Refugee Access to Livelihoods and Housing, Land, and Property

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.[1] 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 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 assessment. 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 Kiryandongo refugee settlement. A total of 106 refugee households were interviewed in Kiryandongo.

POPULATION PROFILE OF REFUGEES IN UGANDA

Demographics[1]

Female	Age	Male
2%	60+	1%
20%	18-59	16%
8%	12-17	9%
13%	5-11	13%
9%	0-4	9%

Female-headed households (HHs): 67%

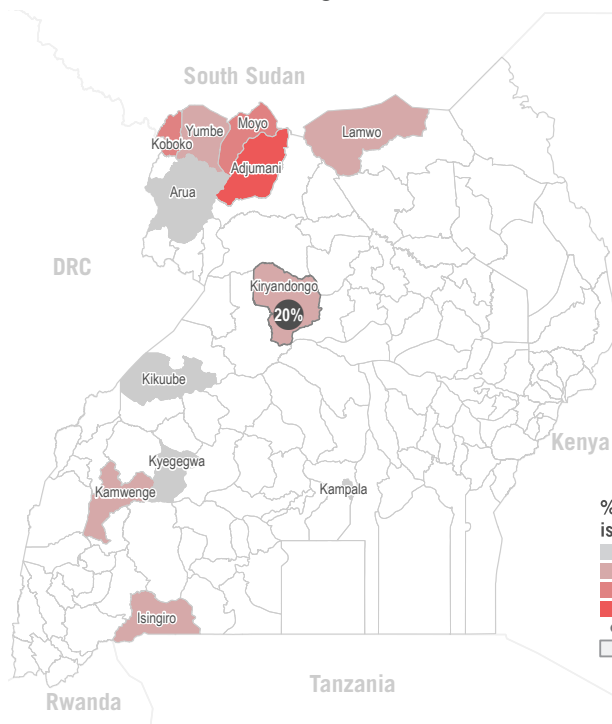**Average household size:** 7

Displacement demographic

Top countries of origin:[1]

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

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF KIRYANDONGO IN KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT

Kiryandongo refugee settlement, originally established in 1990, was re-opened in 2014 during the South Sudanese emergency and now hosts almost 60,000 refugees. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan, with a small number from DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan. Although now closed to new arrivals, partners continue to facilitate settlement of relocated protection cases.


% of HHs reporting HLP issues aggregated by district
- 13% - 17%
- 18% - 25%
- 26% - 34%
- 35% - 69%
- ● Focus settlement (Kiryandongo)
- ▢ Focus district

HHs WITH VULNERABLE MEMBERS

Unaccompanied/separated child, orphan	36%
Disabled members	47%
Pregnant / lactating women	37%
Female-headed HHs	70%

HHs reporting member with persons with specific needs (PSN) card: **62%**

HHs reporting that some members are not registered as refugees: 13%
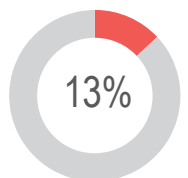
TOP 3 HLP CHALLENGES[2]

Land accessed for cultivation[3]	38%
Land accessed for housing	33%
Housing	24%

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[1] Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) population figures updated as of April 2019.
[2] This question was only asked to the 20% of respondents facing HLP challenges. The level of confidence may thus be lower than 95%.
[3] Respondents could answer more than one option for this question.

HOUSING

TENURE ARRANGEMENTS

% of HHs by shelter tenure:

68% Owned by the head of the household
30% Owned jointly between household members
1% Owned by the spouse
1% Owned by other family members (rent free)

1% of HHs have documentation proving ownership or legal occupancy of shelter.

% of HHs by methods of shelter acquisition:

Construct 98%
Acquire 2%

Of the **98%** of HHs that reported constructing their shelter, most commonly reported ways of acquiring materials:[3]

Purchased 75%
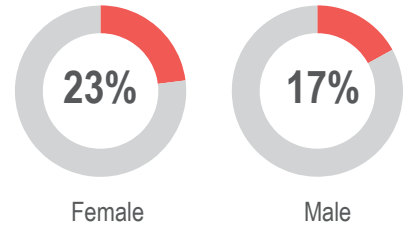Nature 54%
Assistance 35%

SHELTER CHALLENGES

50% of HHs reported shelter damage. Of those, the most commonly reported parts of the shelter damaged are:[3]

