national laws, referral pathways, court decorum and ADR targeting police, community leaders, interpreters. A total of 641 (197F, 444M) individuals were trained. 08 Directorate Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings were also held in Adjumani and Yumbe to enhance justice delivery.

The above achievements were attributed to advocacy, capacity development, ongoing support to Justice Law and Order Sector, continued engagement of community structures and timely identification and reporting of cases.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The government of Uganda through the Justice Law and Order Sector made some effort to address the limited access to justice by the vulnerable and marginalized groups. Meanwhile, refugees continued to face challenges in accessing justice due to various reasons notably insufficient funds to facilitate legal response activities including legal representation, and facilitation of E-Justice mechanisms. High fees for legal

processes, limited knowledge of the laws of Uganda, language barrier, limited material support to community watch groups, insufficient number of police personnel especially female police, limited Police accommodation, inadequate police posts, and limited logistical support were reported. This contributed to low productivity of some police, and this affected follow up of reported cases, documentation, and investigations.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

All women, men, boys and girls of concern, including those of diverse backgrounds, are able to enjoy rights and play a central role in activities and decisions that affect them, and co-exist peacefully with neighbouring communities.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The engagement and empowerment of individuals and communities affected by forced displacement in Uganda have remained priorities for UNHCR and its partners in 2022. As a result, the various sectoral & technical community structures as well as the elected ones have continued to actively engage in community outreach, identifying and referring protection concerns, and prevention and response. In order to ensure a fair and transparent process of selection of the refugee representative, the joint guidelines for the designation of members of the Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs) was finalized and signed during the year. In Southwest, some elections were conducted in 3 settlements. Throughout the year, the refugee leaders have been trained on abuse and misuse of power, leadership roles, gender norms and cultural beliefs, leadership, protection and roles of community-based protection mechanisms. In addition to closely working with community structures at settlement level, the operation provided support to the Refugee Engagement Forum (REF), a national level forum of refugee leaders from all settlements and Kampala.

At both urban and settlement levels, affected individuals and communities have continued to be engaged by UNHCR and its partners through various means of consultations including individual protection interviews/assessments, home visits, focus group discussions (FGDs). Hence the data collection for the 2022 Participatory Assessment was conducted in Q4, including qualitative and quantitative data collection conducted by the partner IMPACT (REACH) through KIIs and FGDs with affected communities. The partner is currently completing the data analysis and development of the report which will be finalized in Q1 of 2023.

The Inter-Agency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) has helped to ensure that UNHCR and partners are better placed to identify needs and respond to POCs feedback and complaints in a timely manner. In 2022, a total of 35,064 individual queries were received from refugee settlements and transit centres by the FRRM helpline representing an 11% decrease from 2021. This has represented an average of 2,922 calls per month.

UNHCR has also coordinated the work of the Gender and LGBTI focal points to mainstream and advance gender equality and create safe spaces for LGBTI individuals across the refugee response. In 2022, support packages for community leaders were dispatched to facilitate AGD awareness raising sessions with their communities, including in emergency-affected areas. The support packages contain SASA! materials, such as posters and comics, as well as information about the UNHCR AGD policy and questions on provision of support to women's empowerment, PSNs and minority groups. As of December 2022, the percentage of women in leadership positions and community structures is 39%, which represents a stalemate from already 39% in 2021.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Some cultural attitudes and practices by men and boys have continued to negatively affect the participation of women and girls in decision-making processes and leadership within their communities. In some settlements, patriarchal attitudes and beliefs in the community have resulted in reluctance of women to run for leadership positions.

The funding constraints have impacted the support provided to refugee leaders equally affected community mobilization. As a result, the refugee-led organizations and community-based organizations (RLOs/CBOs) have not had sufficient funding and some tools could only be provided to leaders in selected positions, resulting in exclusion of others and triggering regular complaints. The representatives lacked means of transport, office space, furniture, stationery, leading to poor documentation of issues for the attention of UNHCR and partners.

The wide geographical coverage of the settlements hindered community engagements and mobilization. Youth programming and community infrastructure have remained inadequate in 2022. The regular home visits, the management of cases and protection desks were affected by low staffing of partners which made the desks operational only once a week in some settlements.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

POCs have greater dignity of choice in meeting needs through monetisation of NFIs, while ensuring sustainable utilisation of environment and natural resources.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
8.2 Proportion of PoC with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology [SDG 7.1.2 Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.91%	50.00%	27.26%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022 UNHCR continued to disseminate energy-saving cooking stoves to refugee households in a bid to reduce the amount of fuel (wood) consumed at household level. Only 9.2% of the households were reached (which is equivalent to roughly 175,745 people of which 2% were among urban refugees, 4% in host community, 62% South Sudanese refugees and the rest Congolese. From 2020 – 2022, the cumulative access to improved cookstoves is 24.1% (about 407,750 POCs).

