

Uganda

1 – 30 June 2021

The Ugandan borders have remained closed for asylum since March 2020 due to COVID-19. However, spontaneous movements to/from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued via unofficial crossing points, owing to the dire humanitarian situation in these countries.

About **5,000** asylum-seekers are said to have crossed into Uganda from the DRC,

COVID-19 UPDATE

Cumulatively, as of 30 June 2021, there were **84,116 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, of whom, **1,805 were refugees** and

554 humanitarian workers.

The cumulative number includes **41,971 recoveries**, **948** of whom were **refugees** and **415 humanitarian workers.**

Deaths reported were **1,966** since March 2020, **30** of whom were **refugees** and **three humanitarian workers.**

1,498,442

Number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** as of 30 June 2021.

1,475,312*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 30 June 2021.

23,130

Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 30 June 2021.

*Increase in number is attributed to the registration backlog and new-borns.

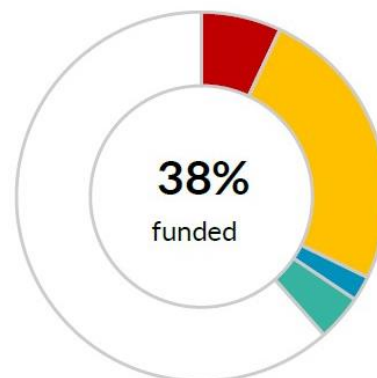


A painting by a youth in Bidibidi refugee settlement, Yumbe district. Photo ©UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane

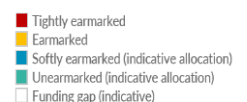
UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2021:

USD 344.8 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 June 2021)



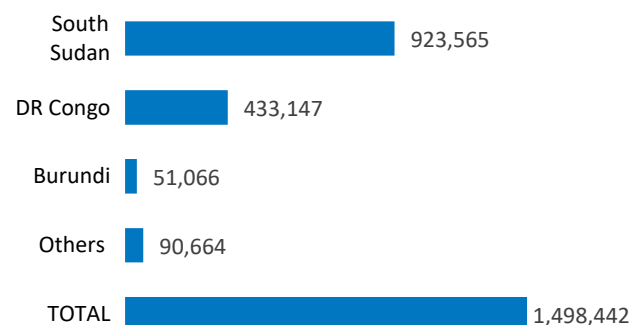
Unfunded 82% - **283.1 M**
Funded 38% - **61.7 M**



POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by

Nationality





Artists: Patrick Aleko, Vivian Khemisa, Azamuke Kizito and Gift Moses paint a mural at a school in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Photo ©Bidibidi refugee settlement/ Richard Hakim

Contextual and Operational Highlights

World Refugee Day 2021: Uganda commemorated World Refugee Day 2021, amidst a second wave of COVID-19. Most activities were held virtually, in compliance with new COVID-19 restrictions. The focus this year was on awareness-raising initiatives. On 15 June 2021, UNHCR hosted a webinar “*Uganda: a model of refugee inclusion — How are Japan, UNHCR and NGO partners supporting these efforts?*” in collaboration with the Tokyo office, the Embassy of Japan, representatives from some Japan funded NGOs and a refugee women’s representative from Palorinya settlement. On 18 June, refugee response partners issued a joint statement applauding Uganda’s inclusive approach to refugees, whilst stressing the need for more resources to address gaps in meeting basic needs. On 19 June, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi held an online conversation with Victor Ochen, Founder and Executive Director of Uganda-based African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET). On 20 June, NBS hosted a live debate on refugee inclusion with the participation of Joel Boutroue, UNHCR Representative to Uganda, Julius Mucunguzi, Head of Communications with the Office of the Prime Minister, Noella Kabale, Refugee representative at the Refugee Engagement Forum, and Francis Iwa, Country Director of Care and Assistance for Forced Migrant (CAFOMI), and Co-chair of the Humanitarian Platform for National and Local Organizations. UNHCR Representative to Uganda shared his insights on the importance of refugee inclusion and the need for more international solidarity to support refugees and their hosting communities in a Q&A published on 20 June. UNHCR Assistant Representative (Protection), Margaret Atieno joined a TV debate on women’s leadership in the refugee response on NTV on 21 June 2021.