Damage to roof 70%
Damage to wall material 43%
Damage to floor 17%
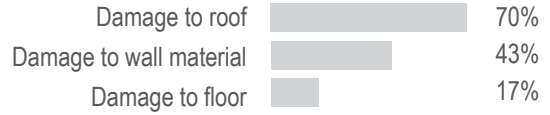
64% of HHs reported not being able to conduct repairs. Of those, the most commonly reported reasons include:[3]

No money for repair 91%
Material not available 44%

% of HHs reporting members do not feel safe in their current shelter:

23% Female
17% Male

LAND

ACCESS TO LAND

% of HH reporting:[3]

Accessing land where shelter is located 95%
Accessing land in a separate plot 20%
No access to any land 2%
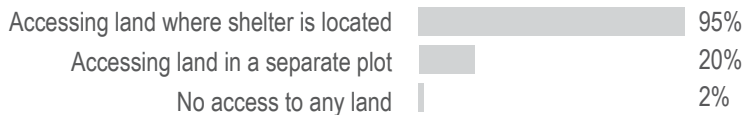
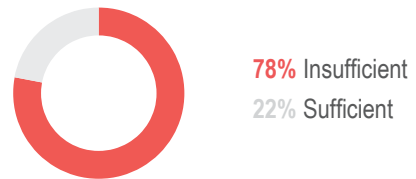Method of accessing land around shelter plot:

93% OPM/UNHCR allocation[4]
4% Accessing someone else's land for free
2% Renting to access someone else's land
1% The household owns the land

20% of HHs reported accessing land outside their shelter. Of those, the most commonly reported methods of accessing that land are:[3]

OPM/UNHCR allocation 57%
Renting to access someone else's land 29%
Accessing someone else's land for free 14%
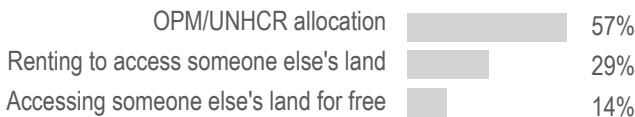
USE OF LAND FOR CULTIVATION

76% of HHs reported using their shelter plot for cultivation. Of those, the following reported on sufficiency of the land to provide food for the HH in the most recent harvest.

78% Insufficient
22% Sufficient

FORMAL AGREEMENTS

Of the **7%** that access land around shelter plot through renting, free access, or ownership, **0%** of HHs that have a formal agreement to access the land

Of the **43%** of land accessed outside of shelter plot through renting, free access, or ownership, **22%** are accessed through formal agreement

[4] The Government of Uganda allocates land for residential and agricultural purposes, to refugees, irrespective of ethnicity and origin. This is done via OPM with the support of UNHCR.
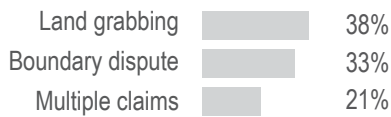
Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

HLP Challenges

20% of HHs reported facing HLP challenges. Of those:

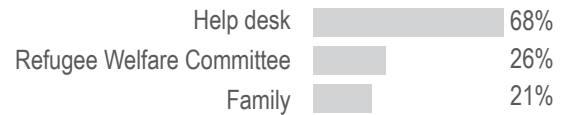**Most commonly reported areas of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):[3]**

Land accessed for cultivation	38%
Land accessed for housing	33%
Housing	24%
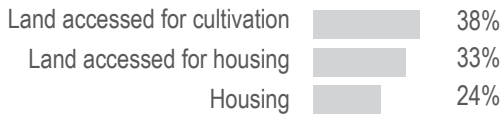
Most commonly reported types of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):[3]

Land grabbing	38%
Boundary dispute	33%
Multiple claims	21%

HLP ISSUE RESOLUTION

16% of the **24** HLP issues reported were attempted to be resolved by the household

Out of the HLP issues that HHs attempted to resolve, the following mechanisms were used:[3]

Help desk	68%
Refugee Welfare Committee	26%
Family	21%

14% of the HLP issues reported were resolved

PROPERTY

41% of HHs reported having no property at all. Out of the **59%** who do:

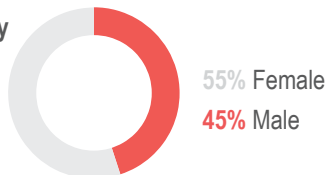**HHs with income-generating property:** **10%**
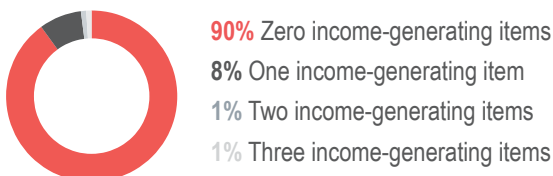
Most commonly reported type of property:

