Overview

The primary objective of the sector is to ensure comprehensive settlement planning to create a conducive environment for socioeconomic transformation and resilience of PoCs in all refugee settlements and hosting communities through preparation and implementation of suitable settlement masterplans in which refugees are given land to cultivate and live on. Roads are built and rehabilitated, for shelter & livelihood, reception facilities are constructed and upgraded, settlement infrastructure is constructed and rehabilitated, including schools, health centers, community centers and other common facilities. Temporary & semi-permanent infrastructure in refugee settlements and reception facilities continue to be upgraded to permanent infrastructure. All construction, upgrading, and rehabilitation works are done under direct implementation (DI) using the project management approach to ensure quality control and value for money. All sectoral activities are done within the provisions and standards of government of Uganda through engagement with line ministries. The sector is also responsible for preparing and updating of the shelter strategy in consultation with OPM and line ministries. The sector advocates and ensures that the refugees get hands-on training, experience and skills development in building and construction. As a result, the skilled refugees support new arrivals and old cases in setting up new shelters and upgrade the existing household shelters. Over the years refugees have participated in construction projects whereby the ratio of refugee’s labor to nationals is normally 50:50. Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) are supported with shelter materials by UNHCR and partners. UNHCR also provides support in terms of shelter materials or cash whenever natural disasters affect refugee shelters i.e in case of heavy winds, floods, etc. The sector participates in determination of the shelter kit, which is part of the NFI’s that are distributed to new arrivals upon plot allocation. A key objective for the sector is to ensure that shelter options blend in with host communities, as such it continues to push for the implementation of a revised shelter strategy that considers more environmentally sustainable, culturally sensitive, and flexible designs. In addition, a key approach throughout the settlements is the continued establishment of settlement planning guidelines following the Master Plan approach, which aims to improve site planning and contribute to land use optimisation. Due to flexibility of the Uganda Refugee policy, there is free movement to and from settlements by registered refugees. As such there is need to regularly verify vacant plots across the refugee settlements. The sector has prioritized plot verification to have an inventory of vacant plots which can be used to settle new caseloads.

Challenges

Without shelter partners from 2019 to date, a big gap has remained, thus affecting the provision of shelters to all PSNs across the operation. Only a handful have been catered to receive emergency and semi permanent shelters due to limited funds in the constrained environment among the partners. Regarding roads infrastructure in settlements, out of the planned 143 km of roads in 2023 through DI no single Kilometre has been worked on in Q2. This has continued to constrain mobility of goods and services across the settlements. Other challenges include; pressure on limited reception facilities that are mostly temporary; ever decreasing land for settlement; rushed allocations leading to settling new arrivals in unsuitable and inaccurate locations and encroachments, prioritization of shelter plot over agricultural plot and increased pressure on existing settlement and host community infrastructure.

Key priorities

The sector will continue providing emergency shelter kit to new refugee families upon plot allocation to ensure minimum shelter achievement, while ensuring a systematic plot demarcation for both shelter and livelihood to ensure new arrivals in unsuitable and inaccurate locations and encroachments, prioritization of shelter plot over agricultural plot and increased pressure on existing settlement and host community infrastructure. In setting up new shelters and upgrade the existing household shelters. Without shelter partners from 2019 to date, a big gap has remained, thus affecting the provision of shelters to all PSNs across the operation. Only a handful have been catered to receive emergency and semi permanent shelters due to limited funds in the constrained environment among the partners. Regarding roads infrastructure in settlements, out of the planned 143 km of roads in 2023 through DI no single Kilometre has been worked on in Q2. This has continued to constrain mobility of goods and services across the settlements. Other challenges include; pressure on limited reception facilities that are mostly temporary; ever decreasing land for settlement; rushed allocations leading to settling new arrivals in unsuitable and inaccurate locations and encroachments, priority...
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