# Refugee Access to Livelihoods and Housing, Land, and Property

## May 2019 UGANDA

#### CONTEXT

Uganda is currently hosting the largest number of refugees in the region with over 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi.<sup>1</sup> Recently arrived refugees have joined Rwandese, Somali, and other refugees that have lived in Uganda for decades. Due to the large number of refugees, the range of countries of origin, and the varying lengths of displacement, there are key information gaps on how access to or lack of housing, land, and property (HLP) for refugees impact their potential for sustainable livelihoods. In partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), REACH conducted an assessment from 3 December 2018 to 15 March 2019 2019 to collect baseline data on refugees' access to livelihoods and HLP. The assessment aims to provide a better understanding of the conditions of refugee access to livelihoods and HLP, the linkages, and other factors influencing sustainable livelihoods and potential movement within Uganda.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

A mixed methods approach was used, driven by a household-level structured survey, semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs). The quantitative household-level survey produced results representative for the refugee population in 30 refugee settlements (considered as 25 due to five combined settlements in Adjumani) across 11 districts, as well as select divisions of Kampala (Makindye, Kampala Central, and Kawempe) with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error at the settlement level for all questions asked to the entire sample size. A total of 3,165 households were interviewed for this assessments. All questions referring to a subset are footnoted.

KIIs and FGDs were used to triangulate the data and provide context to quantitative findings. KIIs targeted settlement leadership, including Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) commandants and UNHCR staff, refugee welfare committee leaders, district local government officials, and key partners working in relevant sectors. Semi-structured FGDs were stratified by gender and conducted with refugee and host community groups in each location.

Findings in this factsheet are representative of refugee households living in 3 divisions of Kampala. A total of 122 refugee households were interviewed in Kampala Central Division.

### POPULATION PROFILE OF REFUGEES IN UGANDA

**Demographics**<sup>1</sup>



#### Displacement demographics<sup>1</sup>

#### Top countries of origin:1

- 1 South Sudan (65%)
- 2 DRC (27%)
- 3 Burundi (3%)
- 4 Somalia (2%)

#### **BRIEF OVERVIEW OF KAMPALA CENTRAL DIVISION**

Kampala Central division comprises the central business district of Kampala and includes the areas of Old Kampala, Nakasero and Kololo. These areas are the most upscale business and residential neighborhoods in the city. The division also incorporates low income neighborhoods including Kamwookya, Kisenyi and Kampala's Industrial Area. The division comprises 20 parishes.



<sup>1</sup> Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) population figures updated as of April 2019. <sup>2</sup>This question was only asked to the 15% of respondents facing HLP challenges. The level of confidence may thus be lower than 95%. <sup>3</sup>Respondents could answer more than one option for this question.

# HOUSING

#### UGANDA **KAMPALA CENTRAL DIVISION**

### HHs perceiving themselves at risk of eviction:

# 25%

### **TENURE ARRANGEMENTS**

% of HHs by shelter tenure:



#### 99% Rented

1% Owned by other family members (rent free)

66% of HHs have documentation proving ownership or legal occupancy of shelter.

Of those, the most commonly reported types of documentation are:<sup>3</sup>

Rental receipt	84%
Rental agreement	11%
Other receipt	4%

Of the 91% of HHs who reported their renting costs:

351,133 UGX Average monthly rent:

Of those, proportion of income spent on rent:

Around half	43%
More than half	35%
Less than half	22%

% of renting HHs by person they are paying the rent to:<sup>3</sup>

Host community household	90%	6
Other refugee household	8%	
Other	2%	

#### Average number of individuals per room: 4

### SHELTER CHALLENGES

28% of HHs reported shelter damage. Of those, the most commonly reported parts of the shelter damaged are:<sup>3</sup>

Damage to roof	68%
Damage to wall material	44%
Damage to floor	35%

71% of HHs reported not being able to conduct repairs. Of those, the most commonly reported reasons include:<sup>3</sup>



**41%** of HHs reported having sometimes, often or always visible wastewater in the vicinity (30 meters or less) of their accommodation in the 30 days prior to data collection

## LAND

#### Method of accessing land around shelter plot:



62% Renting to access someone else's land 14% Accessing someone else's land for free 10% The household owns the land 10% Other

4% The household uses land where they have not been granted access

% of HHs reporting:<sup>3</sup>

**ACCESS TO LAND** 

No access to any land Accessing land where shelter is located Accessing land in a separate plot





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# **HLP Challenges**

**15%** of HHs reported facing HLP challenges. Of those:

Most commonly reported areas of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):<sup>3</sup>

Housing	83%
Property	17%
Land accessed for housing	6%

Most commonly reported types of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):<sup>3</sup>

58%	Payment issue dispute
42%	Eviction
26%	Theft

### **HLP ISSUE RESOLUTION**

9% of the 19 HLP issues reported were attempted to be resolved by the HHs

Out of the HLP issues that HHs attempted to resolve, the following mechanisms were used:<sup>3</sup>

Family	42%
LC1 chairperson/local gov official	25%
NGO	8%

8% of the HLP issues reported were resolved



89% of HHs reported having no property at all. Out of the 11% who do:

# HHs with income-generating property:

#### Most commonly reported type of property:<sup>3</sup>

4%	Physical structure for shop/small business
3%	Sewing machine
3%	Vehicle

92% of property items are owned by one owner.

Proportion of those by sex of owner:



62% of HHs that own property/assets reported having documentation proving ownership or legal access

% of HHs by number of income-generating property items reportedly owned:



95% Zero income-generating items5% One income-generating item0% Two income-generating items0% Three income-generating items

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION

## Most commonly reported sources and types of information HHs access:<sup>3</sup>

Source	Family and friends Local councils OPM/UNHCR	-		80% 26% 23%
Type of information	Registration Safety Availability of services	-	43% 33% 23%	

86% of HHs reported trusting the information they receive

#### Most commonly reported information needs of HHs:<sup>3</sup>

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Employment opportunities65%Availability of services35%Safety29%

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# LIVELIHOODS

#### UGANDA KAMPALA CENTRAL DIVISION

#### HHs reporting perceived livelihoods challenges:

# 97%

### LIVELIHOODS SOURCES

Out of the 82% of HHs who reported having a source of income, the most commonly reported sources are:<sup>3</sup>



## Most commonly reported livelihood groups HH members participate in:<sup>3</sup>

Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations Business association 4%

Village Savings and Loan Associations 4%

#### Most commonly reported livelihoods challenges:<sup>3</sup>

Lack of work opportunities	
Lack of credit to start/continue a business	
Low wages	

74% of HHs have men of working age and 80% of HHs have women of working age. Of those:

Most commonly reported livelihoods skills gained in country of origin:<sup>3</sup>



#### Most commonly reported livelihoods aspirations:<sup>3</sup>



# **MOVEMENTS WITHIN UGANDA**

### PAST MOVEMENTS

% of HHs that had at least one member move in the year prior to data collection: 6%

68%

37%

34%

Of those:

#### Most commonly reported reasons for moving:<sup>3</sup>

Security	29%
Presence of health services	14%
Presence of education services	14%

# 50% of the HHs with at least one member who moved reported that they receive resources from the member that moved

### **MOVEMENT INTENTIONS**

% of HHs that have at least one member planning to move in the 6 months following data collection:



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#### Of those:

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Most commonly reported reasons for planned movement:<sup>3</sup>

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Presence of food distribution	43%
Presence of shelter	43%
Availability of local food	29%



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