

Annual Results Report

2023

Uganda

Acknowledgements

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, the operational context in Uganda recorded a slight change due to an increase in asylum seekers from Sudan because of the ongoing conflict in that country. Consistent with its “open door policy,” the Government of Uganda admitted the newly arrived Sudanese asylum seekers and applied for prima facie status as of November 2023. By the end of 2023, over 12,000 Sudanese had arrived in Uganda. Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People (Refugees) and asylum seekers in Uganda continue to have unhindered access to humanitarian assistance and other government services, including legal protection, health, and education. The basic rights of Refugees and asylum seekers continue to be respected, allowing them to enjoy freedom of movement and the right to work. The planned election in South Sudan in 2023 was postponed to 2024, with the country facing relative calmness.

The conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) led to a continued inflow of Congolese Refugees in 2023. Similarly, in the West Nile region, the country recorded high numbers of asylum seekers from South Sudan due to declining economic conditions as well as inter-ethnic and communal conflict. The unpredictable situation in Uganda’s northern and western neighbors puts the country in a precarious situation of being a year-round refugee-receiving country.

At the end of 2023, Uganda was hosting 1,615,162 Refugees, compared to 1,495,688 in 2022, representing an eight percent increase. The main drivers of population change are the continuous inflow of South Sudanese refugees, conflict in Sudan, and instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Of the refugee population in Uganda, 57 percent are from South Sudan, 31 percent from the DRC, with the rest originating from Somalia, Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and twenty-five other countries. Around 60 percent had specific needs, including serious medical conditions, specific legal and physical protection needs, and children at risk. The population continues to be mostly women and children, who make up 80% of the refugees in Uganda.

Climate change trends observed worldwide have also been confirmed in Uganda, manifested through increased temperatures, erratic rainfalls, and extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and landslides. Floods in Adjumani District in September 2023 devastated the central market area and displaced 5,000 people in Nyumanzi Settlement. The impact of climate change remains one of the greatest risks – by magnitude and disruption potential – to the agriculture sector which is the primary source of livelihoods in Uganda where it directly employs 68% of working populations. The destruction in agricultural crops and livestock from the searing heat of the dry season and frequent floods in rainy season is a direct result of climate change which has worsened the living conditions and has the potential to increase tensions that might lead to conflict between refugees and host communities. UNHCR in Uganda is planning to develop an operation specific environment and energy strategy in 2024 based on global targets introduced in Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022-2025 and UNHCR’s Focus Area Strategic Plan for Climate Action 2024-2030 to effectively mitigate the impact of climate and support resilience.

In May 2023, the Government of Uganda enacted a restrictive law against sexual and gender minorities (SGM) the Anti- Homosexuality Act 2023(AHA) Since its enactment, civil society organisation has reported cases of unjustified arrest, violence, discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community In August 2023, the Directorate of Public Prosecution directed that all charges preferred under AHA should obtain approval from the Directorate of Public Prosecution before a charge is preferred. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal puts the principles of equality, inclusion, participation, accountability and non-discrimination at the heart of the SDGs. Following the enactment of the AHA, the World Bank announced in August 2023 the suspension of new public financing to Uganda. In December 2023, the Government of Uganda announced five pledges during the Global Refugee compact. The pledges include increasing resilience and self-reliance, empowering refugees to secure their livelihoods, taking action against climate change, access to sustainable energy in refugee hosting areas, localizing the refugee response and building durable solution and transition management.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2025 Uganda's asylum space is maintained and unhindered; access to territory is preserved; and international protection standards are adhered to.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

At the end of December 2023, the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Uganda stood at 1,615,162. Uganda continued to receive asylum seekers from the DRC, South Sudan, Sudan, and other countries. The Government of Uganda declared prima facie recognition for Sudanese asylum seekers following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023.

Uganda remains a model in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugee (GCR) through the government-led Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Refugees and asylum-seekers are included in national and district plans through sector response plans in education, health, livelihoods, water, and energy.

Despite a generally favorable protection environment, the increased number of asylum seekers coupled with a reduction in food rations continued to impact the vulnerability of refugees, resulting in onward movements. The lack of funding and the burden on already overburdened social services made the situation even worse.

Uganda's Refugee Act acknowledges the right of Refugees to free movement within the country. The framework aligns with international principles and standards articulated in the 1951 Refugee Convention.

In May 2023, the Parliament of Uganda passed into law the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA), which introduces restrictions on homosexuality, same sex marriage, and any promotion of LGBTQ+ lifestyles in Uganda. The AHA imposes serious penalties for homosexual conduct, promotion, and concealment. However, while the AHA criminalizes homosexuality (the act), 'aggravated' homosexuality, same sex marriage, and neglect/failure to report acts criminalized by the statute, it does not penalize a person for being a homosexual.

On refoulement, no cases were reported during the period under review. This was largely attributed to the progressive refugee approach by the government and the capacity development of border officials and law enforcement on international protection by UNHCR and the government.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2025 all forcibly displaced and host communities benefit from a healthy natural environment, and improved social services, including health, education, water and sanitation, and social welfare, provided through national systems where possible.

By 2025 life-saving humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are met, with attention to any specific needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.00%	95.00%

In 2023, Refugees continued to access health services at the same level as nationals. Services were accessed through 103 health facilities, of which 85 percent were directly supported by the district local government. The support included the provision of human resources, essential medicines, and supplies. Primary health care services were provided free to both nationals and Refugees at the district local government health facilities. The patients that required secondary and tertiary services were referred to the district, regional, and tertiary hospitals, respectively. According to the UNHCR-IMPACT assessment for the health sector, 95% of respondents who had a sick member in their household were able to access care at a health facility.

A total of 2,485,127 consultations were provided at the outpatient departments, of which 26 percent were host populations. Of the consultations, 145,801 (94,032 Refugees and 51,769 host population) were admitted to the inpatient wards, with a further 17,292 referrals made to higher-level facilities. The health facility utilization rate was 1.4 (standard: 1–4 new visits per person per year), which indicates a stable health situation. Overall, there was a decrease in consultations from 2,506,115 in 2022.

