

Uganda

May 2023

By the end of May 2023, Uganda was hosting **1,547,981** refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals have continued to enter the country mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan.

Since the beginning of the year, Uganda has received **30,448** refugees from DRC (14,381) and South Sudan (16,067).

There are 208 new arrivals from Sudan since the onset of violence there. By nationality, 190 are from South Sudan and 18 from Sudan.

The number of new arrivals has led to overcrowding at some of the collection facilities. At the end of May, there were 6,023 individuals in the transit centers and collection points (3,959 in West Nile and 2,064 in the Mid and South-West).

1,547,981

Number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** as of 31 May 2023.

1,500,708*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 31 May 2023.

47,273

Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 May 2023.

** The total population figure is provisional and is expected to change following completion of the ongoing verification exercise.*

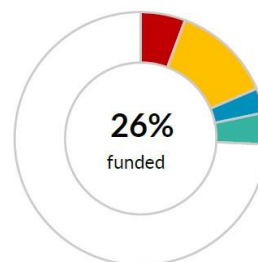


Launch of the Second Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda, by the First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2023:

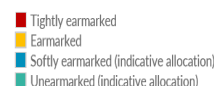
USD 343.4 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 May 2023)



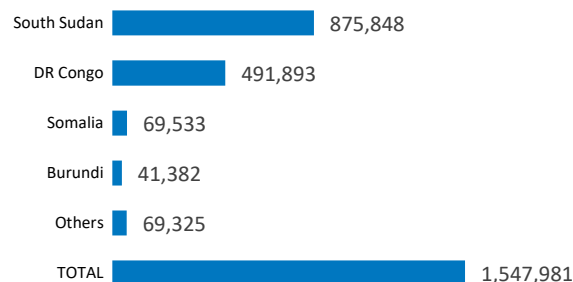
Unfunded 74% - US\$ 255M

Funded 26% - US\$ 88.4 M



POPULATIONS OF CONCERN: 1,547,981

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality



Total **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 May 2023



A group of refugees in Nakivale settlement, work on different stages in the production of briquettes.
Photo ©Frank Walusimbi/UNHCR

Contextual and Operational Highlights

Food rations and cross border movements: On 15 May, refugees were informed about the food prioritization process and the estimated rations allocated to each prioritization category starting in July 2023. Currently, refugees in the southwest region are receiving a 30% food ration, while those in the north and West Nile regions receive 60%. Some refugees have begun crossing into Kenya, where food rations are currently set at 82%. The refugees have since expressed their willingness to return home, and some 1,500 individuals will be assisted to return to Uganda. There is a need for further sensitization to mitigate onward movements and to have consultations with WFP on the harmonization of food assistance across the region. UNHCR and WFP are also working with the authorities to mitigate the risks associated with the launch of phase III of the prioritization exercise in July 2023.

Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Preparations:

*Uganda will be a **co-convenor at the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF)** which will take place in the second week of December 2023. The GRF is the largest global international gathering on refugees.*

- **Roundtable on self-reliance and resilience:** The first GRF roundtable on the thematic area of self-reliance and resilience took place on 30 May 2023. The roundtable examined five priority themes: infrastructure, capacity building, research and learning, policy, and resourcing & financing mechanisms. Some of the main outcomes were for the government to: develop special economic zones to support investment; operationalize the Private Sector Engagement Strategy; expand and improve the provision of employment as a public service. An outcome document with recommendations will be produced for the GRF pledges around resilience and self-reliance and how partners can align themselves with it. The next roundtable on Environment, Energy and Climate Change is scheduled for July.

- **RHPG Mission to North and West Nile:** Members of the Humanitarian Development Partner's Group (RHPG) went on a mission to the North and West Nile regions of the country from 16 to 19 May 2023. The main objective of the mission was to highlight the needs in Northern Uganda, allow donors to visit their projects, as well as to ensure a focus on humanitarian issues in lead up to the Global Refugee Forum. The delegation was represented by France, JICA, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, ECHO, USA/PRM and USAID, the British High Commissioner and Netherlands.

Launch of Education Response Plan (ERP) II: The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Kataaha Museveni, officially launched the second *Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (ERP II)* on 24 May 2023, at State House Nakasero, Kampala. Its main objective is to mobilize resources and co-ordinate efforts towards increased access to quality and relevant education for more than 670,000 refugee and host community students per year. It will also address gaps identified in the ERP I that was implemented from 2018 to 2021. The ERP II covers aspects of access and quality in pre-primary, primary, secondary, and technical vocational education, and training (TVET), accelerated education programs (AEP), and system strengthening.



