

# Uganda

6 July 2020

**1,425,040**

Refugees and asylum seekers as of June 2020

**52**

Refugees tested positive to date

**48**

Refugees recovered to date

**3,169**

Refugees and asylum seekers in quarantine

## Operational context

- Since Uganda confirmed its first COVID-19 case on 21 March 2020, the number of positive cases increased to 991 as of 4 July 2020, including 939 Ugandans and 52 refugees. Fifty-one refugees tested positive while quarantined in Adjumani's Nyumanzi reception centre (42 South Sudanese), Yumbe's Lokopio Technical Institute (5 South Sudanese), Rakai's Mutukula quarantine facility (2 Burundians), Amuru's Elegu collection point (1 Eritrean) and Obongi's Belemeling quarantine centre (1 South Sudanese). The sample of another Burundian refugee, taken at Isingiro's Bugango entry point, returned positive while he was already in Nakivale settlement. Forty-eight refugees have already recovered, while 4 remain under treatment, including 2 in Arua Regional Referral Hospital, 1 in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital and 1 in Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital. Across Uganda, 891 people have recovered from COVID-19 to date. No deaths have been registered so far. A total of 205,312 samples were tested by the Uganda Virus Research Institute as of 4 July 2020.
- In his 16<sup>th</sup> address to the nation on 22 June, President Yoweri Museveni said that restrictions on boda-bodas, schools, religious gatherings and curfew would continue until further notice. Public transport (buses, mini-buses and taxis) continued to operate at half capacity, including in the border districts of Isingiro, Moyo and Yumbe. Movement restrictions continue in 39 other border districts. The reopening of schools has been delayed until further notice.

## Highlights

### Protection

- [The Government of Uganda temporarily re-opened the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\) on 1 July to give safe haven to thousands of refugees fleeing escalating violence in the eastern DRC.](#) The new arrivals were previously part of a larger group of approximately 45,000 people, according to local DRC authorities, who had attempted to flee towards the Ugandan border with the DRC shortly after deadly militia attacks on civilians in Ituri province on 17 and 18 May. While some have been able to return to their area of origin, thousands remained stranded at the border since late May. Between 1 and 3 July, 3,056 people entered Uganda through Gulajo and Mount Zeu crossing points in Zombo district. Sixty-five per cent are children. Uganda implemented restrictions on border travel in March to contain the spread of COVID-19, halting admission of new asylum-seekers into the country. On humanitarian grounds, the President of Uganda directed its Government to temporarily re-open the Zombo border to allow life-saving aid and protection to be provided to the group of refugees. The Government closed the border again on 3 July. UNHCR and partners, in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Health and the district local government upgraded Zeu Farm Institute to serve as a quarantine and reception facility near the border in Zombo district, installing 318 family tents, health screening areas, toilets, handwashing facilities and 9 10,000-liter water tanks. Following security and health screening at the border, the new arrivals relocated to Zeu Farm Institute. After the 14 days of mandatory quarantine, the asylum-seekers will be transported to existing refugee settlements. Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hillary Onek and Minister for Northern Uganda, Grace Freedom Kwiycwiny and Commissioner for Refugees, Gerald Menhya

were at Gulajo on 1 July to officially re-open the border and welcome the asylum seekers, together with UNHCR Representative, Joel Boutroue.

- UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI) began working on the establishment of a foster family bank in Kampala to help unaccompanied and separated children access community-based alternative care. The main challenge facing foster families is the lack of financial resources to support additional children under their care. At least 20 foster families will be trained in Kampala on Code of Conduct, child protection, parenting and child-friendly communication.
- UNHCR and partners identified and provided life-saving support to 70 SGBV survivors during the reporting period, including psychosocial and legal counselling and access to medical care. The number of SGBV incidents has increased since the start of the lockdown. Awareness-raising activities on SGBV prevention took place in several settlements.
- As part of UNHCR/WFP/OPM joint cash assistance programme to assist 42,694 refugee households in Kampala, UNHCR has so far disbursed three tranches of mobile money to 4,950 refugee families in Kampala (13,618 individuals) to help them cover the cost of non-food items and rent for one month, corresponding to over UGX 1 billion. In collaboration with Airtel, a pilot distribution of SIM cards began on 30 June, targeting 355 refugee households without a cell number.