The community health program reached 439,300 people with health promotion and disease prevention programmes, including early diagnosis and treatment. In 2024, with the reduction in the health budget allocation, some of the outposts will be closed, and reductions have also been made to the partner health workforce. However, there are ongoing discussions and commitments from the Ministry of Health to have an additional 20 health facilities taken up for support, including human resources for health support. Some of the locations will also be supported through outreaches to enable access to essential health services.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2025 all forcibly displaced and host communities live peacefully with each other, and progressively attain self-reliance in a conducive environment for livelihoods opportunities.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	46.69%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.73%	95.60%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.57%	10.15%

Enrollment in primary education. The gross enrollment rate (GER) in primary education increased from 88.73% in 2022 to 97% in 2023. The total number of Refugees enrolled in 2022 was 298,019 (47% girls and 53% boys), compared to 320,677 (47% girls and 53% boys) in 2023. The number of primary school-age children in the refugee population (denominator) slightly increased from 345,007 in 2022 to 361,234 in 2023, indicating a positive. Primary school enrollment among Refugees continues to compare well to the national context (123%) and the global refugee average (63%).

Enrollment in secondary education. The GER in secondary education decreased from 11.5% in 2022 to 10% in 2023. However, further analysis reveals a slight increase in the number of Refugees enrolled, which grew from 23,516 in 2022 to 25,973 in 2023. The data indicates that the number of secondary school-age children in the refugee population (denominator) increased from 246,647 in 2022 to 261,618 in 2023. This accounts for the reduction in the GER in 2023, despite the slight increase (in absolute numbers) in 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. Refugee enrolment in secondary

education remains below both the national context (GER 34%) and the global refugee average of 24%.

Overall, the health status of the Refugees was good, with key mortality indicators reported within acceptable thresholds. The crude mortality rate stood at 0.06 against a threshold of (<0.75/1000/month). The under-5 mortality rate was 0.12 against a threshold of (<1.5/1000/month), which has remained stable from the previous year. The maternal mortality ratio was 48 deaths per 1,000 live births, which was a reduction from 52 in 2022.

During the reporting period, the leading causes of mortality were malaria, pneumonia, malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases, among others. The scale-up of malaria prevention, control, and treatment interventions included the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs), in-door residual spraying, the scale-up of integrated community case management, including community diagnosis, and the treatment of malaria.

Other interventions to address the leading causes of mortality included improving access to blood transfusion through the availability of blood fridges and referring patients to higher-level facilities. In addition, improvement in the ability of facilities to care for newborns through capacity building, improvement in infrastructure and equipment for emergency obstetrics, and new borne care service delivery.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2025 refugees and stateless persons access durable solutions, including confirming their citizenship, voluntary return or third country solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,906	1,475
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,747	3,491
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	161	3,321
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	0	1
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2023, the number of refugees who departed Uganda as part of resettlement was 3,491, an increase of 99.8 percent. The increase, compared to 1,747 in 2022, is credited to the resumption of departure processing, which had been affected by the Ebola outbreak in the last quarter of 2022, and a renewed focus on resettlement countries receiving refugees. Nationals from Burundi, the DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia departed for the United States of America (3,254), Sweden (157), Canada (46), Norway (33), and Australia (1).

To strengthen the implementation of the complementary pathway through UNHCR's partner, increased guidance was provided on information dissemination, career guidance and counselling sessions, application support, support for the acquisition of travel documents, and visa applications.

A total of 3,321 individuals additionally departed through complementary pathways programs. These included 2,094 individuals for private sponsorships, 1,165 for family reunification, and 62 for education. System building with the partners for employment pathways programs led to the acceptance of the first seven candidates due for departure in 2024.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2023, the Uganda operation faced several operational challenges that affected the achievement of impacts. The continuous influx of new arrivals made planning ahead and resource allocation difficult. The government's reluctance to proceed with the transition and integration of refugee services into national systems made it difficult to achieve sustainable solutions for Refugees in a protracted situation. Durable solutions, including repatriation, resettlement, and a complementary pathway, were achieved for about 10,000 refugees.

The untimely withdrawal of some operational partners without sufficient prior notice to UNHCR created resource gaps that were not anticipated during earlier planning and prioritization. UNHCR is finding it difficult to reduce its footprint in some sectors due to the absence of alternative partners to intervene.

All the above-mentioned challenges, coupled with the resource challenge of reduced budgets, affected the representation's capacity to achieve the desired impact.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2023, UNHCR continued to play its coordination role through the Refugee Coordination Model, working with different partners and stakeholders, including government agencies, United Nations agencies, NGOs, donors, development actors, the private sector, CSOs, and refugee-led organizations (RLOs).

The representation had 59 partnership agreements (PAs) signed with 27 government entities, 18 international NGOs, six local NGOs, five RLOs, and two CBOs. It should be noted that two INGOs have their HQs in Uganda. In addition, four local partners had twinning agreements with INGOs to build their capacity.

The detailed planning of the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) for 2024–2025 was updated in 2023. This joint planning and resource mobilization tool between OPM, UNHCR, INGOs, and NGOs represents the collective advocacy of 96 partners, responding to the needs of refugees and their host communities. The UCRRP seeks to meet humanitarian needs and implement medium-term solutions to ensure a more sustainable refugee response. This is in line with the government-led sector response plans under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

UNHCR provided technical and financial support to strengthen multi-stakeholder national arrangements for responsibility-sharing as contemplated in the GCR, leading to a good level of dialogue established with all partners. This support for the government, local authorities, development, and donor community has steered the response towards having one integrated and sustainable system for the delivery of basic services.

In December 2023, Uganda successfully co-convened the second Global Refugee Forum and made five pledges around the transition of services, taking action against climate change, increasing resilience and self-reliance, localizing the response, and pursuing durable solutions.

Uganda's delegation participated in the plenary, different side events, and hosted a side event on district coordination. Uganda's co-convenorship of the 2023 GRF enabled the country to share its best practices and advocate for increased support and funding for refugee programmes, amidst a growing number of new arrivals.

Through the monthly donor and quarterly ambassadors' meetings, stakeholders continued to discuss strategic and operational issues related to the refugee response. The monthly donor's meeting 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.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group, co-chaired by UNHCR, OPM, and the Ministry of Local Government, held six national-level coordination meetings in 2023. In addition, there was one ad hoc national-level meeting held in June with all stakeholders in the refugee response to discuss the security situation ahead of rolling out the prioritization exercise for food distribution across the operation.

