

# Uganda

26 May 2020

**1,423,740**

Refugees and asylum seekers as of April 2020

**6**

Refugees tested positive to date

**2**

Refugees recovered to date

**230**

Refugees and asylum seekers in quarantine

## Operational context

- Since Uganda confirmed its first COVID-19 case on 21 March 2020, the number of positive cases increased to 222 as of 25 May, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). Among them are four refugees. Following a new presidential directive dated 19 May, Uganda's total confirmed case count does no longer include the number of foreign truck drivers who tested positive for COVID-19 and were handed over to their country of origin – which stood at 241 as of 25 May. Sixty-nine people have recovered from COVID-19, including two refugees. No deaths have been registered so far. As of 25 May, 82,271 samples were tested by the Uganda Virus Research Institute.
- In his 14<sup>th</sup> address to the nation on 19-20 May, President Yoweri Museveni announced the timelines for the easing of lockdown measures. As from 26 May, private cars will be allowed to drive with maximum three people, including the driver while public transport will be allowed to operate at half capacity as from 4 June. Movement restrictions continue in all border districts. Wearing a mask in public is mandatory. Schools, borders and the airport remain closed.

## Highlights

### Protection

- *Access to territory and asylum* – The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to advocate with the government for the safe passage of asylum seekers fleeing violence and persecution in neighbouring countries, after an estimated 1,000 people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) fled deadly clashes between Hema and Lendu communities in the Ituri province and were reportedly stranded on 17 May in no-man land between Uganda and DRC, west of Uganda's Zombo district. International media reported the killing of at least 20 people in DRC's Ituri province after the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) militia, consisting of fighters from the Lendu ethnic group, attacked a Hema village in the early morning of Sunday.
- *Refugees in reception facilities* – UNHCR and partners continued to provide assistance to 927 asylum seekers and refugees currently hosted in reception centres within settlements in southwestern Uganda, including 269 at Kagoma (Kyangwali settlement), 644 at Swese (Kyaka II) and 14 at Mahani (Rwamwanja settlement). All transit facilities along the Ugandan borders with South Sudan and the DRC remain empty and closed.
- *Peaceful coexistence* – UNHCR in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and local authorities engaged refugee leaders and other key community influencers to help restore peace in Kiryandongo settlement (Kiryandongo district), Rhino Camp settlement (Madi Okollo district) and Maaji III settlement (Adjumani) after several incidents of inter and intra community conflict led to volatile security and loss of lives during the reporting period. In Rhino Camp, a witch doctor was arrested after inciting violence against a blind man believed to be a curse for the community. Violence between refugee youth from different ethnic groups resulted in the death of two refugees in Maaji III, including a teenager. In Kiryandongo, intra-community violence between refugee youth left two refugees dead and another 15 people injured, including a national. The Police deployed additional personnel in Kiryandongo to restore order in the area. Twenty-two refugees remain in custody at the Kiryandongo Police Station, including 10

charged with murder, assault and incitement of violence. The situation returned to normal in all of the above settlements. While not directly linked to the COVID-19 crisis, the lockdown measures and the increased idleness among refugee youth have contributed to deepen tribal and political cleavages that existed prior to the pandemic outbreak and were the cause of armed conflict and mass displacement in the country of origin of these refugees.

- *Child Protection* – The Child protection Sub Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF, undertook an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on refugee children. One of the worrying findings is the steep increase in the number of children approaching food distribution’s litigation desks without caregivers, which skyrocketed from 807 in January to 4,305 in April. With an already inadequate child case worker to child ratio of 1:141 (below the global standard of 1:25), providing effective child protection services to increasing numbers of child food collectors remain a challenge. An inter-agency assessment and verification form was developed along with standard operating procedures on child protection considerations for food distribution to ensure that children access food, the risks facing them are properly assessed and their needs managed.
- *Prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence* – UNHCR and partners identified and provided life-saving support to 47 SGBV survivors during the reporting period, including psychosocial and legal counselling and access to medical care. The number of SGBV incidents has increased since the enforcement of COVID-19 containment measures. Awareness-raising activities on SGBV prevention took place in several settlements.
- *Cash assistance to refugees in Kampala* – UNHCR, WFP and OPM continued to prepare the ground for the provision of cash assistance to 42,694 refugee households in Kampala to help them bear the costs of food, non-food items and rent over three months. UNHCR has so far validated the identity of more than 9,000 refugee households (out of 15,800 with an active SIM card) against the biometric refugee database (proGres v.4) and signed a contract with Airtel on 20 May to enable refugees receiving and withdrawing mobile money disbursed by UNHCR and WFP. Airtel will also distribute SIM cards to 26,894 refugee households without a cell number and make additional cell phones available at their agent outlets to allow refugees without a phone to cash the transfer. UNHCR began communication with refugee communities in Kampala to inform them of the scope and modalities of assistance and will begin disbursement of mobile money before the end of May, starting with about 2,500 households.

## Education

- UNHCR and partners distributed self-study materials to nearly 45,000 learners from primary schools and Accelerated Education Programmes (AEP) in Kiryandongo, Kyaka II and Kyangwali settlements. Distance learning materials are not enough to cater for the education needs of refugee children, especially secondary school students.