### Education

- The Education in Emergencies Sector Working Group, co-chaired by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), UNHCR and Finn Church Aid (FCA), undertook an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on refugee education, concluding that primary and secondary school age children have missed 60 per cent of the 840 hours of instruction planned for Term 1 since the closure of schools in March. Without the protective environment offered by education and learning facilities, pupils are faced with a higher risk of abuse, exploitation and sexual and gender-based violence. For example, in Palorinya settlement alone the number of child protection cases increased to 39 during March-June, compared to 8 during January-March this year. Under the leadership of MoES, refugees were included in the national education response plan for COVID-19, providing a framework to ensure continuation of learning through radio lessons, self-study materials and digital content on tablets. In refugee-hosting districts, more than 368,000 learners received self-study materials and nearly 39,000 parents received education packages for early child development with the support from UNICEF and National Curriculum Development Centre. As the self-learning materials printed by MoES initially reached only 20 per cent of learners nationally, education partners mobilized resources to cover the gap in the refugee response. While a date for the re-opening of the schools has not been established yet, more resources will be needed to either continue providing support for distance learning or making school facilities compliant with COVID-19 safety measures.

### Health & Nutrition

- UNHCR and partners helped MoH investigate 3,138 COVID-19 alerts and test 1,009 refugees for COVID-19, including by covering the costs of transporting samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute. Since March, Kyangwali settlement registered the highest number of alerts (788), followed by Bidibidi (526), Adjumani (510) and Nakivale (386).
- UNHCR and partners continued to support at least 19 quarantine facilities within the settlements and at transit centres across the country, including by covering the costs of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, site management, feeding and logistics. At present, 3,655 individuals are quarantined in these facilities, including 3,169 refugees and 486 Ugandans. During the reporting period, Zombo district hosted the largest number of refugees in quarantine, with 3,056 individuals accommodated at Zeu Farm Institute. Yumbe district hosted the largest number of Ugandans in quarantine within facilities supported by UNHCR and partners, with 4 refugees and 261 Ugandans at Lokopio Technical Institute and Goboro transit centre.

- UNHCR embarked on production and distribution of masks for over 230,000 refugees aged 6 years and above in Adjumani and Lamwo districts to help them reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. A kick-off event took place in Pagirinya settlement on 27 June to launch the distribution in Adjumani district, in the presence of district local government, the Office of the Prime Minister, partner NGOs and refugee representatives. These masks are made by refugee tailors, with the support from UNHCR and partners. UNHCR provided the materials and the communities put in the labour, helping refugees and their hosts protect themselves and comply with the COVID-19 safety measures and generate much needed income. Distribution of masks in Lamwo's Palabek settlement will start on 8 July.



©UNHCR/R. Nuri. Asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are received at Gulajo border point in Zombo district, as Uganda temporarily reopened its border on 1-3 July 2020 to grant asylum to thousands of people fleeing violence in eastern DRC.

**\$357.1 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020 <sup>1</sup>



**UGANDA**

as of 22 June 2020



**CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD**

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	14,463,000	-	14,463,000
Denmark	-	-	9,571,492	-	9,571,492
European Union	-	-	-	7,103,825	7,103,825
Norway	-	-	-	4,359,673	4,359,673
Germany	-	-	-	3,174,523	3,174,523
Republic of Korea	-	-	1,666,666	-	1,666,666
Japan	-	-	1,237,754	-	1,237,754
Ireland	-	-	-	1,114,827	1,114,827
Remon L Vos	-	-	-	1,091,703	1,091,703
Canada	-	-	1,090,909	-	1,090,909
Switzerland	-	-	1,023,541	-	1,023,541
United Nations Foundation	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	998,628	998,628
CERF	-	-	-	799,742	799,742
Spotlight Initiative	-	-	-	674,113	674,113
Netherlands	-	-	-	644,247	644,247
Finland	-	-	596,810	-	596,810
IGAD	-	-	237,412	-	237,412
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	-	-	141,346	-	141,346
Sweden	-	-	-	139,640	139,640
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	40,700	40,700
Other private donors	-	-	5	106,192	106,198
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	-	<b>31,028,935</b>	<b>20,247,813</b>	<b>51,276,748</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	8,141,833	8,287,376	(1,808,538)	(1,275,495)	13,345,176
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,141,833</b>	<b>8,287,376</b>	<b>29,220,397</b>	<b>18,972,318</b>	<b>64,621,924</b>

**Appeals for COVID-19 preparedness and response plans**

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

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