The collaboration between UNHCR Uganda and development partners holds paramount importance in

establishing an integrated and sustainable refugee response in Uganda. Supported by significant multiyear contributions from partners such as the Netherlands Government (PROSPECTS II) and the EU's INTPA (Flexible Funding Mechanism, SSD initiative, VolRep and Spotlight initiative), UNHCR effectively implements essential programs aimed at facilitating refugees' transition from aid dependence to self-sufficiency, while also supporting the transition of critical services including health, WASH, and education. Concurrently, UNHCR actively strengthens its relationships with government donors and bilateral aid agencies such as JICA, KOICA, GIZ, AFD, DANIDA, and ENABEL who support programmes benefiting refugees and the host communities. UNHCR also actively enhanced its collaborations with international financial institutions like the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AFDB) to tailor investments in refugee-hosting regions, particularly focusing on infrastructure and economic opportunities. These efforts underscore UNHCR's steadfast commitment to fostering resilience and sustainable solutions for displaced communities in Uganda, solidifying partnerships through dialogue, alignment, and active collaboration with all stakeholders, including development actors and the private sector, in line with the GCR whole of society approach.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

Reception conditions Improved

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

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.18%	100.00%	99.97%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.18%	100.00%	89.14%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, there were 162,939 refugees (including 32,631 new births) newly registered in Uganda. At the end of December 2023, the total registered population was 1,615,162. In addition, there were 4,468 individuals hosted in various reception and transit centers across the operation, pending individual registration by OPM. The population increased by eight percent in 2023 from 1,495,688 in 2022 because of new arrivals and new birth registrations. Between 2021 and 2022, there was a decrease of five percent, which was primarily because of the mass verification exercise that was carried out during the operation.

Response to registration of new arrivals entering Uganda was satisfactory, and this resulted in a decreased registration backlog at the end of the year, with an individual registration rate of 99%. Of the new arrivals registered, 44% were from South Sudan, 21% from the DRC, and 16% from Eritrea. In terms of registration locations, 32% of new registrations were in urban refugees, 14% in Rhino Camp, and 11% in Nakivale settlements. UNHCR continued to support OPM in the achievement of this outcome through technical support with tools and systems, advice on processes and procedures, as well as staffing.

OPM continued to provide documentation to all registered refugees in Uganda. All asylum seeker households were provided with asylum seeker certificates, while refugee households were provided with refugee family attestations. In addition, refugee individuals who were 16 years of age and older were issued refugee identity cards, valid for a period of five years. Coverage of refugee family attestations and asylum seeker certificates was 100% of the 403,110 registered households. At the end of 2023, there were 710,299 individuals aged 16 years and older who were eligible to receive refugee ID cards. Out of these, 633,153 were issued with refugee ID cards, resulting in a coverage of 89.1%. This coverage dropped slightly from the baseline of 94.2% at the beginning of the year, due to many refugees turning 16 years of age, as well as new arrivals registered but whose documents could not be printed at the time of initial registration.

UNHCR supported OPM in the procurement and provision of refugee ID card printing materials, as well as the required hardware. In addition, UNHCR also sourced the security paper required for the printing of asylum seeker certificates and refugee family attestations.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum seekers have access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD)

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	547.86	547.86	285.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people 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

The 2006 Refugee Act sets ninety days to determine the refugee status of an applicant. In 2023, the Uganda operation received 130,308 new arrivals. To address the backlog of asylum applications, the government piloted an accelerated Refugee Status Determination (RSD) exercise, which resulted in the completion of 11,000 cases within 40 days and reduced the waiting time from 1-2 years to 1-2 days, with a 97 percent recognition rate. The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held 14 sessions and adjudicated 13,186 asylum applications, comprising 23,630 individuals from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, and other nationalities. Of these, 11,716 applications from 19,902 individuals were granted status, while 1,174 applications were rejected. The overall recognition rate was 91%. The average processing time from registration to first instance asylum decision was 285 days for the reporting year. Compared to 2022, there was a reduction in the number of asylum applications due to the halt in processing of Somali asylum applications.

The Refugee Appeal Board (RAB) held four sessions and reviewed 30 appeal applications comprising 85 individuals. It confirmed decisions for 41 individuals and set aside decisions for 33 individuals. Despite the above achievements, 37,660 individuals are either pending an initial interview and/or a decision on their asylum claim.

UNHCR attended all the REC sessions and provided technical and financial support to both the REC and RAB. A total of 42,112 asylum applications were registered, and counseling and representation were accessed during the RSD process. All asylum applicants were provided with legal counselling and were informed of their right to a review and appeal in the event of a negative first-instance decision.

All asylum seekers are entitled to an effective appeal mechanism following the initial rejection of their claim. A total of 2,016 first-instance rejections were noted, lower than the baseline denominator of 6,893, amounting to 29%. Higher rates of rejection were observed among the Rwandan and Burundian asylum seekers due to the ongoing voluntary repatriation to Burundi. The majority presented economic reasons as the factor that necessitated their flights, as well as a lack of asylum claims related to convention grounds. Asylum applicants whose claims were linked to human rights activism or political opposition were granted status.

Some Eritreans (22) applied for judicial review to the High Court, against the decisions of the RAB. The government sought an out-of-court resolution granting status to all 22 appellants. In addition, UNHCR provided legal justification for the admission of two applications of six individuals.

Three capacity-building trainings covering 70 individuals were conducted targeting the REC, RAB, and Refugee Status Interviewing Officers on RSD, and international protection, to enhance knowledge of the legal framework and accelerated RSD processing.

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 2006 Refugees Act provides eligibility criteria for refugee status; this definition also includes those who are determined to be Refugees under other international and regional refugee instruments to which Uganda is a party, as well as those fearing harm based on gender discrimination. The Act also prohibits the refoulement of asylum-seekers and refugees, regulates their personal status as Refugees lawfully in the country, and obliges the state to issue appropriate identity papers to all refugees aged 16 and above. Refugees have access to Conventional Travel Documents (CTDs), may engage in wage-earning employment, have workplace rights, social security, own and transfer property, and participate in non-political associations. Like nationals, refugees have similar access to social services like courts, education, and health facilities.

Refugees have the right to move freely, subject to regulations applicable to non-nationals, such as reasonable restrictions on movement to preserve public order, health, or national security. Refugees may not be prosecuted for illegal entry or stay in Uganda. In May 2023, the Parliament of Uganda passed into law the Anti-Homosexuality Act, which introduced restrictions on homosexuality, same-sex marriage, and any promotion of LGBTQ+ lifestyles in Uganda. However, the Act does not penalize a person for merely being homosexual.