Energy saving institutional stoves were constructed for schools in the Southwest, 4 of which were by Nsamizi and Oxfam and the rest by operational partner JESE. 2,576 local stove artisans were trained by UNHCR and partners. Furthermore, 104.06 tonnes of briquettes were produced and distributed among households as alternative fuel for cooking. Of these, 79% were distributed among households of new arrivals of Congolese refugees in Southwest (5,395 households) and the rest produced in Kampala (13 tonnes) and West Nile (9.8 tonnes in 215 households). Also, 6,133 people were trained to make briquettes and 12 briquette making groups supported with equipment to enhance productivity, and connected to markets to sell their briquettes.

In 2022, UNHCR in partnership with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) replanted 250 hectares of degraded Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) in proximity to refugee settlements which brought the total area replanted and protected from 2019 to date to 1,021ha representing 4% of the national target of 25,000ha, reaching 55.6% of the target.

National Forest Authority also raised and distributed a total of 7.01 million assorted tree seedlings from the 13 central tree nurseries within or close to refugee hosting districts for planting in woodlots as well as among households.

875.3 hectares of new woodlands for firewood, poles and timber were established by UNHCR implementing partners across the operation of which 205 hectares were established in SW and the rest in West Nile. Operating partners also supported the establishment of an additional 129.5 hectares of woodlands bringing the total area of established to 1004.5ha.

A total of 1368.55 hectares of existing woodlands and plantations were maintained using cash-for-work modality where refugee groups support with land clearing, planting, and weeding at a fee thereby generating some income. Maintenance in some cases was done using the taungya system where landlords allow refugees to grow short rotation food crops among the trees such that as they weed their food crops, they weed the trees too. Maintenance is done to ensure that tree seedlings planted out can survive in the field and this must be done for the first three years of the trees after which they are able to grow with minimum intervention. NFA alone maintained 550ha within the CFR replanted. In Southwest, wetlands were demarcated with a total of 157.3 hectares of trees to curb the rampant encroachment of these sensitive ecosystems.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Based on the UCRRP, the target was to disseminate 60,100 stoves among households. By end of year 57.1% was achieved and 42.8% was unmet. Reasons for unmet target is because of the L2 emergency that occurred in 2022 with more than 90,000 Congolese refugees fleeing armed conflict in the DRC and arriving in Uganda through Bundibugyo and Kisoro. The new arrivals increased the magnitude of the unmet needs in terms of access to improved energy-saving cookstoves. Furthermore, partners had to reallocate some funding from enhancing access to clean cooking technologies to other immediate needs of the new arrivals.

Annually, refugees require 1.2 million tonnes of wood fuel to meet their cooking requirements which is equivalent to over 58,000 hectares of woodlands per annum (approximately 64.5 million trees or 80,000 football pitches). At a bare minimum, UNHCR should be planting and growing at least 10,000 hectares p.a. which is equivalent to 11.1 million trees. However, the pace of woodlot establishment and maintenance has not kept up with the rate at which trees are being cut down as evidenced by planting 7.01 million trees in 2022. This is because this sector receives some of the smallest budget allocations annually.

The influx of Congolese refugees also increased the pressure on the already marginal natural resources which means the demand for wood fuel and poles for construction has increased which must be matched with an equivalent number of trees.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Improved access to quality health integrated services for all PoCs

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.14%	97.59%	95.00%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. [SDG 3.1.2 Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.77%	96.12%	96.79%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Measles Vaccination

There were 52,739 children vaccinated against measles in 2022 compared to 39,096 children in 2021. The overall coverage in the refugee settlement was 96% with a coverage of 95% among the South Sudanese and 97% among the Congolese. The Ministry of Health procured vaccines for the refugees as well as host community. UNHCR conducted integrated outreaches in the refugee settlements to ensure access to the services for all the refugees. In addition, the organization procured cold chain equipment to ensure availability of vaccines at all the health facilities for static vaccination. There was door-to-door community sensitization through VHTs as well as community dialogues hence ensuring that community members were empowered to make informed decisions for their children getting vaccinated. Furthermore, UNHCR supported with the logistics in the movement of the vaccines from the district vaccine store to the health facilities as well as the outreach sites. UNHCR supported with the data tools for the recording of the vaccination data. On-site mentorships and support supervision were conducted at all the health facilities serving refugees hence ensuring improvement in the skills and knowledge of health workers. UNHCR further supported with medical supplies needed to conduct vaccination at the health facilities and outreach sites.