COVID-19: Since March 2020, 1,805 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with 948 recoveries and 30 reported deaths. On 30 June 2021, the cumulative countrywide figure for COVID-19 positive cases

stood at 84,116 cases, with 56,338 recoveries and 1,966 reported deaths. In total, 554 humanitarian workers have tested positive for COVID-19 across the country. The Ministry of Health has rolled out the vaccination program across the country for both citizens and refugees. By the end of June, 16,150 people had been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the refugee settlements. They included 2,749 health workers, 3,357 teachers, 5,087 humanitarian workers and 4,957 refugees above 50 years, as well as those with underlying comorbidities.

New COVID-19 Restrictions - In a public address held on 18 June, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni announced the establishment of new COVID-19 lockdown measures, to stem a surge of infection in the country, to be revised after 42 days. These included a ban on public and private transport within and across districts, save for emergency services; closure of all education institutions; and a longer night curfew from 19.00 to 5.30 hours. Food markets and non-agricultural activities could continue operating as long as they were able to house their workers on site. Entebbe international airport remained open. UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Local Government, continued to hold weekly ad hoc Inter-Agency Coordination meetings with partners, to ease communication and coordination around the COVID-19 response in the refugee operation. UNHCR continued efforts to facilitate waivers for movement of partners for the delivery of critical services.

New High-Profile Supporter for Uganda: UNHCR Uganda has signed an agreement with Ugandan singer Maurice Kirya, who will be a High-Profile Supporter. Maurice is a Ugandan soul singer, instrumentalist, and businessman. He has worked with UNHCR in the *Got Talent* shows and supported refugees to record their music. He has also been involved in different charitable causes in Uganda.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Emergency Response in South Western Uganda: Since the beginning of June, over 5,000 Congolese new arrivals had reportedly crossed to Uganda fleeing conflict and violence in Ituri. Despite COVID-19-related border closures, Uganda has continued to apply exceptions and allowed people in need of protection and life-saving assistance to enter the country at Ntoroko and Bundibugyo, in southwestern Uganda. By the end of June, a total of 2,212 arrivals were in Bubukwanda Transit Centre, Bundibugyo district and many more were believed to be hosted by local communities. Children made up approximately 60 per cent of the population at the transit centre. The new arrivals reported fleeing arbitrary killings, abductions and attacks on civilians in Ituri, especially in the villages of Boga, Kyabohe, Kayinama, Kitumba and Mukwanga. The vast majority of the population were from four ethnic groups, namely Banyoro, Lendu, Bamba, Banyali and Bahema. OPM and UNHCR were coordinating the response on the ground together with partners, including CAFOMI, the World Food Programme and Medical Teams International.

A total of 210 new arrivals with COVID-19 symptoms had been tested as of 28 June, with 73 having returned a positive result (35 per cent). With a capacity to accommodate up to 700 people in normal circumstances, and a COVID-19 requirement to operate at half capacity to ensure social distancing, Bubukwanga was severely overstretched. Work has started to expand its capacity up to 3,000 people. According to Ugandan security forces deployed along the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, about 50 people were crossing into Uganda daily.

Verification and Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE): The verification and Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE) was supposed to have initially started in 2020 but had to be postponed to June 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it had to be suspended temporarily due to the spike in the Uganda COVID-19 cases in the county, and eventual lockdown. UNHCR prepared a background note on the criticality of verification and submitted it to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for clearance to proceed with the activities. Verification materials and equipment have been pre-positioned in Oruchinga, Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kyaka and Kiryandongo settlements, and WFP has provided equipment support. The recruitment of the

verification and translation of the verification information campaign materials to Juba Arabic, Nuer, Dinka, and Bari has been completed.

Burundi Voluntary Repatriation: There has been a delay in the voluntary repatriation of Burundi refugees. This was due to the lockdown measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

Closure of academic institutions: The new measures issued by the President to curb the escalation of the second wave of Covid-19, and to mitigate its effects, include the closure of schools and institutions of learning for 42 days. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) has put off the reopening of Primary One, Two and Three, as well as semi-candidate classes (Primary Six, Senior Three and Senior Five). As per the calendar, they were supposed to report back to school on 7 June 2021, for their promotional term of the 2020 academic year.

