FACT SHEET

Uganda

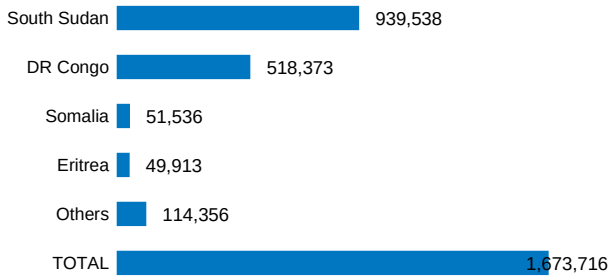
April 2024

By the end of April 2023, Uganda was hosting 1,673,716 refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals continue to enter the country from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan.

Since the beginning of the year, Uganda has received 48,707 refugees from Sudan (18,682), South Sudan (9,927), Eritrea (8,960), DRC (9,005) and others (2,133). The number of new arrivals has led to overcrowding at some of the collection and transit facilities with 7,367 individuals in the transit centers and collection points (3,121 in West Nile and 4,246 in the South and Mid-West).

POPULATION OF CONCERN: 1,673,716

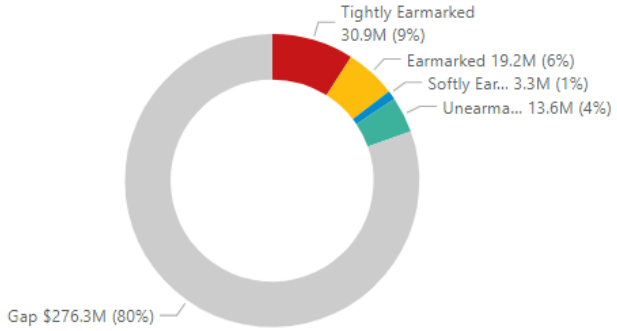
Countries of Origin



Total **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 30 April 2024

UNHCR's Financial Requirements 2024: US $343.4 M

Funding against requirements (as of 30 April 2024)



