Uganda

June 2023

By the end of June 2023, Uganda was hosting **1,561,634** 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 **34,436** refugees from DRC (16,191) and South Sudan (18,245). There are 367 new arrivals from Sudan since the onset of violence there. By nationality, 263 are from South Sudan and 104 from Sudan.

The number of new arrivals has led to overcrowding at some of the collection facilities. At the end of June, there were 5,035 individuals in the transit centers and collection points (2,292 in West Nile and 2,743 in the Mid and South-West).

1,561,634

Number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** as of 30 June 2023.

1,512,681*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 30 June 2023.

48,953

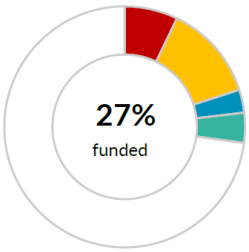
Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 30 June 2023.

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

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2023:

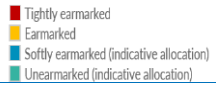
USD 343.4 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 June 2023)



Unfunded 73% - US$ 250.2**M**

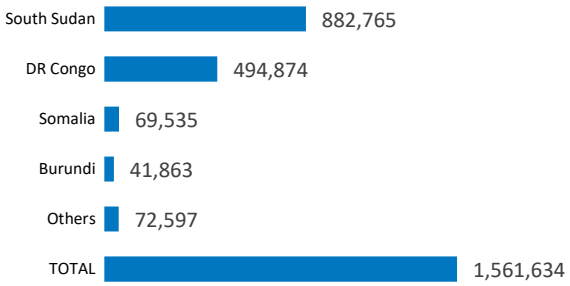
Funded 27% - **US$ 93.1 M**



Onward movers from Uganda to Kenya, camped in Kitale, Kenya. Photo ©UNHCR/Arata Otake

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN: 1,561,634

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality



Total **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 30 June 2023

Partners and refugees in the Uganda refugee operation, march during World Refugee Day 2023 national celebrations in Palabek settlement, Lamwo district. Photo ©UNHCR/Frank Walusimbi

Contextual and Operational Highlights

World Refugee Day messages: The World Refugee Day (WRD) was celebrated in all settlements across the operation. The national event took place in Palabek settlement, Lamwo district, with the Hon. Eng. Hilary Onek, the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, as the guest of honor. The event was attended by the UNHCR representative, partners, and refugees. While the celebration centered around the theme of refugee inclusion, it is worth noting that during his address, Minister Onek expressed concerns regarding the reduction in funding to the refugee response and called for increased responsibility sharing to maintain Uganda's generous refugee policy. The issue of prioritization and the impact of food ration reductions was a central issue raised by refugees during the WRD. They highlighted some of the negative coping mechanisms that refugees may resort to, such as suicide. In another location, Bidibidi FM 95.3 in Yumbe district, was inaugurated as the first community radio station in a settlement.

IGAD-EAC High-Level Ministerial Conference on Durable Solutions for Refugees: The Regional Dialogue on Durable Solutions was held from 13-16 June 2023. The IGAD-EAC conference, co-convened by the Government of Uganda, is the first joint conference between the two regional bodies to discuss refugee issues. The main objective was to strengthen coordinated regional approaches to the refugee situation in the East, Horn, and Great Lakes Region of Africa. On 16 June 2023, the IGAD-EAC Ministerial Declaration on Durable Solutions for Refugees was adopted and signed by 11 out of 12 member states of the IGAD and EAC regions. Member states have agreed to formulate a joint Multi-stakeholder Regional Durable Solutions Pledge for the Global

Refugee Forum 2023. The pledge aims to adopt regional refugee management policies, develop a regional approach to economic inclusion, establish guidelines for the inclusion of refugees in peace and development processes, and address state fragility in the region. Having harmonized approaches to assistance to discourage onward movement was a point raised. The next step will be to re-convene an expert session in September 2023 in Arusha to develop a Plan of Action for the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration.

Return of Onward Movers to Uganda: UNHCR Uganda and the Office of the Prime Minister - Department of Refugees facilitated the return of 1,537 onward movers who had sought refuge in Kitale, Kenya. Refugees reportedly left Uganda due to food ration reductions and insufficient assistance. They voluntarily returned to Uganda after it was made clear by Kenyan authorities that they would not be granted long term protection in Kenya. 1,504 individuals were transported in six convoys to settlements in Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Palorinya, Palabek, and Nakivale (Oruchinga). Upon their return, they were resettled in their original plots of land, and the World Food Programme (WFP) enrolled them for food distribution.