## Food Security

- UNHCR and WFP developed a guidance note to provide food assistance to approximately 600 refugees who are currently stranded in other settlements than the one of registration. Refugees who have been in Kiryandongo settlements since the enforcement of the lockdown measures but are registered in other settlements benefitted from May’s General Food Distribution (GFD) Some 9,400 settlement refugees have been stuck in urban areas since the end of March and have missed GFD in the settlements ever since.

## Health & Nutrition

- Refugees continued to be included in the implementation of national and district level preparedness and response plans. UNHCR and partners helped MoH investigate 1,462 COVID-19 alerts and test 525 refugees for COVID-19, including by covering the costs of transporting samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute.
- UNHCR in coordination with the District Task Forces in Arua and Adjumani continued to monitor the situation of four refugees who tested positive while in quarantine at Nyumanzi reception centre (Adjumani district) and are currently in isolation at the Arua Regional Referral Hospital.

- UNHCR and partners continued to monitor the situation of 410 individuals in quarantine facilities within refugee settlements, including 214 refugees, 16 asylum seekers, 165 Ugandans and 15 foreign nationals. Adjumani hosts the largest number of refugees in quarantine (79), followed by Bidibidi (46) and Kyaka II (32).
- UNHCR and partners carried out community outreach in Nakivale settlement to sensitize the refugees and local Ugandans about the safe return and reintegration of two former COVID-19 patients who recovered after being in isolation at the Masaka Regional Referral Hospital for three weeks.
- Following the request of Kisoro District Local Government, UNHCR and OPM agreed that Nyakabande transit centre be used as an official quarantine facility for the district, with local authorities assuming responsibility for the feeding of individuals under quarantine.

## Livelihoods & Resilience

- UNHCR in collaboration with UNDP began developing beneficiary selection criteria for a UNDP-led cash-for-work initiative seeking to target 2,700 vulnerable refugees and Ugandans in Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi districts, including women at risk, persons with disability and older persons at risk.
- Australia for UNHCR (A4U) in partnership with UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council continued to support refugee-led organization Refugee Crafts Women Group (RCWG) in Kampala with the production and purchase of handmade crafts. With the funding received so far, RCWG will be able to produce 23,000 keyrings for A4U, supporting the livelihood of 24 refugee women.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

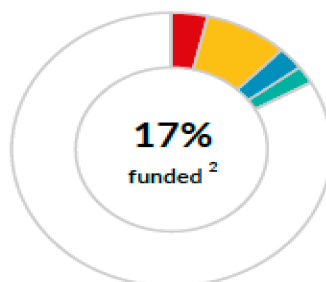
- UNHCR leveraged May's GFD by WFP to deliver a two-month soap distribution to more than 1.34 million refugees living in the settlements, amounting to 500 gr of soap per person. In some settlements, refugee women and girls received also sanitary materials during GDF.



©Kuenta James Dak. Services for refugees in Uganda's Bidibidi settlement during the COVID-19 crisis, as portrayed in a poster by South Sudanese refugee Kuenta James Dak.

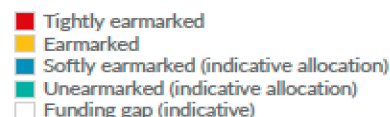
### \$335.7 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020 <sup>1</sup>



### UGANDA

as of 15 May 2020



### CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	14,463,000	-	14,463,000
Denmark	-	-	9,571,492	-	9,571,492
Norway	-	-	-	4,359,673	4,359,673
Germany	-	-	-	3,174,523	3,174,523
Republic of Korea	-	-	1,666,666	-	1,666,666
Japan	-	-	1,237,754	-	1,237,754
Ireland	-	-	-	1,114,827	1,114,827
Remon L Vos	-	-	-	1,091,703	1,091,703
Canada	-	-	1,090,909	-	1,090,909
Switzerland	-	-	1,023,541	-	1,023,541
Education Cannot Wait	-	-	-	998,628	998,628
CERF	-	-	-	799,742	799,742
Spotlight Initiative	-	-	-	674,113	674,113
Netherlands	-	-	-	644,247	644,247
Finland	-	-	596,810	-	596,810
IGAD	-	-	237,412	-	237,412
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	-	-	141,346	-	141,346
Sweden	-	-	-	139,640	139,640
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	40,700	40,700
Miscellaneous private donors	-	-	-	5	105,087
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	-	<b>30,028,935</b>	<b>13,142,883</b>	<b>43,171,818</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	6,899,061	9,062,769	(1,747,505)	(857,958)	13,356,367
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,899,061</b>	<b>9,062,769</b>	<b>28,281,430</b>	<b>12,284,925</b>	<b>56,528,185</b>

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Uganda shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

## Appeals for COVID-19 preparedness and response plans

- The UN Emergency Appeal and Facility for the response and impact of COVID-19 in Uganda was launched on 23 April, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. The appeal amounts to US \$316.4 million, including US \$77.6 million for refugees.
- UNHCR launched its revised [COVID-19 preparedness and response plan](#) on 11 May, in line with the updating of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP). UNHCR Uganda's financial requirements amount to US \$25,856,852.

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