PROTECTION

Refugee Status Determination: The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) adjudicated 105 asylum applications of 195 individuals, with a recognition rate of 100 per cent for the urban caseload. These were mainly recognized based on religious persecution, especially asylum seekers from Pakistan. Cumulatively, the REC has held three sessions, one in each of the settlement of Rwamwanja, Kyaka and Kampala. It also adjudicated 742 asylum applications of 1,868 individuals comprising of Congolese, Rwandans, Burundians, Pakistanis, Sudanese, and other nationalities. The overall recognition rate is 74 per cent.

Child Protection: At the end of May, children represent 56 per cent (871,072) of the total refugee population in Uganda. Out of this, a total of 81,284 children were identified as having different types of specific needs. UNHCR and partners are currently supporting a total of 18,053 child protection cases, through comprehensive case management including assessments, response, and referrals among other services.

Community Based Protection: In April and May 2023, there were 20 reported suicide incidents, compared to 34 in March. This could be attributed to increased MHPSS interventions by UNHCR and partners across the settlements, although more resources are required to mitigate the root causes of suicides, to avoid death by suicide.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: In May 2023, the operation submitted 537 cases for possible resettlement, bringing the total number in 2023 to 1,361 refugees. During the first quarter, January to March 2023, the operation recorded 1,442 departures through private sponsorships as a complementary pathway, and an additional 84 departures in May 2023. These include 40 refugees who departed for family reunification.

The labor mobility project to Canada continues with the first cohort of refugees set to receive their employment letters. For Education pathway, 42 candidates passed the initial eligibility screening for the education corridors in Italy and will be facilitated to have interviews with the respective universities.

Interagency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM): In preparation for the rollout of the food prioritization exercise in July 2023, sensitization campaigns have been ongoing across the settlements. The FRRM has faced a steep increase in the number of calls received during the month of May 2023. The FRRM received close to 5,000 calls, which is more than those received in the entire 2022. Most of the calls were about food prioritization and in which categories the individuals belong. The current call rates are unsustainable considering the available capacity of the call center. Additional support is needed to relieve the pressure on the FRRM system.



HEALTH

Health statistics: During the month of May, 246,253 consultations were registered across the refugee response, with 26 per cent nationals and 74 per cent refugees. On average, each clinician provided 38 consultations per day, which was within the standard of less than 50. Overall, the largest disease burdens were malaria (37 per cent), Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) (10 per cent), skin diseases (6 per cent), Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) (7 per cent), and Urinary Tract Infection (4 per cent) in the general population. Among children under five years, malaria was leading at 41 per cent, followed by URTI (15 per cent), LRTI (13 per cent), diarrhea (7.0 per cent) and skin diseases (6 per cent).

Mortality rate: Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) stood at 0.03 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month, in May 2023. The under-five mortality rates stood at 0.07 deaths per 1,000 population per month.

Live births and child immunization: A total of 3,809 (2,259 refugees and 1,550 nationals) live births were registered during the month of May 2023. Of these, 95 per cent were attended by skilled health workers and five per cent delivered via caesarean section. A total of 8,053 children were immunized against measles, 10,557 received diphtheria (DPT) and 12,808 the polio vaccine.

HIV prevention, care, and treatment: A total of 10,528 were tested for HIV across all settlements, of whom 90 tested positive and were enrolled into HIV care and treatment.

Malnutrition: The children admitted with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were 102 of whom 92 individuals (90 per cent) recovered and were discharged into the outpatient therapeutic programme. An additional 361 children with SAM were managed in the outpatient therapeutic programme, with a recovery rate of 71 per cent. The children under five that were admitted for treatment of moderate malnutrition were 526, with 484 (92 per cent) recovering successfully.



WATER AND SANITATION

Water supply: In May 2023, a total of 23.3 million litres of water were supplied per day, resulting in an average of 17 litres per person per day (lpd) for both refugees and the hosting population. This was achieved through operation and maintenance of 205 motorized water systems and 1,097 hand pumps. As a result, three refugee settlements, namely Oruchinga, Rhino, and Imvepi, have exceeded the water supply target of 20lpd, while seven other settlements were within the range of 15-20lpd. UNHCR, OPM and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) are in the process of transitioning management of water supply from partners to NWSC in three settlements (Kiryandongo, Nakivale and Oruchinga). This is expected to start on 1 July 2023.