Skilled Birth Attendance

In 2022, 64,419 (38,432 refugees & 25,987 nationals) mothers attended first ANC visit (ANC 1) and 18,796 (44%) attended within the first trimester, 186,377 had repeat visits of which 39,951 attended at least 4 ANC visits with a coverage of 95% against live births of 52985 (29102 refugees & 23,883 nationals) and 95% were conducted by skilled health workers. The health care workers were also trained in provision of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn care (BeMONC) and 2,747 Village Health Teams (VHTs) to conduct pregnancy mapping. The VHTs were engaged in identifying pregnant mothers in the community and linking them to facilities to attend Antenatal Care (ANC) clinic with follow up activities being conducted both at the facility and community to ensure that mothers have a birth preparedness plan and deliver at the facility. Some of the factors contributing to increased skilled birth attendance included; community engagement with stakeholders on safe motherhood practices including male involvement in MCH, improved staff attitude as reflected in the FRRM report, and other use of patient satisfaction surveys to improve services, use of weekly performance review meetings targeting Maternal Child Health, targeted supportive supervision for maternal child health (MCH) services, establishment of at-risk mothers tracking system at facility and community level including line listing of pregnant mothers at facilities and sharing the names with VHTs for follow-up, continued sensitization and awareness sessions on the importance of facility delivery.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Measles Vaccination

Among the key challenges were stock-out of measles vaccines at the health facilities due to delays in the distribution by the Ministry of Health as well as under quantification of the needs by the local authorities. In addition, there was a continued refugee influx which caused increased demand for vaccines contributing to the vaccine stock-outs in some locations. Furthermore, some of the new arrivals were arriving from countries of origin with measles outbreaks hence imported cases, there was hesitancy to take up vaccination services which was addressed through behaviour change communication.

Skilled Birth Attendance

There are still some capacity gaps with 67% of HCWs trained in provision of BeMONC services and only 70% of the facilities providing delivery services. Some of the health facilities, Maaji C HCII, Pagirnya HCII, Idiwa HCIII, Belle HCIII, and Luru HCIII don't have maternity wards and services are provided in temporary structures. However, through the MoH development fund, Idiwa HCIII, Belle HCIII, and Luru HCIII have been mapped for infrastructural upgrade in 2023. Some of the infrastructural challenges have also led to delayed arrival of mothers to facilities so that they are not left to wait for long with insufficient beds in some locations to manage the big numbers of mothers in labor. Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) are also still within the communities and some mothers prefer to use their services sighting better care. These are however continuously being engaged particularly to identify, link and refer mothers to health facilities for delivery. There is also a need to strengthen community structures to continue sensitization about need for timely and complete ANC attendance as well as the risks of community deliveries.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Inclusive, equitable and quality education at all levels for all PoCs

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education system. [GCR 2.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.77%	20.00%	29.61%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Proportion of PoC enrolled in tertiary and higher education:

There are challenges in the measurement and monitoring of POCs enrolled in tertiary education. Data gaps do exist on the number of POCs enrolled in the various universities and institutions offering tertiary education outside refugee settlements. Data currently used to track this indicator derives from UNHCR's DAFI University Scholarship for refugees residing in Uganda. A survey is also underway at the national level whose results will be used to update data. With new refugee arrivals from DRC and South Sudan in 2022, the number of POC's in the age bracket 18 -24 was 591,654. The need for tertiary education scholarships continued to increase. While the number of applicants for DAFI scholarships increased by 27% i.e., from 1,224 in 2021 to 1,558 in 2022, less than 1% of this population is being supported under programme. In 2022, a total of 400 students (242M & 158F) benefited from the programme. To calculate the actual for 2022 students that completed the program in 2021 and 2022 (totaling 515 students) were included. Additional stakeholders offering tertiary education include UK Masters Programme (15) and World Universities Student Council (WUSC) through the Student Refugee sponsorship/resettlement programme (35).