Funded 20% - US $**67.1 M**

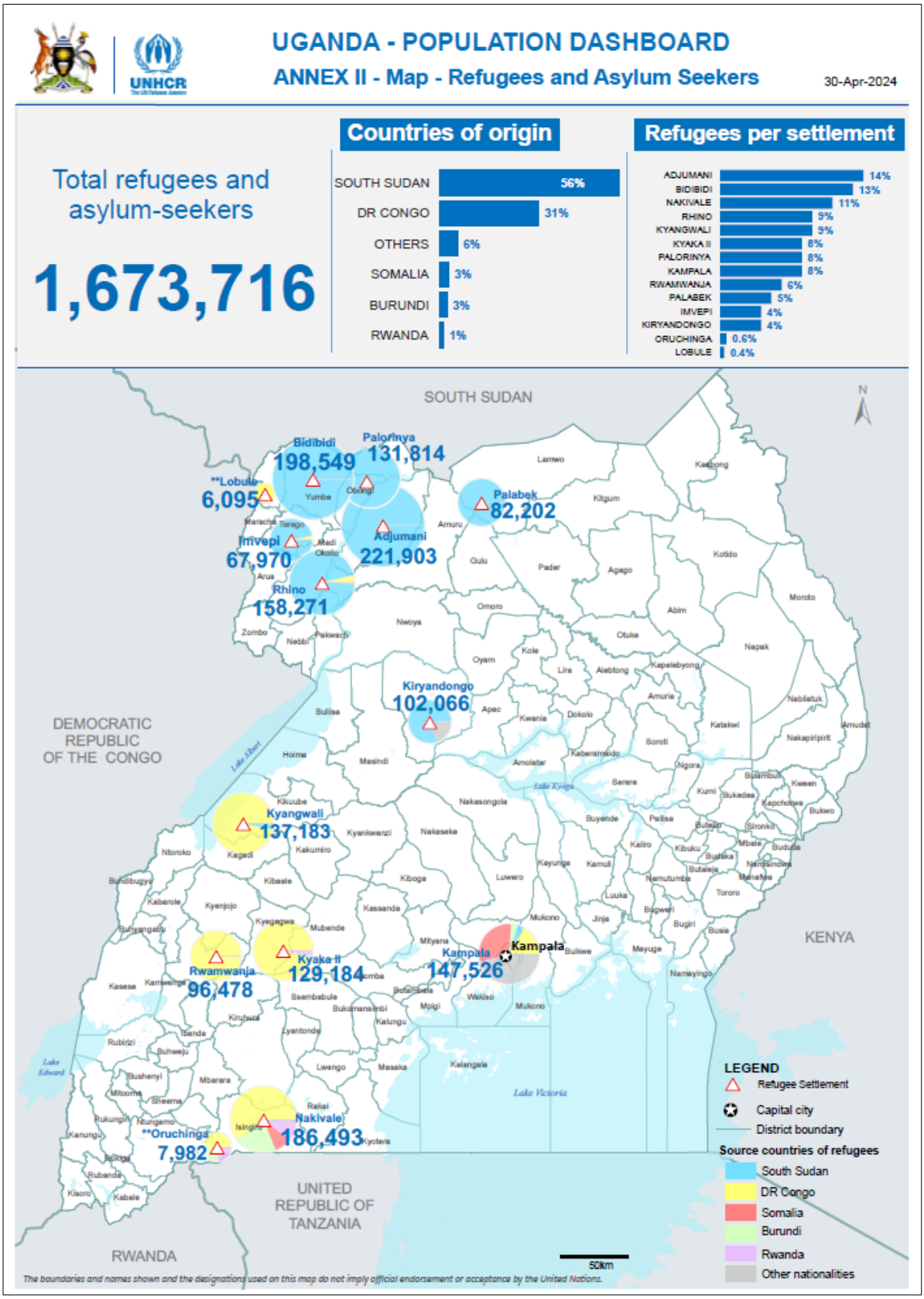
Unfunded 80% - US $**276.3 M**

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 586
474 **National Staff**
112 **International Staff**
07 IUNV
68 UNOPS
16 JPO, Deployees, Interns

Offices: 14
1 Branch Office in Kampala
3 Sub Offices in Adjumani, Arua, Mbarara
7 Field Offices in Kyaka II, Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kiryandongo, Moyo, Yumbe, Kyangwali
3 Field Units in Kampala, Kisoro, Lamwo

German Head of Cooperation visiting Bidibidi FM radio accompanied by the music of the "Brass for Africa" group during a field visit to Bidibidi refugee settlement. Photo ©UNHCR/Christopher-Georges Lemesle



Uganda has 13 refugee-hosting districts (Adjumani, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Koboko, Lamwo, Madi-Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe). Refugees are hosted in 13 settlements (Adjumani[1], Bidibidi, Imvepi, Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Lobule, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja), in addition to the urban refugees in Kampala.

[1] *Adjumani consists of 18 settlements.*

Main Activities

Implementation of the GCR and its CRRF

- The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Uganda has made significant progress since its launch in 2017, as refugees are included in national planning through Uganda's National Development Plan III and District Development Plans. The CRRF, guided by a high-level Steering Group, involves refugees in decision making. Uganda was among the co-conveners at the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, prioritizing areas such as transition of services, action against climate change, and localization of the refugee response.
- With assistance from the Joint Data Center and in partnership with UNFPA, UNHCR facilitated the inclusion of refugees in the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2023/2024.

Protection & Durable Solutions

- UNHCR collaborates with the government to protect refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda through a Multi Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy (MYMPSS) 2021-2025. UNHCR supports the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in registration and documentation. Since the beginning of 2024, Uganda has registered over 60,170 individuals (30% Sudan, 19% South Sudan, 15% Eritrea, and 13% Democratic Republic of Congo).
- Uganda's approach to asylum is flexible, with 94% of refugees recognized on prima facie upon entry. Other asylum seekers undergo Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processes, managed by the government with UNHCR's advisory role, resulting in an overall recognition rate of 91%.
- At transit and reception centers, UNHCR, WFP, and partners offer comprehensive support to refugees, including registration, protection, core relief items, hot meals, nutrition screening, psychosocial first aid, vaccination, medical treatment, and referral for services.
- The protection strategy prioritizes the legal and physical safety of refugees through their equitable inclusion in the national justice system with police stations established in settlements. Yet, significant protection issues remain, with gaps in Documentation, Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection and Psychosocial support.
- Since December 2020, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 13,292 Burundian refugees (including 824 in 2024) that had sought asylum in Uganda. However, limited local integration prospects due to funding constraints have reduced refugees' intentions of return.
- Resettlement to third countries is a key durable solution to protracted refugee crisis. As of 30 April, 1,333 individuals have departed for third countries in 2024.

