

Uganda

22 June 2020

1,424,373

Refugees and asylum seekers as of May 2020

49

Refugees tested positive to date

5

Refugees recovered to date

304

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 797 as of 22 June 2020, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). Among them are 49 refugees who tested positive while quarantined in Adjumani's Nyumanzi reception centre (41 South Sudanese), Yumbe's Lokopio Technical Institute (5 South Sudanese), Rakai's Mutukula quarantine facility (2 Burundians) and Amuru's Elegu collection point (1 Eritrean). Five refugees have recovered to date, while 44 remain under treatment, including 31 in Kampala's Mulago National Specialized Hospital, 11 in Arua Regional Referral Hospital, 1 in Hoima Regional Referral Hospital and 1 in Entebbe Grade B Hospital. Across Uganda, a total of 699 people has recovered from COVID-19 to date. No deaths have been registered so far. Following a new presidential directive dated 19 May 2020, 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 932 as of 22 June 2020.
- In a televised address on 13 June, Minister of Health Jane Ruth Acheng warned the public that the government may enforce another lockdown if Ugandans fail to adhere to health guidelines in the fight against COVID-19. The Minister stressed that Government prepared 3,200 isolation beds and 378 intensive care units (ICU) beds at national referral hospitals, regional referral hospitals, general hospitals and health centres IV, highlighting that each of the fourteen and two national referral hospitals have 30 isolation beds and 10 ICU beds. Public transport (buses, mini-buses and taxis) resumed at half capacity on 4 June, with the exception of 40 border districts, where it remains suspended until further notice. The reopening of schools, postponed until 1 July, is likely to be further delayed. The borders and the airport remain closed, with curfew still in place from 19hr00 to 6hr30. Wearing a mask in public is mandatory. Movement restrictions continue in all border districts.

Highlights

Protection

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) saw a positive development in its advocacy with the Government of Uganda regarding the protection of thousands of asylum seekers reportedly stranded in no-man's land between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), west of Zombo district. During a special Cabinet meeting on 10 June, President Yoweri Museveni briefed about the fighting between Lendu and Alur communities in eastern DRC, and directed Minister for Relief, Preparedness Disaster and Refugees and Minister of Health, among others, to coordinate with UNHCR and other stakeholders to assess the situation in Zombo, organize COVID-19 testing for this group of asylum seekers and explore ways to support them. Minister for Northern Uganda has been directed to liaise with the Alur King and uses his good offices and structures to bring the inter-community conflict to a peaceful resolution. A pre-assessment mission organized by UNHCR on 15 June along with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WFP, WHO, UNDSS, the UN Area Coordinator and Water Mission found that significant investments are required to increase the capacity of Zombo district to quarantine and assist this group of new refugee arrivals. A more thorough inter-agency assessment is scheduled to take place in the week of 22 June.

- On 16 June, UNHCR and partners commemorated the Day of the African Child, under the national theme “Comprehensive Child Protection services during COVID-19,” including through radio shows, awareness campaigns, and focus group discussions. Under the umbrella of the Child Protection Sub Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF, partners are exploring solutions to address increased child neglect due to quarantining of parents or caregivers; registration of children with caregivers; and reunification of children with parents who got stranded in other settlements as a result of COVID-19 containment measures. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for children separated from parents due to COVID-19 and related admission in quarantine facilities are under development.
- Under the guidance of the Communications with Communities (CwC) taskforce, co-chaired by UNHCR and Humanity&Inclusion, partners began piloting an inter-agency rumor tracking system in Rhino Camp and Kyaka II settlements to help identify, track and counter rumors and misinformation about COVID-19.
- As part of UNHCR/WFP/OPM joint cash assistance programme to assist 42,694 refugee households in Kampala, UNHCR has so far disbursed two tranches of mobile money to 4,335 refugee families in Kampala (12,047 individuals) to help them cover the cost of non-food items and rent for one month, corresponding to over UGX 952 million. A third tranche will be effected in the week of 22 June. In collaboration with Airtel, mobile money outlets have been identified in areas with large refugee populations in Kampala to begin distribution of SIM cards to refugee households without a cell number. Four hundred SIM cards will be distributed in the week of 22 June as a pilot.