Statelessness: In 2023, the statelessness sector made significant gains in advocacy, awareness, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration. UNHCR realized historic gains in supporting affected indigenous communities to present a petition to Parliament for inclusion as citizens by birth/descent through an amendment of the Uganda Constitution. UNHCR reviewed statelessness inquiries and undertook strategic stakeholder engagements to address communities at risk of statelessness in Uganda.

Engagement was with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs, the Parliament of Uganda, the ICGLR, the National Planning Authority (NPA), and partners. UNHCR facilitated a training of members of the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) on the legal framework, international protection, including RSD, and statelessness. UNHCR supported the government in the mid-term review of the National Development Plan III and successfully advocated for the incorporation of issues affecting Refugees and stateless persons. In addition, UNHCR supported the validation and publication of the ICGLR report on statelessness in the Great Lakes Region, as well as the Government Legal Study of Statelessness and Citizenship in Uganda.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

By 2025 Refugee communities change their attitudes and contribute to reduced risk of gender-based violence incidents.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.60%	97.00%	96.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.74%	70.00%	94.74%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By the end of December 2023, partners under the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sector Working Group (SWG) had successfully managed 5,222 incidents across the operation, as reported in the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS). The proportion of refugees) who knew where to access the available

services stood at 96%, as per the participatory assessment. Survivors disclosed various types of GBV, with the top three incidents recorded being psychosocial/emotional abuse (33%), denial of resources (25%), and physical assault (22%).

Through the survivor-centered approach, 96% of the survivors received psychosocial support, medical (18%), legal (19%), safety and security (13%), livelihoods (8%), and a safe house or shelter (2%). However, fear of stigmatization and negative traditional norms resulted in an underreporting of GBV within the communities. Due to the continued refugee arrivals from the DRC, they registered the highest number of GBV-reported incidents at 52%, followed by South Sudanese at 38%. The least number of incidents, ranging from 2% to 4%, were registered among the Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Uganda population groups. The majority of the GBV incidents occurred in the refugees' country of origin. Of the incidences reported, child survivors were 9%, elderly persons (2%), persons with specific needs (2%), and unaccompanied or separated children (2%).

In 2023, a satisfaction survey evaluating the appropriateness of the services provided was conducted with 2,376 survivors as respondents. Among them, 95% (2,251) expressed satisfaction with the GBV services. In the same reporting period, 397 community-based structures were established to support GBV interventions. A cumulative total of 2,662 women and men in functional and community-based structures received training on GBV prevention and response by partners. These structures play a crucial role in preventing and responding to GBV incidents within the settlements and contributing to the gradual change in attitudes within the communities. In the same reporting period, 118,944 individuals were reached with GBV awareness-raising messages by age and gender.

The main GBV contributing factors within the operation are a reduction in cash for food, far-off land for farming, which exposes women and girls to the risk of exploitation and abuse, and harmful cultural norms within the refugee communities. There is also increased child neglect and abandonment by parents who go to the host community in search of casual work, alcoholism, and drug abuse. Risks among young children and a rise in cases of teenage pregnancies among refugees, resulting in family conflicts and economic hardship, all contribute to the GBV incidents.

To see longer-term changes in attitudes towards gender norms, power relationships, and GBV, the SASA! (Start Awareness Support Action) methodology is currently being rolled out in eight of the thirteen refugee hosting districts, with a plan to roll it out across the operation

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children are protected from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and are able to develop positively in a nurturing environment

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.66%	75.00%	50.30%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.65%	12.00%	18.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.12%	24.00%	84.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

At the end of December 2023, children made up 57% of the refugee population, with 55,825 identified with specific protection needs, including unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), those at risk of child labor, teenage pregnancy, child-headed households, and others. This was a decrease from 95,000 in December 2022, which is attributed to data cleanup exercises in various locations. The decrease in number contributed to the increase in actual achievements in 2023.

A total of 28,057 children (13,668 girls and 14,389 boys) at heightened risk had Best Interest Procedures (BIP) initiated, and 4,630 cases were successfully closed. The overall achievement in BIP represents 50.3% of the total number of children at heightened risk.

Community-based child protection interventions engaged 127,577 children (62,868 girls and 64,709 boys), including 95,799 in safe child-friendly spaces (CFS) and 31,778 adolescents in targeted programs. Children participating in CFS access play, recreational, and structured psychosocial activities. Adolescents benefited from tailored programs addressing their specific needs. This combined achievement represents 19% of children aged 4–17 years. Furthermore, 8,363 parents and caregivers participated in positive parenting training sessions conducted within the community. These sessions aimed to enhance the protective environment for children by equipping caregivers with essential skills and knowledge to support their children's development and well-being.

Under alternative care, 3,094 unaccompanied and separated children (1,490 girls and 1,604 boys) were placed in safe and appropriate care arrangements, following thorough Best Interests Assessments (BIAs). As of December 2023, the total number of children in appropriate alternative care stood at 39,501, including 39,262 children in kinship care and 239 in foster care. This represents 84% of the total number of unaccompanied and separated children in the operation.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Refugees and asylum seekers live in safety and have access to legal remedies

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR and partners worked towards improved collaboration with immigration and border officials, which enabled the release of asylum-seekers from detention at immigration holding centers.

By the end of 2023, a total of 51 asylum seekers had been arrested and detained due to a lack of legal documents. The majority were arrested at the border as they attempted to cross into the country with the help of smugglers. Upon release, they were all formally admitted into the asylum process.

A total of 49,889 individuals (27,633 females and 22,256 males) across the operation received legal assistance and were sensitized to Ugandan laws. This initiative aims to empower Refugees with information on their legal rights and obligations.

An open-day session was organized at Isingiro Magistrate's Court grounds under the theme, "Enhancing Judicial Accountability and Access to Justice." It was presided over by the principal judge and underscored the importance of transparency and fairness in the judicial process. The session provided an opportunity for refugees to engage directly with the judiciary and raise issues about access to justice. Overall, the initiative underscored the importance of collaboration between stakeholders (judiciary, civil society, and refugees and asylum seekers) in addressing barriers to access to justice, as well as promoting accountability within the legal system and inclusive justice systems.

A total of 24 mobile court sessions were held in the settlements, at which 256 refugees received legal assistance. During the sessions, plea bargaining techniques were employed, and pro-bono legal representation was provided to the refugees by the Uganda Law Society and Refugee Law Project. A total of 346 joint prison visits were conducted across the operation, and the detainees (including refugees) received legal counselling and in-kind support.