11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education systems:

This indicator is calculated using the number of POCs enrolled in government public schools divided by the total number of POCs in primary and secondary school age. However, the results are not comprehensive since refugees also enroll in schools outside the settlements, where tracking may not be ongoing. Upon full operationalization of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) by the Ministry of Education and Sports, tracking of enrolment and education achievements of refugees will be possible. UNHCR's inclusion roadmap aspires to advocate for progressive government coding (grant-aid) of 50 percent of schools in the refugee settlements, with priority focus on facilities that address the needs of both refugees and hosts community in an integrated manner. Currently, 36% coded and grant aided are integrated in the national education service delivery system.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

A key challenge for refugees is accessing financial aid for tertiary education. Most schemes target nationals and not refugees explicitly. Certification and documentation of prior learning and qualifications is another challenge. Whilst no legal or policy barriers bar refugees from accessing certification of their academic qualifications through the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), they normally find costs associated with these processes prohibitive. In addition, the NCHE does not have processes to certify, equate or recognize lost academic documents. While refugees are able to register with some professional bodies before practice, those with teaching qualifications are not able to register in the Teacher Management Information System (TMIS), the online portal for teacher management in Uganda. Registration into TMIS requires possession of a national identity card.

Despite the strong enabling environment for the inclusion of refugees in the national system, numerous

challenges persist. The number of out of school refugee children remains high, coded schools in the settlements are few, classrooms are overcrowded, large teacher to pupil ratios are characteristic and budgets at district level are insufficient to allow for regular school inspections. Analysis reveals gaps in teacher and classrooms ratios are outside national standards.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water services are integrated in national structures

Satisfactory and dignified conditions of sanitation and hygiene for all PoCs

PoCs have access to sufficient potable water

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

84.2% of refugees, asylum seekers and hosting population used basic drinking water, a reduction from over 90% in 2021, according to Household KAP survey report of December 2022. During the year 2022, water was provided and accessed by the population at an average per capita rate of 17.6 litres per person per day (lpd) compared to 24.3lpd in 2021. The target in terms of quantity could not be realized due to lack of infrastructure development to meet the additional needs due to new arrivals. The distance from the farthest user to a water point is 649m, within 1Km Ugandan standard and less than 30minutes round trip, All these have been achieved by partners maintaining 95% functionality of 215 motorized water systems. These systems were powered, by renewable energy sources - 43% (solar energy - 37% and national electricity grid-10%). The use of diesel fuel for pumping water reduced from 19% in 2021 to 12% in 2022. 11 production wells were drilled and equipped with hand pumps, 1,095 hand pumps were maintained. 11 new water systems were constructed and 14.98km of pipe network extended to underserved areas. A total of 5 natural springs have been rehabilitated and 4 new ones constructed in new arrival villages and hosting communities. To improve water storage, 2 new reservoirs were installed. Faily water quality monitoring at chlorinated and non-chlorinated water was carried out. Under the transition agenda into national systems, MoU to transition three settlements have been signed between UNHCR, NWSC and OPM.

80% had access to safe household toilet, a reduction from 86.6% in 2021 due to flooding and new arrivals A total of 8,359 household and 1,739 communal emergency latrines were installed. In addition, 182 stances of institutional latrines were constructed.

Hygiene and sanitation promotional activities.

Environmental health and hygiene campaigns were conducted by 2,734 Village Health Teams (VHTs). The refugee and host population were reached with messages on home hygiene improvement, food hygiene, O&M of hygiene and sanitation facilities, faecal oral route disease transmission management, vector control. Campaigns were geared towards adaptation of hygiene and sanitation behaviour transformation for reduced public health-related infections. The district health inspectorate in hosting districts supported community engagements for sustained positive behaviour change.

Hand washing practices are at an average of 68% according to the KAP survey conducted at the end of 2022. There has been an increase registered due to massive community sensitization focusing on Covid - 19 and Ebola best practices and routine hygiene practices of washing hands after critical moments. Sensitization campaigns at water points on hand washing and jerrican cleaning were scaled up during the year following the risk of Covid-19 transmission and cross contamination in water chain management.

Regarding waste management, the settlement is better equipped in waste management at household level with 86.17% HH having waste disposal pit (KAP survey 2022).