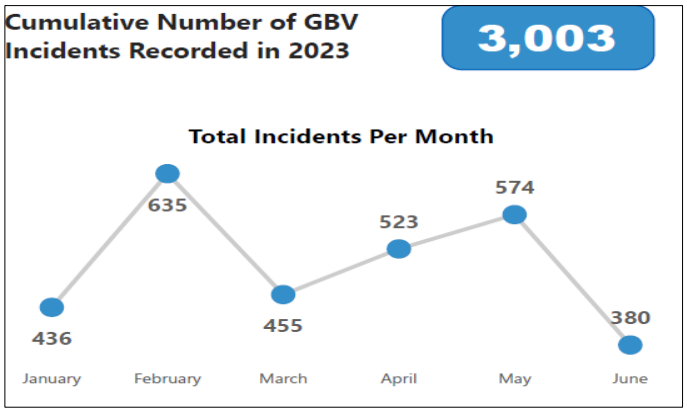
PROTECTION

Refugee Status Determination: With support from UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is currently implementing the Accelerated Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Procedures Project, which is aimed at backlog reduction of 30,000 asylum applications. Cumulatively, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) has held three sessions in Kampala, Rwamwanja, and Kyaka II settlements. They adjudicated 753 asylum applications of 1,868 individuals. Of the cases adjudicated, 481 households (1,052 individuals) were granted asylum while, 175 applications (546 individuals) were rejected.

Registration: The urban verification exercise resumed on 26 June 2023 at the Kabaka's Palace / Lubiri in Mengo, after having been suspended in November 2022 due to concerns over Ebola. The target population for verification in 2023 is 56,000 individuals. At the end of June, 208 households (363 individuals) had been verified. During the exercise, new generation documents are being issued to refugees and asylum seekers as well as reactivation of those that were inactivated in the 2022 exercise. A scheduling plan was disseminated, and sensitization of refugees and asylum seekers is ongoing. The exercise is set to conclude on 25 August 2023.

Community Based Protection: In June 2023, the Interagency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) received 61,098 calls of which 51 per cent were made by women and girls and 92 per cent of all calls were resolved at the helpline level and others referred to partners. Those that were handled as cases were 41,856 with the highest being new queries (8,503) related to food/cash prioritization followed by resettlement (408), and health & nutrition (308). This is a huge increase from the 5,000 that were received in May 2023.

Gender Based Violence (GBV): Since the start of the year to June, 3,003 GBV incidents were managed. Women were the most affected and majority of the incidents occurred in private spaces mainly in the survivor's homes. The top prevalent incidents were psychosocial abuse, denial of resources, physical abuse, and rape. June has a reduced number of cases, due to a reduction in capacity to handle them.



Child Protection: At the end of June, 56 per cent of the total refugee population were children. Of this, 82,290 have been identified as children at risk, notably unaccompanied or separated children, child labor, teenage pregnancy. There are 28,993 children living with disabilities who require support. UNHCR continues to strengthen the identification of children at risk including those with disabilities for possible assistance, evidence-based programming, advocacy efforts and resource mobilization.

On 16 June 2023, the national commemoration of the Day of the African Child took place in Kampala under the theme "Promoting and Protecting Children's Rights in the Digital Era". The Guest of honor was the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi who officially launched the Children's Act (braille version); the National Para Social Worker Training Manual; the Competency framework for Senior Probation, Welfare Officers, and Community Development Officers; and the National strategy for continuous professional development. The Minister reassured that refugee children are included in national systems.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: In June 2023, the operation submitted 472 cases for possible resettlement, bringing the total number in 2023 to 1,822, which was 41 per cent of the annual target. The new Humanitarian Referral Identification (HRI) methodology remains the primary identification method, with 656 cases of 3,659 persons interviewed for protection/resettlement identification purposes.

Under complementary pathways, 1,897 refugees benefitted from private sponsorships, 363 family reunifications, and four from third country education opportunities. Through the labour mobility project to Canada, six refugees received employment letters and 20 candidates have been awarded scholarships to study in Italy, out of whom 14 have accepted the offer, and pre-departure formalities are underway.

EDUCATION

Tertiary Education: UNHCR received two University partial scholarship opportunities from the University of Kisubi (19 slots) and Jesuit Refugee Services (15 slots). The 34 partial scholarship slots will target refugee girls, across all settlements and those in Kampala. The students will attend the University of Kisubi (Bachelor of Education

course) and Makerere University (variety of courses). Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) will be supporting the students attending Makerere University. UNHCR is expected to supplement with additional education requirements and accommodation needs in a cost-sharing approach. The scholarship opportunities are expected to increase the number of girls accessing tertiary education.

HEALTH

Health statistics: During the month of June, 237,229 consultations were registered across the refugee response, with 26 per cent nationals and 74 per cent refugees. On average, each clinician provided 59 consultations per day, which was above the standard of less than 50. Overall, the largest disease burdens were malaria (42 per cent), Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) (11 per cent), skin diseases (6 per cent), Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) (8 per cent), and Urinary Tract Infection (3/4 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).