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.

Persons with specific needs (PSNs) have timely access to appropriate services and participate in community activities and decision-making on an equal basis with others

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	39.26%	46.00%	50.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The engagement and empowerment of individuals and communities affected by forced displacement remained priorities for UNHCR and partners in 2023. In that regard, the joint administrative guidelines for the designation of members of the Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs) were finalized, signed, and disseminated country wide. The refugee leaders were also trained in leadership roles, gender norms and cultural beliefs, protection, community-based protection mechanisms, and prevention of abuse and misuse of power. The operation continued to support the established Refugee Engagement Forum (REF). Alongside the CRRF Steering Group (SG) Meeting, UNHCR and partners organized four quarterly REF sessions. With the assistance of partners, the refugee representatives also organized the REF feedback consultations at the settlement level.

The REF continued to be used as a key feedback and response mechanism to ensure the accountability of service providers to communities. These mechanisms were extensively used to address feedback from the communities before and after the launch of the Prioritization of Assistance (Phase 3). More than 22,000 unique referrals were received, allowing WFP to address the needs of the most vulnerable households. The Inter-Agency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) continued to ensure that UNHCR and partners are better placed to identify needs and respond to affected individuals and communities in a timely manner. In 2023, a total of 48,754 new individual queries were registered through the FRRM helpline, out of over 300,000 calls from settlements and transit centers. This was an increase of 13,690 new queries, compared to those received in 2022.

In April 2023, the Participatory Assessment was released country wide. Key findings of the report indicated that the main sectors in which the refugees experienced the most challenges were: food, health, livelihoods, and shelter. UNHCR and partners have also continued the meaningful engagement of the various refugee-led organizations (RLOs). Mapping of the organizations was done, and two RLOs were funded through the Refugee-Led Innovation Fund (RLIF). They implemented activities in the southwest settlements. Five refugee women-led organizations received a grant under the Central Emergency Fund (CERF) to implement activities in the prevention and response to GBV.

UNHCR coordinated the work of the gender and LGBTIQ+ focal points as per the developed work plans. The activities aimed to mainstream, advance gender equality, and create safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ individuals. When the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) came into law in 2023, UNHCR and partners took safeguarding measures to mitigate the violations of the rights of LGBTIQ+ refugees.

As of December 2023, the percentage of women in leadership positions and community structures stands at 46%, which represents an increase in participation from 39% in 2022.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

By 2025, refugee and host communities access an environment where natural resources are managed through sustainable settlement land use plans.

By 2025, refugee and host communities adopt and use affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

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.

Refugee and host community populations have improved well-being and functioning including very vulnerable people.

Refugees have greater dignity of choice in meeting needs through provision of domestic items and monetization of NFIs.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24.18%	100.00%	50.81%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.26%	29.00%	34.10%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners continued to promote access to clean cooking fuels and technologies through the dissemination of energy-saving cookstoves to refugee households. This was in a bid to reduce the amount of wood fuel consumed at the household level. In 2023, only 8.8% (35,345) of households were reached of which 60% were South Sudanese and 40% were Congolese refugees.

The UNHCR provided funding for 85% (30,060 households) of the accomplishments, with operational partners providing the remaining funds. From 2020 to 2023, the cumulative reliance on improved cooking fuels and technologies will be 36.06% (about 620,385 Refugees). An additional 7,182 households (35,910 people) in the host community were reached with clean cooking technologies bringing the total achievement in 2023 to 42,527 households.

A total of 65 tons of briquettes were produced by refugees, of which 83.1% were produced by South Sudanese and 16.9% by Congolese. An additional six tons were produced among the host community, resulting in 71 tons of briquettes produced for cooking across the operation. Of these, 72% were sold to generate income.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Improved access to adequate preventive, promotive and curative services for communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Improved Sexual Reproductive Health services, HIV/Tuberculosis (TB) prevention, care, treatment services

Reduced Global Acute Malnutrition, Anaemia & Stunting.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.00%	98.00%	96.60%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.79%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR provided health services through 103 health facilities and 2,700 community health workers.

A Uganda Refugee Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) conducted in 2023 showed that coverage of measles vaccination improved from 95% to 96.6%. This was achieved through regular screening, integrated outreaches, and catch-up campaigns. Mothers that attended antenatal care (ANC) were 63,670, with 28,245 visits made within the first trimester and 47,729 live births reported. Overall, 97% of the mothers, the same as in 2022, were attended to by skilled attendants at the time of delivery.

Clinical management for rape survivors was given to 392 eligible persons who came to the facilities within 72 hours (3 days) and received Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). In addition, 378 female survivors who came within 120 hours were provided with emergency contraception, while 506 survivors attending within two weeks also received prophylactic treatment for sexually transmitted infections. This was made possible by engaging trained health care workers, continuing community efforts through VHTs who sensitized mothers on the availability of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, identifying pregnant mothers, linking them to facilities, and providing family planning services.

Patients treated for HIV were 190,216 (114,176 refugees and 76,040 hosts) and 1,730 enrolled in treatment. Overall, 16,378 received anti-retroviral therapy (ART), with 5,728 (35%) being Refugees. Cases of tuberculosis were 3,489 across the operation, with a treatment success rate of 91% for Refugees and 87% among the host population.

In 2023, 30,517 clients were treated for acute malnutrition, 72.9% of whom were children under 5 years. The 2023 FSNA found GAM at 3.1% in the Southwest and 9.8% in the West Nile. Stunting increased from 24.8% in 2022 to 27% in 2023, with Southwest leading at 46.7%. In 2023, anemia will have reduced from 44.8% in 2022 to 41.3% in 2023, with eight locations above 40%. Kyangwali and Palabek settlements had the highest anemia levels at 58.1% and 55.1%, respectively.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Inclusive, equitable and quality education at all levels for all refugee and host communities

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.49%	1.00%	0.33%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	29.61%	31.20%	32.88%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

At the end of 2023, the number of refugee youth in the age bracket of 18–35 years (the target age for tertiary education) stood at 448,734. A total of 319 (127 female and 192 male) learners were benefiting from the DAFI programme as of December 2023. The need for tertiary education scholarships continued to increase. While the number of applicants for DAFI scholarships slightly decreased from 1,558 in 2022 to

1,400 in 2023, less than one percent of this population is enrolled in tertiary and higher education. Additional stakeholders providing tertiary education scholarships include the UK master's programme, the Student Refugee Programme (SRP), sponsorship and resettlement by WUSC, Mastercard, and the VOS family.