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The key challenge is the increased number of new arrivals that outstripped the available funds for

infrastructure development in the settlements. Most new arrivals villages are accessing water far less than the emergency threshold and per capita access levels less than 10lpd is being reported in Palabek, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali and Nakivale settlements. Similarly, household latrine coverage is far below 30% in areas where new refugees are settled, mainly due to increased new arrivals numbers. Lastly, close to 1000 household latrines in Palorinya and Adjumani that were affected by floods have not been rehabilitated due to lack of funding. This plunged latrine access levels in Palorinya from over 77% in 2021 to less than 50% in 2022. Institutional waste management only caters for solid waste leaving a big gap in faecal waste management.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

PoCs have improved short-term self-reliance measures, actively participating in the local economy through food production and income generation for self-sustenance.

Comprehensive settlement planning to ensure a conducive environment and access to sustainable natural resources and ecosystem services for socioeconomic transformation and resilience in all refugee settlements and hosting communities.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
13.2. Proportion of PoC who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.67%	27.00%	11.50%
13.3 Proportion of PoC (working age) who are unemployed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	74.06%	67.00%	15.30%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR in partnership with the government of Uganda supported refugees to access some 15,000 acres of arable land in West Nile and Northern Uganda. Through this initiative, 1,890 households were supported to plant a total of 1,633 acres with crops for food security. In addition, partners trained 1,812 farmers (800 from South Sudan and 1,012 from DR Congo) using climate-smart technologies and supported them to maximize food production from small plots of land that they were allocated using small-scale irrigation techniques, especially during the dry season.

In addition, about 1035 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan and 88 farmers in the host communities were trained on good agronomic practices for rice and post-harvest handling. Trained rice farmers were supported to plant a total of 742 acres of rice and provided with 20 assorted post-harvest kits, while a rice huller was installed in Adjumani with the aim of increasing farmers' incomes through rice processing. As of December 2022, farmers harvested 452 metric tons of rice valued at about USD610,000, from about 500 out of the 742 acres that were planted.

In partnership with Swisscontact, a social business non-profit organization, and in collaboration with the government, UNHCR facilitated refugees and asylum seekers in Kyangwali refugee settlement to invest in mushroom production with the aim of improving food security and increasing incomes. Using a group-based and market-driven learning approach, Swisscontact facilitated private sector companies to provide training on mushroom production, extension services and access to markets for 1,168 refugees, 61% of them women. In addition, 1,214 people were employed mainly in the mushroom value chain. The trained refugees and asylum seekers from DR Congo, produced and sold mushrooms worth about USD 68 per individual per month. UNHCR's initial investment of USD 100,000 yielded total revenue of about USD 220,000 in mushroom sales by refugees and asylum seekers in a period of three months.

To facilitate access to formal employment for refugees, UNHCR together with the International Labor Organization, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development engaged with private sector entities, including Tea Estates that expressed interest to employ refugees in

their plantations. Following the inspection of the Tea Estates by the MGLSD, an initial 75 refugees were selected to work with Mcleod, one of the associated companies, that indicated potential to employ a total of 4,000 refugees.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Although the Government of Uganda allocates each refugee household a plot of land for shelter and small-scale farming, only 42% of refugees have access to land for agricultural activities compared to 82% of Ugandans. Each refugee household farms on an average of 0.6 acres compared to 2.7 acres for households in host communities, and is below 2.5 acres, the minimum recommended acreage for a household to transition from subsistence farming to resilient and growth-oriented production for the market.[1] Due to poor rainfall in 2022, most of the poor refugees living in settlements in Uganda were exposed to hunger and reduced incomes from crop sales as stocks from below-average harvests were depleted within 1-2 months.

Despite efforts by UNHCR and the Government to strengthen coordination with partners and to profile refugees for assistance, there is still duplication of livelihood support in the settlements due to absence of clear data and joint partner strategies on refugees and asylum seekers receiving support from the partners. Although 20 percent of refugee households own a non-agricultural enterprise,[only 31 percent of refugees and asylum seekers access some form of financial services compared to 51 percent of households in the host communities, thus affecting the capacity of refugees to start and run enterprises

Ref:

World Bank report (available through:

Famine Early Warning Systems Network report for August 2022 (available on: <https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda>)

World Bank report 2019

FSNA 2022

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees are supported to return voluntarily to their countries of origin in safety and with dignity.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR and the government of Uganda planned to voluntarily repatriate 10,000 Burundian refugees to Burundi. In line with this, a total of 6,906 Burundian refugees were facilitated by UNHCR and Uganda government to return to Burundi through Tanzania in safety and dignity. The refugees were mainly from Nakivale refugee settlement, and a few were from Kyaka and Rwamanja refugee settlements. Prior to the exercise, the refugees were provided with adequate information on the situation in Burundi to enable them to make informed decisions. UNHCR also provided basic cash assistance to refugees who had registered for the exercise.

