



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF)

What is the CRRF?

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) was launched by the Office of the Prime Minister in March 2017 with a view of harnessing a whole-of-society approach in responding and finding solutions to the refugee crisis. Adopted by all UN Member States in September 2016 as part of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Uganda was among the first country to implement this new approach to improve the lives of refugees and the Ugandans that are hosting them.

The CRRF in Uganda encompasses five mutually reinforcing pillars as outlined by the global objectives: (i) Admission and Rights, (ii) Emergency Response and Ongoing Needs, (iii) Resilience and Self-reliance, (iv) Expanded Solution and (v) Voluntary Repatriation.

This new approach envisions a world where refugees have access to countries where they are safe, where they are better included, where they are no longer living in camps, and are not dependent on humanitarian assistance only.

How will it be Achieved?

To better support refugees and the communities hosting them, the Global Compact on Refugees calls on Humanitarian and Development actors to work together in a more cohesive and predictable manner to ease the burden on host countries and benefit refugees and host communities. These actors include not just governments, NGOs, refugees and other UN agencies, but also the private sector, international financial institutions and civil society, including think tanks, academia and faith leaders.

Together, they aim to:

- (i) Ease pressure on countries that welcome and host refugees,
- (ii) Build self-reliance of refugees,
- (iii) Expand access to resettlement in third countries and other complementary pathways,
- (iv) Foster conditions that enable refugees voluntarily to return to their home countries.

Who is responsible for CRRF?

In line with the 'whole of society' approach, outlined in the New York Declaration, the rollout of the CRRF is Government-led, spearheaded by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), facilitated by UNHCR, and guided by the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. To promote coordination between, and help strengthen, existing government and partner institutions, a Steering Group and a Secretariat have been setup to support the application of the CRRF locally.

What are the key messages?

The broad key messages for all the defined target audiences are;

1. Uganda's refugee response model, of welcoming our brothers and sisters in the hour of need remains intact. It is not only the humane thing to do but it is the right thing to do.
2. Uganda has a progressive refugee model: Open borders, non-camp policies, free integration of refugees, equal access to government-provided social services, a chance to work and land allocation for farming and shelter. This model is lauded as the most generous in the world.
3. The task is too big for one country, one community or one sector. All hands together, everyone has a role to play. Immense support has been received from the partners towards Uganda's refugee response. However, Uganda's refugee response remains chronically underfunded.

What has been achieved so far?

- Establishment of the CRRF Steering Group which is chaired by Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government. The Steering Group comprises of 35 members representing key stakeholders in Uganda's refugee response including two representatives from the refugee community;
- Uganda's National Plan of Action was adopted at the 2nd CRRF Steering Group meeting on 31st January 2018. This key document provides guidance for CRRF implementation until 2020 by clearly defining common milestones and deliverables to advance key expected results;
- A fully functioning CRRF Secretariat under the Office of the Prime Minister with staffing secondments from Government, The UN, NGOs and other development partners is now in place;
- The Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) established to ensure refugees are effectively represented at the CRRF Steering Group by leadership has been setup and is fully operational;
- The Education Response Plan was launched on 14th September 2018 by the Ministry of Education and Sports;

- The Health Integrated Refugee Response Plan was launched by the Ministry of Health on 25th January 2019;
- The Communications and Outreach Strategy 2018-2020 was adopted by the Steering Group on 18th October 2018 to build a common understanding and vision of the CRRF at all levels;
- An Integrated information portal has been developed: www.ugandarefugees.org;
- Verification of refugees in Uganda: 1.2 million refugees (As of Feb 2019) and asylum seekers have been biometrically verified with support from UNHCR and Government of Uganda.

What are the constraining factors?

The CRRF Implementation process has been constrained by several issues.

- The CRRF has been confused with other frameworks hence the development of the Communications and Outreach Strategy to create awareness on how the CRRF reinforces the earlier frameworks in support of Uganda's refugee model;
- Whereas building capacity of the local responders is one of the sustainable ways of preparedness, this is not yet in place. Therefore, the aspect of capacity enhancement for local responders is a key priority;
- CRRF being a coordination model, the ideal is to have all CRRF actors in the same direction guided by the CRRF roadmap. This all-embracing alignment in the response is yet to come to light since various actors have various platforms and refugee coordination models;
- Whereas attempts are being planned for integration of refugee issues into the national planning streams, there are challenges on this to the effect that refugee numbers and indicators are not mainstreamed into the National Development Plan II and District Development plans;
- There are great steps that have been achieved in refugee response planning, but the end is constrained by lack of financial resources to operationalize them.

CRRF Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework



Year of Adoption of the
CRRF in Uganda

17
Staff members

35
Members of the
Steering Group



1.2
million
Biometrically verified
refugees in Uganda



12
Refugee hosting
districts



31
Settlements



7.2
million
Local population of
host communities

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