Through strategic actions influencing policy, planning, budgeting, and data, UNHCR's inclusion roadmap aspires for the progressive transition of refugee-serving community schools to the national system. This includes advocacy for the coding (government grant-aiding) of 55 percent of schools in the refugee settlements by 2025, with a priority focus on facilities that serve the needs of both Refugees and the host community in an integrated manner. The 2023 government GRF policy pledge to continue managing and integrating infrastructure and services specifically in health, education and water and commitment to put in place a strategy facilitating coordinated transition planning and management provided an entry point for mapping of potential refugee serving community schools for government coding and possible merger into public schools where these are less than five kilometers radius from the government school.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Satisfactory and dignified conditions of sanitation and hygiene for refugee and host communities

Water services are integrated in national structures

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.20%	100.00%	85.00%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	90.00%	90.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

According to the Household Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey report of December 2023, 85% of the refugees and host population accessed water, an increase of just one percent from 2022. In 2023, water was accessed by the population at an average of 17 litres per person per day (lpd), against a country target of 18 lpd and the UNHCR standard of 20 lpd.

The average distance from the farthest user to a water point was recorded as 711m, an increase from 649m in 2022, still within 1,000m (Ugandan standard). All these were achieved by maintaining the above 95% functionality of 221 motorized water systems and 1,154 hand pumps. A portion of the systems (44%) used renewable energy sources (37% solar and 7% national electricity grid).

The use of diesel fuel for pumping water increased from 12% in 2022 to 13% in 2023, due to the increased population. Boreholes drilled and equipped with hand pumps were 19 and 86.2km of pipe network extended to underserved areas. Another 10 high-yield boreholes were drilled, and four were equipped with solar motorized systems. Six new reservoirs were installed, with a total of 559 CuM of storage capacity. Under the transition agenda into national systems, a revised MoU to transition three settlements is under review, this time with inclusion of the Ministry of Water and Environment as the utility regulator in Uganda.

Access to safe household (HH) toilets (owned or shared) was 90%, an increase from 80% in 2022, due to the increased number (8,597) of HH latrines constructed for new arrivals. In addition, 152 stances of institutional latrines were constructed. 2,785 VHTs conducted environmental health and hygiene campaigns, which is an increase of 52 from 2022. The populations were reached with messages on food, home, and sanitation hygiene; fecal oral route disease transmission management; and vector control for reduced public health-related infections. Hand washing practices were at an average of 68%, according to the KAP survey conducted at the end of 2023.

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

Refugee and host communities have improved short and medium-term self-reliance measures, actively participate in the local economy through food production and income generation for self-sustenance.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In line with the Uganda Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Strategic Plan 2023-2028, the operation focused on coordination, advocacy, and strategic partnerships to promote the livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees and host communities. The livelihoods activities implemented by UNHCR only filled gaps as catalytic investments. In 2023, UNHCR, in partnership with OPM and district local governments, continued to support refugees living in West Nile and the Northern region to access land, enabling about 38,500 refugee households to access about 39,000 acres of arable land. To bolster food security and boost incomes for refugee and host community households involved in crop production, UNHCR's implementing partners supported about 1,600 households working in block farms to plant a total of about 2,000 acres of crops.

UNHCR co-chairs the livelihood and resilience sector working group together with the Government and World Vision Uganda. This has enabled UNHCR to advocate with development partners such as the EU, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Japan, and USAID for the inclusion of refugees. Through the PROSPECTS partnership, UNHCR partners with ILO, UNICEF, IFC, and the World Bank, and with support from the IKEA Foundation, UNHCR collaborates with the Government, AVSI, IRC, and Give Directly to enhance the self-reliance and resilience of refugees and host communities.

In addition, implementing partners trained about 2,500 farmers (2,300 from DR Congo and 200 from South Sudan) using climate-smart technologies. These included small-scale irrigation kits to enable them to maximize food production from their allocated livelihood plots of land, especially during the dry season or periods of water stress. In addition, about 950 refugees from South Sudan and 100 farmers in the host communities were trained on good agronomic practices for rice and post-harvest handling. Trained rice farmers were supported to plant an estimated 1,500 acres of rice and provided with assorted post-harvest kits. The total rice production was estimated at 1350 MT and valued at about USD 1.5 million.

During the year, UNHCR, in partnership with Toyota Tusho Corporation of Japan and CFAO Uganda Ltd., trained 15 refugee youth on automobile repair and maintenance skills. This included seven youth who enrolled in training in 2022 and completed their training in 2023. A new cohort of eight trainees was enrolled in 2023. In total, 19 youths have finished training, and four of them are employed by CFAO Motors Uganda as technicians because of their good performance.

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

The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from Uganda to Burundi through Tanzania continued during the period under review. A total of 1,475 Burundian Refugees and asylum seekers were facilitated to return home in safety and dignity, against the target of 6,000 individuals. The 1,475 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with adequate information on the situation in Burundi to enable them to make informed decisions. Of the 1,475 individuals, 414 were Burundian onward movers from Kenya. The onward movers were registered in Kenya as refugees and opted to move to Uganda to seek repatriation due to the suspension of voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Kenya because of funding constraints.

Kenya resumed repatriation of Burundian refugees in December 2023, and this led to a reduction of onward movers from Kenya to Uganda. Overall, a total of 12,468 Burundian Refugees have been facilitated to return home since the commencement of their voluntary repatriation from Uganda in December 2020.

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	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,790	3,500	4,018
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,049.00	1,200.00	1,690.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Uganda submitted 4,018 individuals for resettlement, which was 114.8% of its allotted target of 3,500 individuals. Of these, 3,464 individuals were submitted to the USA: 270 to Canada, 216 to Australia, 42 to Sweden, 21 to Norway, three to France, and two to Finland.