Solar panel	44%
Livestock	26%
Bicycle	4%

69% of property items are owned by one owner

Proportion of those by sex of owner:

55% Female
45% Male

41% of HHs that own property/assets reported having documentation proving ownership or legal access

% of HHs owning number of income-generating property items:

90% Zero income-generating items
8% One income-generating item
1% Two income-generating items
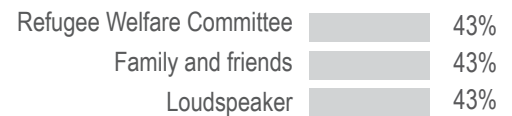**1%** Three income-generating items

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Most commonly reported sources and types of information HHs access:[3]

Source		
	Refugee Welfare Committee	43%
	Family and friends	43%
	Loudspeaker	43%

Type of information		
	Food distribution	90%
	Registration	64%
	Availability of services	29%

93% of HHs reported trusting the information they receive

Most commonly reported information needs of HHs by area:[3]

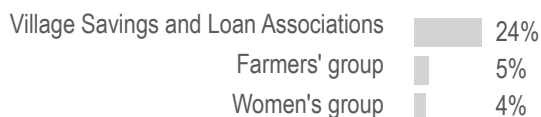|	
Availability of services	52%
Food distribution	45%
Registration	43%

LIVELIHOODS

HHs reporting perceived livelihoods challenges: **96%**

LIVELIHOODS SOURCES

Out of the **92%** of HHs who reported having a source of income, the most commonly reported sources are:[3]

Cash assistance	46%
Farming	14%
Remittances	10%

Most commonly reported livelihood groups HH members participate in:[3]

Village Savings and Loan Associations	24%
Farmers' group	5%
Women's group	4%

Most commonly reported livelihoods challenges:[3]

Lack of work opportunities	78%
Lack of credit to start/continue a business	56%
Lack of skills/qualifications	44%
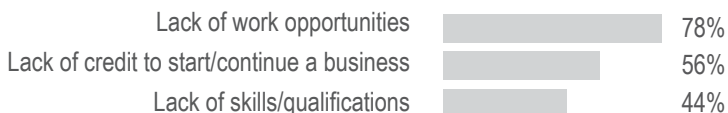
SKILLS AND ASPIRATIONS

82% of HHs have men of working age and **96%** of HHs have women of working age. Of those:

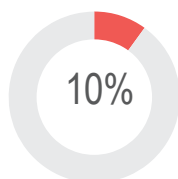**Most commonly reported livelihoods skills gained in country of origin:[3]**

Farming	55%	Farming	55%
Livestock	35%	Domestic work in the home	42%
Construction	20%	Hairdressing	27%
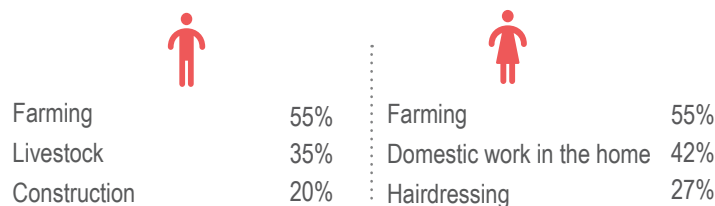
Most commonly reported livelihoods aspirations:[3]

Computer	32%	Tailoring	31%
Electrician	25%	Hairdressing	30%
NGO or social work	25%	Health worker	28%

MOVEMENTS WITHIN UGANDA

PAST MOVEMENTS

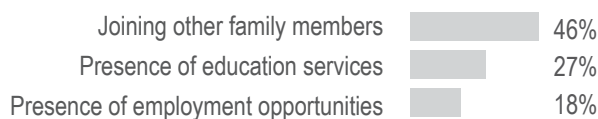% of HHs that had at least one member move in the year prior to data collection: **10%**
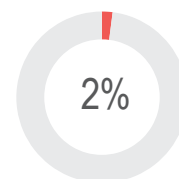
Of those:

Types of destinations:

9% | 81% | 9%

- **urban area**
- **rural area**
- **another refugee settlement**
- **another site in same refugee settlement**

Most commonly reported reasons for moving:[3]

Joining other family members	46%
Presence of education services	27%
Presence of employment opportunities	18%

100% 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: **2%**

Of those:

Types of destinations:

50% | 50%

- **urban area**
- **rural area**
- **another refugee settlement**
- **another site in same refugee settlement**

Most commonly reported reasons for planned movement:[3]

Joining other family members	50%
Plant crops/cultivate land	50%
Presence of employment opportunities	50%