Urban Refugee Response

- By end of April 2024, Kampala hosted 147,526 refugees and asylum seekers, many living in crowded conditions like the urban poor. Despite government expectations for self-reliance, urban refugees face socioeconomic challenges including limited funding, insufficient livelihood opportunities, language barriers, academic qualification accreditations, mental health issues and inadequate healthcare. The urban field unit is dedicated to addressing these issues.

Education

- UNHCR in partnership with the government and NGO partners, ensures that all refugee children access to equitable quality education at all levels (pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary and higher education). The government's integrated service delivery policy via the National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25) and Education Response Plan (ERP) II (2022-2025), progressively includes refugees in the national education system. UNHCR is supporting this transition to integrated service delivery through constructing schools, teacher salaries, and academic

scholarships, with a focus on accessible quality education, and strengthening the national education system. Transition is progressive and phased. As of April 2024, 36% (118 schools) are coded and government- aided benefiting from wage (teachers) and non-wage recurrent (conditional grants) support.

- As of April 2024, Gross Refugee Enrolment rates (GER) across all education levels for refugees stood at 57% up from 53% in April 2022. Specifically, the primary GER of 95% compares well with the 110% national average while the secondary enrolment rates remain low at 12.75 % compared to 23% in secondary national system. The pre-primary enrolment rate is 43%. At secondary level, girls are disproportionately affected in terms of access and transition. The average Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTR) in schools hosting refugees is as follows: 1:56 in pre-school (national standard of 1:25), 1:70 in primary (national standard of 1:53) and 1:42 at secondary (national standard 1:36). Pupil Classroom Ratio (PCR) stands at high as 1:132 against 1:53 while pupil latrine ratio stands at 1:65. These indicators fall outside the standards required to deliver quality education.
- Currently, UNHCR and its partners facilitate education across 287 pre-school centers, 270 primary, and 61 secondary schools. This involves providing salaries for 4,775 teachers, supporting teacher capacity building, school curriculum books, support supervision and monitoring, school fees support/ scholarships for vulnerable learners, translation of certificates, inclusive education for Children living with disabilities, and instructional materials. Due to budgetary short falls supply of scholastic/ school supplies has been greatly reduced to target only the vulnerable children. The cost of providing for the school supply needs of the 428,454 students with vulnerabilities is USD 1,7 million.

Health

- UNHCR works to ensure that all refugees have access to basic and life-saving healthcare, reproductive healthcare, HIV prevention and nutritional well-being. The UCRRP 2022-2025 and the Government's Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP) 2019-2024, avail access to healthcare services for refugees and host communities with no restriction on nationality. UNHCR Uganda aims to improve access to high-quality primary healthcare, leveraging on Village Health Teams to address factors contributing to ill-health, including non-communicable diseases.
- UNHCR is delivering primary healthcare through support to 94 health facilities in 13 refugee hosting districts, including core staffing support of around 1,918 health workers, upgrading and rehabilitating infrastructure, supplying medical equipment, essential medicines and ensuring the operation of 65 ambulances for emergency response across the refugee hosting districts.
- Overall, health indicators in the operation are within standard thresholds, with a Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) of 0.06 deaths/1000 population, Under-5 Mortality Rate of 0.11 deaths/1,000 population, and no Maternal Mortality registered. Outpatient facilities provided a total of 160,053 consultations, slightly below the monthly average of 183,000 consultations with the leading causes of morbidity during the reporting period being malaria (33%), upper respiratory tract infections (12%), lower respiratory tract infections (6%), Urinary tract infection (5%), gastric and duodenal ulcers (5%), anaemia (6%), and skin diseases (6%).