Since the commencement of the repatriation exercise in Uganda, in December 2020, a total of 10,993 Burundian refugees have been supported to return to Burundi. In 2023, UNHCR and the Government of Uganda will move the promotion stage of the repatriation exercise. There is no plan at this stage for organized return to SSD.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

During the period under review, the following challenges were reported specifically lack of adequate funding to support the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees. This led to delays in departure of convoys and as a result some refugees opted to return to Burundi spontaneously through Rwanda and Tanzania. Meanwhile, lack of resources also impacted negatively on the integration of refugees in Burundi upon their return. Owing to the integration challenges, some refugees decided to return to Uganda. This led to the decrease in the number of refugees opting to return to Burundi.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Vulnerable or at risk refugees benefit from larger opportunities for resettlement while complementary pathways are sought for talented refugees and advocacy for stateless persons.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,354	3,700	3,790
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	906.00	1,200.00	1,049.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Initially Uganda had a combined resettlement quota of 4,780 individuals, that was revised to 3700 persons due to the impact of Ebola in the last quarter. BPRM provided additional funding to increase staffing. Protection unit referred over 5300 individuals for resettlement assessment to support case identification. Senior national and international resettlement staff were regularly mobilized across the operation to support field capacity. By year end, Uganda submitted 102.57% against its target; 124 individuals submitted to Canada; 217 to Norway; 418 to Sweden and 3,025 individuals to the USA. The operation revised Standard Operating Procedures and a Multi-Functional Team including Headquarters, Regional Bureau and Uganda staff made further recommendations to increase the efficiency of referrals and resettlement processing in 2023.

To support 161 complementary pathway departures the operation assisted 269 refugees. Assistance included coordination with embassies, with the government of Uganda to obtain CTDs and exit permits, and with partner organizations to provide logistical support. Counselling sessions were held for refugees who needed information about procedures. Information sharing via social media platforms, community centers, partner organizations increased interest and applications. FCA was identified as a pathways partner and with UNHCR piloted a Canada labor mobility project with TBB and FCA, resulting in 98 individuals being promoted for third-country employment opportunities in 2023.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

A revised resettlement submission target of 3700 individuals was met, despite consistent challenges. Challenges included a low rate of referrals to the RST units in the North of the country, low percentage of cases graduating from identification to submission, poor quality of refugee data, no-shows for interviews, pendular movements between Country of Origin and Asylum and incomplete/complex family composition. The Ebola outbreak in the last quarter of the year compromised plans to increase resettlement processing in affected areas of the country. Mitigation efforts include revisions to SOPs to improve accuracy and efficiency of referrals, and piloting of new identification methodologies. The office has secured a deployment position to further coordination and expansion of Complementary pathway activities in 2023.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Coordination with OPM, District Local Government and Partners strengthened

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Uganda was among the countries which received the highest number of country specific pledges at the first GRF in 2019, with over 70 pledges received. The Government of Uganda made six pledges which emphasize a multi-stakeholder approach to refugee management. Uganda demonstrates model implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) through the government-led Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This structure is spearheaded by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), facilitated by UNHCR, and guided by the participation of a wide range of stakeholders (including donors, humanitarian and development partners, private sector, and the refugee leadership). The existing commitments, together with the pledges made by the Government of Uganda at the GRF, are intended to achieve the goals of the GCR and its CRRF. These goals are included within the framework of the National Development Plan III (2020/21 – 2024/25), which provides for inclusion of refugees in the statistics that guides development planning, budgeting, and implementation, including the upcoming census in 2023.

Inclusion

tools in Education (2018 & 2022), Health (2019), Water and Environment (2019), Sustainable Energy (SERP) and Jobs & Livelihood Refugee Response Plans are finalized and are at different stages of implementation. Development actors have mobilized resources aligning with the Plans as an entry point. This in theory, allow for more collaboration of humanitarian development nexus stakeholders to step in for longer term solutions for refugees under government leadership in key service delivery sectors and avoid parallel systems. UNHCR is increasing its advocacy with partners, including development actors, to bridge the humanitarian-development divide and further facilitate the transition from humanitarian response to stabilization, recovery, and development.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Advocacy for inclusion of refugees into national services is an ongoing initiative that UNHCR is pursuing with the Government of Uganda and other development actors. The challenge still remains the issue of process and procedures that need to be followed in order to achieve integration for refugees. For example, integration of refugee data into the national census will require time and resources. Other services such as health, education and WASH need to follow government standards as it relates to code essential infrastructure.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR continues to strive to achieve AGD inclusion across all sectors of the response. In 2022, one key area of implementation has been the improvement in collection and provision of disaggregated data to inform services' provision. Late 2022, the individual profiling exercise/verification of the population was completed while including specific questions on disabilities. The SOPs related to Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) were also finalized and rolled out. The requirement for all partners to have a AGD workplan incorporated to their PPAs has continued to be monitored.