A total of 1,743 individuals gained resettlement access through Uganda's newly introduced Humanitarian Response Identification Project (HRIP), which utilizes a broad range of protection, socio-economic, and demographic indicators to identify vulnerabilities. HRIP was designed as a response to the challenges of assessing the vulnerabilities of the refugee population. Through HRIP, 346 individuals or 9.42% of submissions were emergencies, and overall, 55% of the submissions were female. Increased timeframes from submission to departure are linked to resettlement countries prioritizing departures for long-standing cases.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Coordination with Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Government and Partners strengthened

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Section 67 of the 2010 Refugee Regulations provides that a person holding refugee status in Uganda who becomes eligible to apply for citizenship may do so on his or her own behalf and that of his or her spouse and dependent minor children. The Uganda Citizenship & Immigration Control Act (UCICA) further provides that aliens, including refugees, may qualify for citizenship by naturalization. Section 16(5) of the Uganda Citizenship & Immigration Control Act (cap. 66) states that a person who wishes to be granted Ugandan citizenship by naturalization shall make a written application to the Immigration Board and shall comply with the following requirements:

Residence in Uganda for an aggregate period of 20 years.
 Residence in Uganda throughout the 24-month period preceding the date of application.
 Adequate knowledge of a prescribed vernacular language or English.
 Good character.
 Intention to continue residing permanently in Uganda.

However, in practice, refugees face challenges in accessing naturalization due to administrative barriers such as providing documentary evidence confirming their period of residence in the specific locations in Uganda. Different lawyers also have different ideas about how to interpret some parts of the UCICA that deal with naturalization. For example, some see having a refugee convention travel document or a national passport as a requirement for naturalization, while others see them as an exception. However, representatives from the DCIC have recently refuted this interpretation.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR Uganda continued age, gender, and diversity (AGD) inclusion across all sectors of the response. The main achievements included the finalization and dissemination of the Participatory Assessment Report, the monitoring of the AGD action plans of the partners, the AGD self-assessment and the improvement in the collection and provision of disaggregated data to inform services' provision.

Prominent considerations on disability and other persons with specific needs inclusion were strengthened during the country-wide roll-out of exercises such as Phase 3 of the Prioritization of Assistance in July 2023 and the FSNA. The SOPs related to PSNs were disseminated and monitored, with some areas conducting specific assessment exercises for targeted and specialized support.

UNHCR coordinated the work of the gender and LGBTIQ+ focal points as per the developed work plans. The activities aimed to mainstream, advance gender equality, and create safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ individuals. When the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) came into law in 2023, UNHCR and partners took safeguarding measures to mitigate the violations of the rights of LGBTIQ+ refugees.

As of December 2023, the percentage of women in leadership positions and community structures stands at 46%, which represents an increase in participation from 39% in 2022.

In 2023, the Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) continued to be used as a key feedback and response mechanism to ensure the accountability of service providers to the communities. 4 REF quarterly sessions were organized with the partners' support. 2 REF representatives to the CRFF Steering Group took part in the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, where they shared the 3 pledges of the refugee communities living in Uganda and the challenges faced in the country.

Section 3: Resources

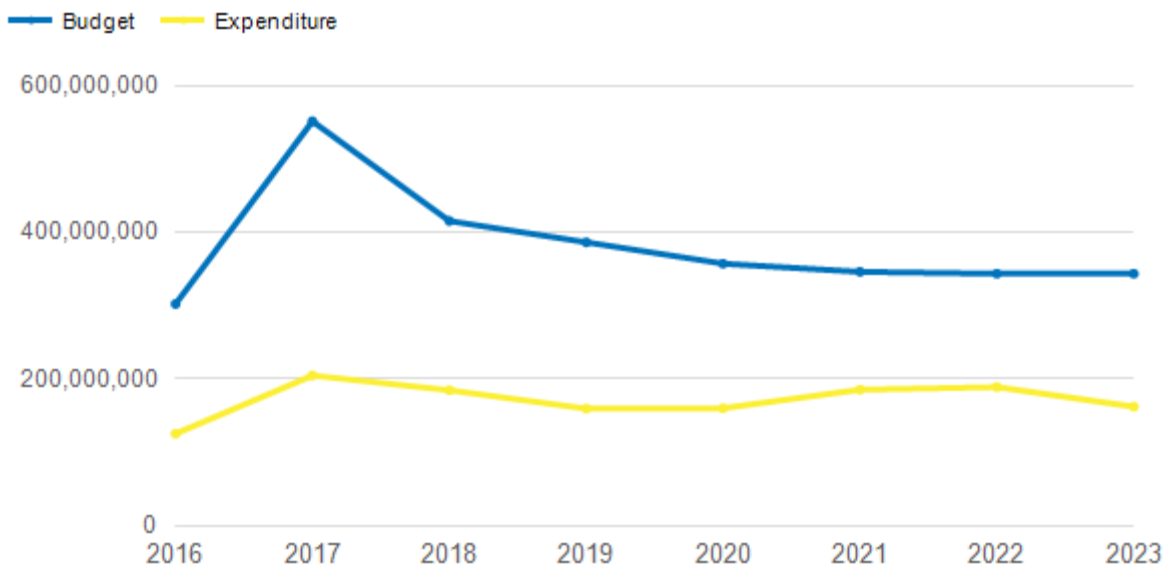
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