Food Security and Nutrition

- With UNHCR and OPM support, WFP maintains general food assistance (GFA) for refugees in Uganda, delivered as in-kind (38%) and cash (62%). Due to funding shortfalls, a needs-based targeting approach by WFP prioritizes food assistance to vulnerable refugees, allocating 60% rations to the most vulnerable households and 30% to moderately vulnerable households. Only new arrival refugees receive 100% rations and for the first 6 months.
- The 2023 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) showed regional disparities: Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was 3.1% in the Southwest and 9.8% in West Nile. Refugee household food insecurity however rose to 67.6% from 54.6% in 2022 due to ration reductions by WFP.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR works with partners and government institutions to ensure that refugees have access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. In settlements, there's a shift from emergency to long-term WASH infrastructure development, focusing on reducing carbon footprint and operating costs. Refugees are increasingly involved in service delivery, promoting ownership and sustainability, with about 23 million liters of water supplied daily through 220 motorized water systems and 1,051 handpumps, ensuring approximately 16 liters per person per day access.
- The Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) is in place, to aid the integration into national systems of WASH services provided in refugee settlements, as part of the transition strategy. Efforts include transferring water systems to entities like the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and the Northern Umbrella for Water and Sanitation (NUWS).

Shelter, infrastructure and NFIs

- In Uganda, Shelter, Settlement, and NFI sector prioritizes comprehensive settlement planning to foster socioeconomic transformation and resilience of Persons of Concern (PoCs) in refugee settlements and hosting communities. UNHCR provides a technical support role to OPM and District Local Governments (DLGs), with physical planning and land optimization of refugee settlements through the Refugee Settlement Land Taskforce (RSLT).
- The Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items Working Group (SSNFI WG) has adopted a novel 'self-help' model, standard shelter kits are provided to refugees, enabling them to construct emergency shelters that can be upgraded later to semi-permanent structures, with qualified external labor available for non-abled vulnerable households. Similarly, UNHCR is progressively monetizing the NFI package to empower refugees and to contribute to the local economy.
- UNHCR is committed to enhancing living conditions at reception facilities by expanding their capacities through the construction of new accommodation and WASH structures. Efforts continue to replace dilapidated temporary and semi-permanent structures with permanent buildings.

Energy and Environment

- UNHCR is committed to addressing its environmental footprint. The arrival of displaced populations can exacerbate environmental issues, therefore, UNHCR promotes sustainable practices in refugee settlements, including promotion of clean energy, waste management, water conservation, and reforestation. Since 2019, UNHCR has partnered with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to combat environmental degradation in refugee-hosting areas and to foster peaceful coexistence with host communities by mitigating competition for forest resources.
- By the end of April 2024, approximately 5.4 million seedlings had been raised and ready for transplanting and of these, 1.5 million had already been distributed to beneficiaries to take advantage of the first planting season.
- With support from EU-INTPA, 51 schools in Isingiro district (24 schools), Kamwenge district (13 schools) and Kyegegwa district (14 schools) were electrified through solar power and are now fully operational.

Livelihoods, Resilience, and Economic Inclusion

- For refugees and displaced populations, self-reliance is crucial for integration, dignity, and empowerment. UNHCR focuses on enhancing livelihood opportunities by supporting vocational training, facilitating access to employment and income-generating activities, and promoting entrepreneurship and small business development. However, despite the efforts, only 39 per cent

of refugee households have access to land for agricultural activities and access an average of 0.6 acres which is the minimum amount of land recommended for self-sufficiency.

- Despite funding challenges, the operation continues in bolstering refugee livelihoods to foster long-term self-reliance. Given the ongoing food prioritization, there's a pressing need to amplify investments by development partners and private sector actors in livelihoods and economic inclusion initiatives, particularly in agriculture and enterprise development.

Logistics

- Supply and logistics are among the cornerstones of humanitarian programme delivery. It is a critical enabler for program delivery, and improved logistics, including fleet management is an integral part of UNHCR's operations. UNHCR coordinates with partners to transport Non-Food Items (NFIs) to various sites and provides transportation support for new arrivals.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: UNHCR is grateful for the donors' support to the operation.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
United States of America 15.4 million | **European Union** 13 million | **Netherlands** 4.4 million | **Spotlight** 3 million | **España con ACNUR** 2.7 million | **Japan** 2.4 million | **Sweden** 1 million | **Republic of Korea** 1 million
Switzerland | IKEA Foundation | IGAD | Private donor in Canada | Germany | Other private donors.
OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
Finland 5.5 million | **Norway** 2.8 million
UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
Sweden 90.6 million | **Norway** 58.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **Switzerland** 19.2 million | **España con ACNUR** 19 million | **Republic of Korea** 17.9 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Belgium** 11 million | **Australia** 10.7 million | Japan for UNHCR 10 million
Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | 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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Links: Uganda Refugee Response Portal / UNHCR Uganda Facebook Page / UNHCR Uganda Twitter (X) Account