There was a decrease of about 9,000 consultations made overall compared to the month of May. However, there was an increase of 21 consultations per clinician per day, pushing the consultations beyond the standard of 50. This is partly attributed to the decreased number of health workers in some locations and increase in disease burdens, such as malaria, which increased to 42 per cent up from 37 in May, and Respiratory Tract Infections, which each increased by one per cent.

Mortality rate: Crude mortality rate stood at 0.06 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month in June 2023 and under five mortality rates at 0.07 against a standard of 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month.

Live births and child immunization: A total of 3,727 (2,162 refugees and 1,565 nationals) live births were registered during the month of June 2023. Of these, 97 per cent were attended by skilled health workers and 12 per cent delivered via caesarean section. A total of 8,613 children were immunized against measles, 15,204 received diphtheria (DPT) and 20,295 the polio vaccine. There was an overall increase of children immunized in June, compared to May 2023.

HIV prevention, care, and treatment: A total of 7,138 were tested for HIV across all settlements, of whom 52 tested positive and were enrolled into HIV care and treatment. This is a decrease in the number of those found to be positive, from 90 in May, to 52 in June 2023, which could be attributed to fewer people testing for HIV (10,528 in May 2023).

Malnutrition: The children admitted with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were 145 of whom 82 per cent recovered and were discharged into the outpatient therapeutic programme. An additional 558 children with SAM were managed in the outpatient therapeutic programme, with a recovery rate of 77 per cent. The children under five that were admitted for treatment of moderate malnutrition were 617, with 93 per cent

recovering successfully. There has been a marked increase in malnutrition, compared to May 2023. In June, those admitted for SAM increased by 43 individuals, out-patient treatment of SAM increased by 197 and moderate malnutrition increased by 91.

WATER AND SANITATION

Water supply: In June 2023, water was supplied to the refugee population and host communities at an average of 17 liters per person per day. This was achieved through operation and maintenance of 219 motorized water systems and 1,148 hand pumps. As a result, three refugee settlements (Oruchinga, Rhino and Imvepi) surpassed the water supply target of 20lpd, another seven settlements were within the range of 15-20lpd. 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 48 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 at 11.1 per cent.

Latrine coverage: Household latrine coverage was maintained at 66 per cent on average, this is due to increased new arrivals and a lower number of households latrines completed.

ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Seedlings for tree growing and agroforestry: A total of **107** hectares (264 acres) of land have been newly granted and accessed in June 2023. In Arua, 42 hectares (104 acres) of land have been opened for rice production and 65 hectares (161 acres) of land in Yumbe for agroforestry. In Kyangwali, 20 hectares (49 acres) of wetland was newly demarcated with 5,000 assorted bamboo seedlings as live markers. A total of 287,247 seedlings were provided to Kyangwali, Parlorinya and settlements in Arua.

Land Use Assessment: In Nakivale settlement, a joint stakeholder assessment was conducted to identify the causes of drastic fall in water levels in Lake Nakivale. It was discovered that excessive encroachment has caused massive silting. To prevent further distraction, there is need for enforcement of existing regulations and more sensitization of the refuges and host community.

Establishment of woodlots: Arua, Moyo and Yumbe prepared and established a total of 289 hectares (714 acres) of land for new woodlots in the different settlements.

Challenge: In Kyangwali, some tree seedlings in woodlot and wetlands were damaged due to encroachment by cattle keepers in the host community, and some farmers who look for firewood.

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. In addition, the construction of resettlement offices, protection desks, classrooms, health facilities, police stations, accommodation, and solar lighting in some settlements, is ongoing. The facilities will increase on the number of protection and resettlement cases handled, improve access to education and health, as well enhance safety of refugees in the settlements.

Plot demarcation: In June, a total 215 plots were demarcated to settle new arrivals in Parlorinya settlement, Moyo district. This brings the total number of plots demarcated in the settlement to 365. A piece of land covering 23 acres with an estimated absorption capacity of 630 individuals was assessed and set to be demarcated for the next relocation.

Challenges: Plot allocation in the Southwest 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 Officer 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 Voluntari (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), Cooperazionee 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** 14.2 million | **Denmark** 6.8 million | **Netherlands** 5.45 million | **Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex)** 4 million | **Japan** 3 million | **Canada** 1.9 million | **Sweden** 1.4 million France | | 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 | Hope Health Action | Private donors United Kingdom | Other private donors
OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD **Private donors Australia** 5.3 million | **United States of America** 4.8 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 | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Private donors Spain** 30.4 million | **United Kingdom** 28.9 million | **France** 26.7 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Private donors Japan** 21.2 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 15.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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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