In Q4 2022, the qualitative and quantitative data collection for the Participatory Assessment was conducted by the partner IMPACT through KIIs and FGDs with affected communities. The data analysis is currently being completed and development of the report which will be finalized in Q1 of 2023.

UNHCR coordinated the work of the Gender and LGBTI focal points as per the developed work plans with activities aimed to mainstream and advance gender equality and create safe spaces for LGBTI individuals. In 2022, the operation dispatched the support packages for community leaders to facilitate AGD awareness raising sessions with their communities, including in emergency-affected areas.

An established inter-agency AAP and Communication with Communities (AAP & CwC) Task Team is the forum for all services' providers in the sector. Key achievements in 2022 included coordination of emergencies risk communication, updating of mapping of communication tools and complaints and feedback mechanisms, development of key AAP indicators, and provision of AAP related inputs to the RRP 2022-23 strategy and results framework as well as contributions to emergency and contingency planning related documents.

The Inter-Agency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) has helped to ensure that UNHCR and partners are better placed to identify needs and respond to POCs' feedback and complaints in a timely manner. In 2022, a total of 35,064 individual queries were received from settlements and transit centres, representing an 11% decrease from 2021.

As of December 2022, the percentage of women in leadership positions and community structures is 39%, which represents a stalemate from already 39% in 2021.