The COVID-19 taskforce has been revitalized by the Education in Emergencies sector working group, and the strategy on continued learning during COVID-19 lockdown has been updated by the MoES. The Ministry also issued directives on teachers' vaccination, revised school calendar and guidelines for safe reopening of schools.

Challenges

School closure: Following the first lockdown in March 2020, approximately 15 million learners in Uganda, of whom 600,000 were refugees, had to stay at home. The candidate classes of Primary Seven, Senior Four and Senior Six, returned to school in October 2020 and completed their academic year in April 2021. The phased re-opening of schools in Uganda for non-candidate classes for the 2020 academic year, supposed to run from March to July 2021, is now disrupted. The school closure and lockdown often have negative consequences, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

The Government of Uganda has included teachers among the priority groups for vaccination against COVID-19. Unfortunately, only 20 per cent of teachers have been vaccinated so far. All teachers have been urged to get the COVID-19 vaccine, and school management encouraged to ensure that their schools follow the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), for the safe reopening and operation of schools.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

Health statistics: During the month of June, 208,555 consultations were registered across the refugee response, with 24 per cent nationals and 76 per cent refugees. On average, each clinician provided 51 consultations per day. Overall, the major disease burdens were malaria (40 per cent), Upper Respiratory Tract Infection-(URTI) at 10 per cent, skin diseases (6 per cent), and Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) at 7 per cent. Among children under five years, malaria was leading at 37 per cent, followed by URTI (16 per cent), skin diseases (6.3 per cent), LRTI (11 per cent), watery diarrhea (7 per cent) and skin infection (7 per cent).

Mortality Rate: Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) stood at 0.1 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month in June 2021. Leading causes of death were malaria (11 per cent), LRTI (9 per cent), and Neonatal death (16 per cent). The under-five mortality rates stood at 0.1, which is within the public health standards of less than 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month. The major causes were malaria (23 per cent), LRTI (10 per cent) and neonatal death (47 per cent).

Live births and Immunization: Of the 3,854 live births registered, 97 per cent were conducted at health facilities by skilled health workers. Thirty-seven per cent of the deliveries were by refugees and 63 per cent nationals. Children vaccinated against measles were 4,973 and 13,985 received diphtheria and polio vaccine.

HIV prevention, care, and treatment: A total of 11,565 individuals were tested for HIV across all settlements, of whom 155 tested positive and were enrolled into HIV care and treatment. The mothers that attended the antenatal care clinics were 23,751, of whom 5,676 attended for the first time and were tested for HIV, in a bid to prevent mother-to-child transmission. A total of 17,993 patients are currently receiving HIV treatment in the settlements, 36 per cent of whom are refugees and 64 per cent nationals.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

During the month of June, water supplied to refugees in the settlements stood at an average of 16.1 litres per person per day. About 21.7 million litres of water was supplied daily through 191 motorized water schemes and 1,129 handpumps. Of the water supplied, 37.4 per cent was provided through renewable solar energy and 4.2 per cent through the national utility system. One solar water scheme was commissioned in Nakivale settlement, constructed by Engineers without Borders.

The sector has continued to utilize water attendants to support in ensuring and enforcing social distancing at water collections points. Risk communication on COVID-19 continued in all settlements with families encouraged to observe hand hygiene and social distancing at water collection points. Soap distribution was sustained at 250g per person per month, to support hand hygiene in response to COVID-19.