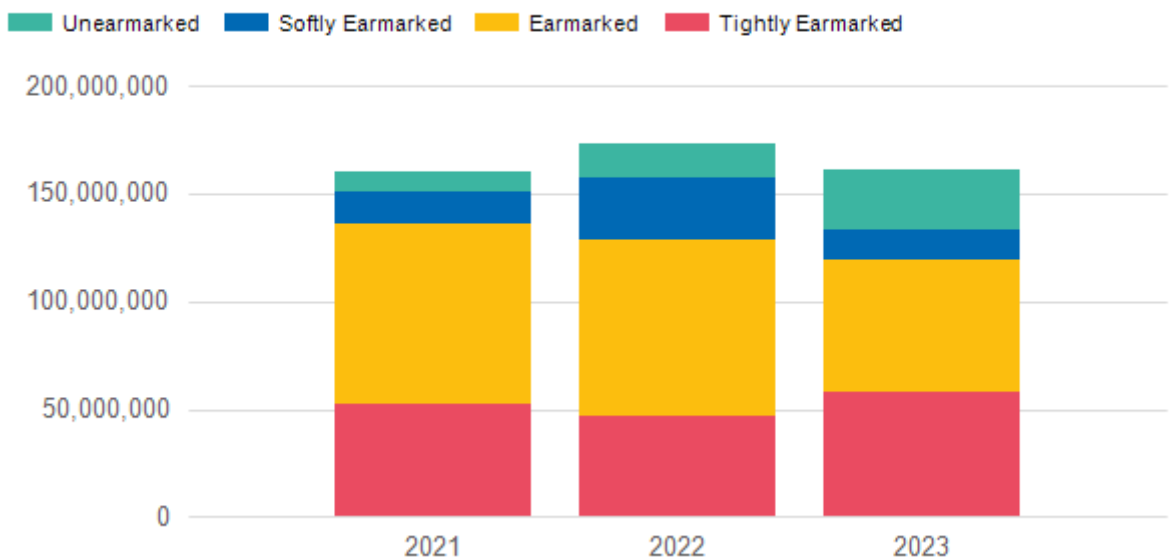
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	92,411,806	49,458,753	53.52%	49,458,753	100.00%
IA2: Assist	187,087,622	94,197,117	50.35%	94,197,117	100.00%
IA3: Empower	48,754,415	12,751,066	26.15%	12,751,066	100.00%
IA4: Solve	15,139,157	5,764,619	38.08%	5,764,619	100.00%
All Impact Areas		578,472			
Total	343,393,000	162,750,027	47.39%	162,171,555	99.64%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	39,739,980	6,641,141	16.71%	6,641,141	100.00%
OA2: Status	5,127,120	1,118,342	21.81%	1,118,342	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	509,348	191,773	37.65%	191,773	100.00%
OA4: GBV	10,614,652	3,218,951	30.33%	3,218,951	100.00%
OA5: Children	13,629,045	3,828,025	28.09%	3,828,025	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,922,172	2,205,126	75.46%	2,205,126	100.00%
OA7: Community	24,697,198	10,242,768	41.47%	10,242,768	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	61,161,345	34,123,923	55.79%	34,123,923	100.00%
OA10: Health	38,975,653	27,127,886	69.60%	27,127,886	100.00%
OA11: Education	46,188,995	22,543,444	48.81%	22,543,444	100.00%
OA12: WASH	18,830,541	5,377,224	28.56%	5,377,224	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	32,359,260	3,704,912	11.45%	3,704,912	100.00%
OA14: Return	7,829,613	2,745,991	35.07%	2,745,991	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	6,800,196	2,826,855	41.57%	2,826,855	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	14,731,734	13,686,122	92.90%	13,686,122	100.00%
EA18: Support	19,276,147	22,589,071	117.19%	22,589,071	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		578,472			
Total	343,393,000	162,750,027	47.39%	162,171,555	99.64%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

The operation maintained its presence in all the areas, with three offices being downgraded from sub-offices to field offices in 2023 (effective January 1, 2024), and the decision was made to close and merge one field office with sub-office Mbarara. All other offices and areas of operation were maintained. Following the High Commissioner’s instructions and guidelines, major restricting and realignment of staffing was carried out, which resulted in an 18% reduction of international staff and an 8% reduction of national staff. Similarly, significant cost reductions and efficiency were achieved in mission travel, communication, and fuel costs under administration.

In 2023, compared to 2022, the operation maintained the same level of funding allocation to logistics and support as well as protection outcome areas.

The Representation in Uganda mobilized resources in 2023 by seeking funding opportunities with new donors and maintaining and growing existing partnerships. Focus was on the negotiation of multiyear partners and the diversification of its partners' base (Government, Intergovernmental, UN joint programmes, pooled funds, private sector partners, development partners etc.) The Representation also tried to secure primarily multiyear cash contribution in order to increase funding predictability and only go for Gift In-Kind (GIK) when it allows to steward a strategic partnership such as Uniqlo, FC Barcelona (FCB), Inditex, etc.

Several outcome areas had funding gaps as the needs were huge and there were fewer resources to take care of them. The outcome area with a huge funding gap was Outcome Area 1 (access to territory, registration and documentation), which had an allocation of USD 4 million in 2023 compared to USD 11 million in 2022.

Outcome Area 7 (community engagement and women's empowerment) was another area that was underfunded, with funds not being available to support the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, community self-management structures, and peaceful coexistence projects.

Outcome Area 10 (healthy lives) was underfunded in 2023, with the operation not being able to fully provide and support health care services in terms of payment to healthcare workers as well as procurement of medicine and medical supplies.

Outcome Area 13 (self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods) is another key area that was impacted by the operation not being able to provide livelihood opportunities to the Refugees.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

During the recently held strategic moment of reflection with stakeholders, as part of the lessons learned, there was a recognition that more needs to be done to explicitly link UNHCR's vision to pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum. The government, at the highest level, has already made its commitments. UNHCR has the opportunity to directly link these policy commitments and should further shape its strategy around these pledges. Furthermore, fulfillment of and implementation of the GRF pledges will provide an opportunity for support to pursue sustainable solutions to the protracted situation of the forcibly displaced. Engagement and consultation directly with the refugee communities has been an area of success and should be sustained and built upon. The trust is strong between the refugee community, UNHCR, and partners as a result. Refugees and partners did and continue to provide important feedback on areas of achievement and for improvement in community-based protection, GBV, CWC, working with security actors, and with persons with disabilities and other specific needs. In all these areas, more community engagement is required, especially with dwindling resources.

Considering funding constraints and the likely reduction of resources and programming, the Uganda operation needs to further emphasize peaceful co-existence, especially in the settlements receiving new arrivals. There is a need to update planning assumptions related to: urban refugees (considering the increase and importance of this community); the increasing Sudanese population; the high prominence and pressures regarding land issues and land availability linked especially to livelihoods and conflict; reduced humanitarian funding; a strained development funding environment due to the global resource outlook and local considerations linked to AHA and its fall-out; and the potential for and obstacles to local integration. The open-door policy of the Government of Uganda needs to be complemented with the required financial resources from all stakeholders. Collaboration with private sector partners is important for the achievement of sustainable livelihoods for the forcibly displaced.

The GRF pledge on the transition of water, health, and education is an important and understandable objective to pursue, but much attention needs to be paid to ensuring a gradual process and not making the transition a resource-driven timeframe or process, which risks shifting the burden-sharing to burden-shifting. The Uganda operation is a logistics-intensive operation that requires continuous investment to keep the operation afloat. NGO partners and the government are overly dependent on UNHCR's financial and material resources.

Integrity, fraud, and transparency risks remain in the Uganda operation; these affect all actors, though there have been recent lessons with local NGOs and the higher risk in financial management, which requires more capacity building and resources in this area by UNHCR.

The importance of data is extremely high as it is linked to improving refugee operations as well as the achievement of pledges and engaging with development actors. UNHCR has done well on this front, making data available and collecting it, as well as engaging with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. With the census in 2024, the release of two related UBOS surveys, and other efforts that include refugees, this will only improve.



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