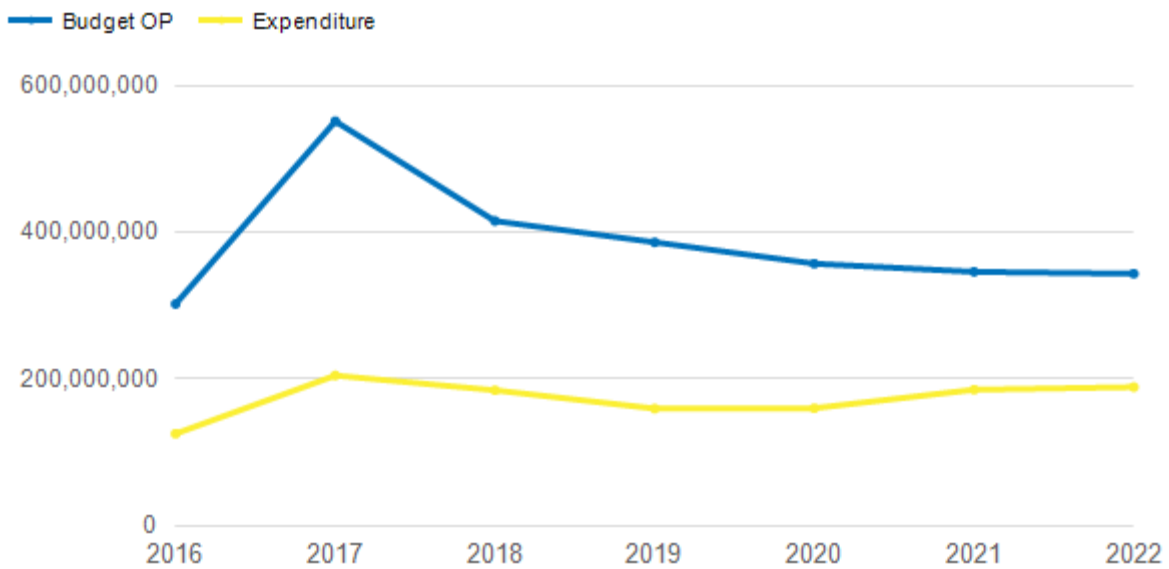
Section 3: Resources

3.1 Financial Data

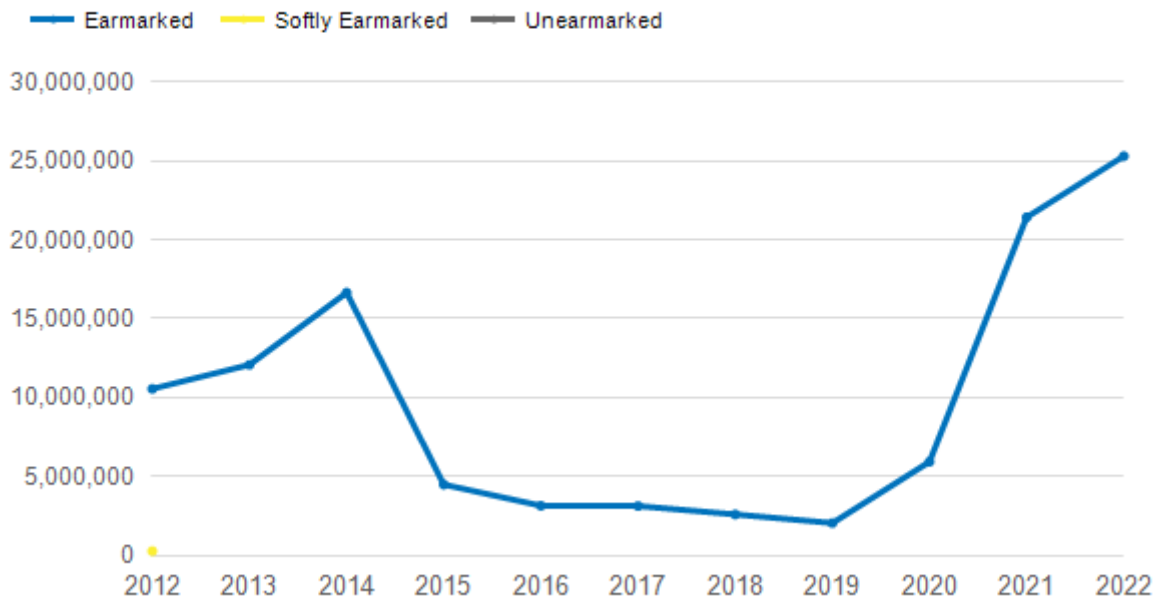
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	100,838,020	69,064,753	68.49%	68,951,482	99.84%
IA2: Respond	135,926,534	73,926,162	54.39%	74,183,947	100.35%
IA3: Empower	99,128,444	41,711,515	42.08%	41,894,015	100.44%
IA4: Solve	7,500,001	3,923,573	52.31%	3,923,573	100.00%
All Impact Areas		440,970	0.00%		0.00%
Total	343,392,999	189,066,973	55.06%	188,953,017	99.94%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	16,436,702	13,579,262	82.62%	13,579,262	100.00%
OA2: Status	4,832,762	1,602,990	33.17%	1,602,990	100.00%
OA4: GBV	12,159,375	5,834,311	47.98%	5,834,311	100.00%
OA5: Children	17,939,918	7,547,189	42.07%	7,547,189	100.00%
OA6: Justice	7,287,696	2,916,472	40.02%	2,916,472	100.00%
OA7: Community	25,167,429	12,995,043	51.63%	13,139,557	101.11%
OA8: Well-being	31,170,230	30,097,450	96.56%	30,097,450	100.00%
OA10: Health	47,633,579	33,865,431	71.10%	33,865,431	100.00%
OA11: Education	47,701,831	23,109,220	48.45%	23,109,220	100.00%
OA12: WASH	20,256,456	9,705,974	47.92%	9,705,974	100.00%
OA13 Livelihood	67,958,214	11,670,940	17.17%	11,853,440	101.56%
OA14: Return	2,768,151	1,022,481	36.94%	1,022,481	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	4,731,850	2,967,065	62.70%	2,967,065	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	15,577,183	10,375,694	66.61%	10,375,694	100.00%
EA17: Systems		196	0.00%	196	100.00%
EA18: Support	21,771,622	21,336,285	98.00%	21,336,285	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		440,970	0.00%		0.00%
Total	343,392,999	189,066,973	55.06%	188,953,017	99.94%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

The Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan for 2022 was 55% funded leaving a funding gap of some 45%. This under funding situation affected humanitarian partners collaborating through the RRP framework.

Some sector activities including health and education could not be fully funded resulting to plan for activity cut in some critical sectors. However, the plan could not be implemented pending discussion with the Government of Uganda. The funding trend also affected direct implementation activities including procurement of fuel, spare parts, medicines and rehabilitation of roads and other infrastructure. Some operational partners announced their departure from the refugee settlements because of lack of funding thus increasing further the burden on UNHCR meet the gap left by those partners.



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