Household latrine coverage currently stands at 72 per cent across settlements, with the exception of Oruchinga settlement where it remains below 50 per cent. Institutions still have a sanitation gap of about 38 per cent. Given the ongoing COVID-19 response, handwashing practices have significantly improved, with more handwashing practices promoted by partners.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

High-level Event on the Environment: A high-level event entitled “*Clean and Safe Energy in Refugee settings: Moving forward on the Clean Energy Challenge*” was held on 3 June 2021, with participation of the UNHCR High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi. The Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Robert Kasande represented Uganda in a high-level panel discussion on energy in displacement - one of the stock-taking events ahead of the High-Level Officials Meeting in December 2021. The PS highlighted that Uganda is in the process of finalizing a costed Sustainable Energy Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities, worth about USD 287 million over the next four years. This plan seeks to further advance grid extension and last mile electricity connections in refugee settlements, scale-up clean cooking alternatives and strengthen mandated to implement the plan at central and district level.

World Environment Day: The 2021 World Environment Day (WED) was commemorated under the theme “*Ecosystem Restoration*”. Communities were sensitized on the importance and need for restoration and protection of degraded fragile ecosystems such as wetlands. In addition, a variety of trees were planted in different communities within the settlements, communal places like trading centres cleaned and exhibitions held.

Briquette production: Four newly formed refugee groups in briquette production were each supported with a carbonizing drum, crusher, mixer, and extruders. This will enable community access to alternative sources of energy, apart from three stone stoves that is commonly used as a cooking method.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Protracted dry spell within the month of June could not enable continuity in tree growing activities.
- Malicious uprooting of seedlings by unknown people in Panyadoli Zone C1, Kiryandongo settlement, due to unresolved land conflicts.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

Construction: Construction is ongoing for Koboko District Maternity Ward; overnight shelters and waiting shade in Imvepi; seven litigation rooms; one block of five-stance VIP latrine at Agojo police post; two blocks of semi-permanent structures, five-stance VIP latrine, food serving shelter, generator house; and motorization of one borehole at Lukung Reception Centre; and a Women's Centre in Rwamwanja settlement.

Roadworks: Road maintenance and rehabilitation works in Palabek settlement is at 85 per cent. In Kyaka II settlement, road rehabilitation of all major works is completed. This will improve on the movement of goods and services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Road rehabilitation remains a major challenge throughout the settlements and most of the roads are in a bad state.
- There is still a need for physical planning to guide developments within the settlements.



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

2021 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) funding update, Quarter 1 (January – March 2021): Urgent support is required for the Health and WASH sectors, currently severely underfunded at 12 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. Overall, the consolidated data shows that only one per cent of funds have been given to national NGOs directly and only USD 29million of total funding received is for multi-year projects. In this context, it is important to reiterate the importance of providing flexible multi-year funding and supporting national actors.

2022/2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) development: OPM and UNHCR have started the development of the next Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2022/2023. The RRP is the most important fundraising and planning tool for the humanitarian response in Uganda, which necessitates it being built on a solid analysis of available data. The first step in its development is to ensure an evidence-based understanding of the current situation for refugees and host communities in Uganda, at both regional and national levels. Thematic papers have been developed using available data at the national level around the themes of Access to Services, Socio-Economic Vulnerabilities and Protection Risks. Virtual workshops will be held across refugee hosting districts to enrich the national level analysis with reflections from partners, OPM, sector leads and other field-based stakeholders.

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 districts – Adjumani, Arua, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kisoro, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Ntoroko, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe.

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), 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).

External Relations

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 16.7 million | **Denmark** 9.6 million | **European Union** 4.8 million | **Germany** 3.2 million | **Japan** 2.5 million | **Unilever (UK)** 2.4 million | **Netherlands** 1.97 million | **Qatar** 1.8 million | **Republic of Korea** 1.7 million | **Remon L Vos** 1.3 million | **Sweden** 1.2 million | **Ireland** 1.2 million

Canada | Education Cannot Wait | France | Switzerland | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe | UN Children Fund | IGAD | BOREALIS AG | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS | Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex) | Toyota Tsusho Corporation | Agility Logistics | Fast Retailing Co. Ltd (UNIQLO) | USA for UNHCR | Transsion Holdings | Other private donors

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 33 million | **Germany** 10.9 million | **Canada** 8.5 million | **Private Donors Australia** 4.9 million | **Private donors Germany** 4.8 million | **Finland** 2.4 million |

France | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Private donors Spain** 42.6 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 26 million | **France** 20 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 17.9 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 14 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | 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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