However, water access in three settlements, namely Nakivale, Kyaka II and Rwamwanja, remain critically low (below 15lpd), due to insufficient investment in water supply infrastructure for new arrivals. About forty-nine per cent of the water in the settlements is supplied through renewable sources of energy (solar and hydroelectricity), while about 38 per cent is still supplied through hand pumps. Water supply through water trucking remained high in Lobule (11.1 per cent).

In addition, the level of water at Lake Nakivale, which provides over 60 per cent of the settlement water supply has been receding. This led to reduced production in Nakivale settlement during the month of May 2023. The challenge of water pressure due to increased private connection along the transmission line in Rwamwanja has led to chronically reduced per capita consumption in the settlement.

Latrine coverage: Household latrine coverage remained at an average of 67 per cent, due to an increase in new arrivals and a lower number of completed household latrines.

A digital community health information system to collect data on health and WASH interventions is being piloted in Kiryandongo and Kyaka II settlements. The Community Health Information Tool is being implemented by the Village Health Teams (VHTs), who gather household data on health, nutrition, and WASH. The data collected will be used to monitor and evaluate the interventions made in the communities.

ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Major achievements in reforestation and clean energy have taken place across West-Nile and Southwest region:

Seedlings for tree growing and agroforestry: A total of 90 hectares (222 acres) of land have been newly granted and accessed in May 2023. In Arua, 87 hectares (215 acres) of land have been opened for rice production and three hectares (7 acres) of land in Yumbe for agroforestry.

Establishment of woodlots: Yumbe, Moyo and Arua established a total of 196 hectares of land for new woodlots through the procedure of bush clearance, lining out, marking, and pitting of the land. Nakivale, Moyo, Arua, Oruchinga and Kyaka II established a total of 50.7 hectares of land for woodlots.

Cookstove construction and briquette production: Yumbe, Arua, Moyo, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II constructed a total of 4,179 energy efficient cookstoves during the month of May 2023.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Construction: Several construction projects are ongoing in the operation. A community centre in Rubondo, Nakivale settlement will provide a recreation space for the community and skilling of refugee and host community youth. This will create opportunities for livelihoods interventions, leading to self-reliance. Resettlement offices and accommodation in Oruchinga and Nakivale settlements will allow for more resettlement cases to be processed at a time.

Plot demarcation: A total of 698 individuals in 132 Households have been relocated to Palorinya settlement, Moyo district, from Nyumanzi reception center in Adjumani. In this respect, 100 plots were demarcated in Umwiju Base camp zone and 50 more plots were demarcated in Dama in zone II which facilitated the timely relocation of refugees to the settlement.

However, in the southwest, plot allocation in low lying areas poses a risk to the refugees due to flooding. UNHCR will support OPM on the appropriate identification of areas for settling new arrivals. In addition, there is need to do road rehabilitation and creation of new access roads in areas where the refugees are being relocated to ease access to services like protection and other infrastructure assistance (WASH, education, Health, Nutrition, Livelihood and economic services and shelter).

Working in Partnership With:

Government - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Governments (DLGs), Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE).

District authorities in refugee-hosting/receiving districts – Adjumani, Amuru, Arua, Bundibugyo, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kasese, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kisoro, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Ntoroko, Obongi, Terego, Yumbe and Zombo.

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

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

Financial Information: UNHCR is grateful for the donors' support to this operation

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 42 million | **Education Cannot Wait** 12.5 million | **Denmark** 6.8 million | **Netherlands** 5.45 million | **Japan** 3 million | **Canada** 1.9 million | **Sweden** 1.4 million

France | Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex) | Germany | IKEA Foundation | European Union | Astellas Global Health Foundation | UN Children Fund | IGAD | Austria | Private donors Germany | Solvatten | United Nations Population Fund | Toyota Tsusho Corporation | Eaglecom Foundation | Augustinus Fonden | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Coca-Cola Foundation | Other private donors

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 4.8 million | **Private donors Australia** 3.9 million | **Private donors Germany** 3.3 million | **Finland** 3.1 million | **Canada** 2.4 million

Isle of Man | Luxembourg | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Netherlands** 34.1 million | **United Kingdom** 28.9 million | **France** 26.7 million | **Private donors Spain** 24.1 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 17.2 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

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The Refugee Response in Uganda is coordinated jointly by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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