Education

- UNHCR handed over materials to Ministry of Education and Sports to support coordination of the Education Response Plan in all refugee-hosting districts. Worth about US \$58,000, the donation included motorbikes, furniture, laptops and computers.
- UNHCR and partners distributed self-study materials to 28,532 learners from primary schools and Accelerated Education Programmes (AEP) in Nakivale, Oruchinga and Palabek settlements. Classes through radio broadcasts continued to take place in several settlements with the support of humanitarian organizations. Save the Children installed two community radios in Kyangwali to this end. Furthermore, Windle International equipped four primary schools in Nakivale with additional furniture, including 180 desks, bookshelves and tables for teachers. In Kyaka II, two blocks of teachers’ accommodation and toilets for Bukere primary school were completed and handed over.

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 2,521 COVID-19 alerts and test more than 1,000 refugees for COVID-19, including by covering the costs of transporting samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute. The settlements with the highest number of alerts were Kyangwali (527), Adjumani (501) and Nakivale (372) during the reporting period.
- UNHCR and partners continued to support at least 18 quarantine facilities within the settlements and at transit centres across the country, including by covering the costs of medical supplies and PPE, site management, feeding and logistics. At present, 675 individuals are quarantined in these facilities, including 304 refugees and 371 Ugandans 10 foreign nationals. During the reporting period, Yumbe district hosted the largest number of quarantined individuals at Lokopio Technical Institute and Goboro transit centre, including 111 refugees and 95 Ugandans. Paridi Stadium was designated as an institutional quarantine facility in Adjumani district, in addition to Nyumanzi reception centre and Unna Primary School.
- UNHCR dispatched 100,000 masks to field locations to support infection prevention and control in the settlements. Another 230,000 surgical masks are in the pipeline for distribution to frontline and health workers in the refugee response.

Livelihoods & Resilience

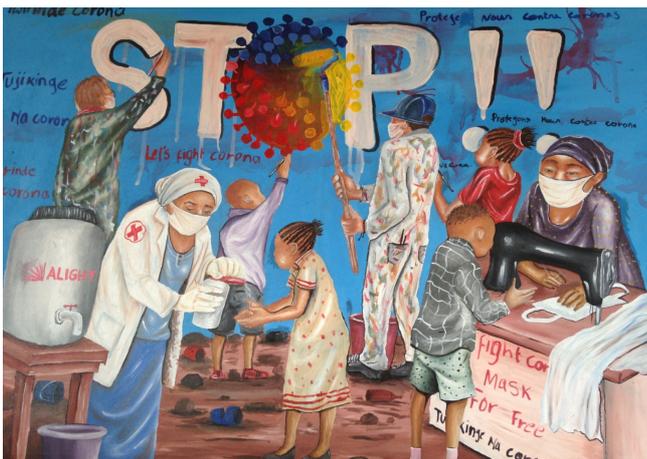
- UNHCR and partners continued to engage communities to produce non-medical masks for distribution in refugee settlements across the country. In Adjumani, UNHCR and partners Lutheran World Federation, World Vision, Caritas and CESVI contracted more than 500 tailors from the refugee and host communities to sew cloth masks for over 271,000 refugees living in settlements in Adjumani and Lawmo districts. Each tailor receives UGX 500 for each mask produced and makes approximately UGX 37,500 a day.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNHCR partner Water Mission Uganda donated 215 water station facilities to refugee and host communities in Rhino Camp and Imvepi settlements, in a bid to promote handwashing and enhance infection prevention and control.

World Refugee Day

- UNHCR in coordination with OPM and partners organized several virtual events to celebrate World Refugee Day (WRD) in Uganda under the theme “Everyone can make a difference, Every action counts”, paying tribute to over 1.4 million refugees and the communities that generously host them. On 20 June, NTV journalist Raymond Munjuni moderated a [Facebook live dialogue](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on refugees with a panel of refugee entrepreneurs and representatives, including Ntakamaze Nziyonvira (founder of CYOTA), Faridah Luanda (Uganda Youth and Adolescent Health Forum Champion), Noela Kabale (Refugee Entrepreneurship Association Limited) and Victor Ocheng (Founder and Executive Director for African Youth Initiative Network). In [an op-ed published on New Vision on 20 June](#), UNHCR Representative, Joel Boutroue shared his reflection on new opportunities provided by the COVID-19 crisis to better protect refugees and asylum seekers. On 19 June, NTV hosted a [discussion on the impact of the pandemic on women and girls](#), bringing together representatives from OPM, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, Women’s International Peace Centre and Yumbe District Local Government. Artolution organized a [live chat](#) between refugee artists from Bidibidi settlement and fellow refugee artists in Jordan and Bangladesh. Many other initiatives were organized out the settlements.



©Nyandja Art. Fighting COVI-19 in a paint by Congolese refugee Babu Safari Joplin and Burundian refugee Spino Balibuna from Isingiro’s Nakivale settlement.

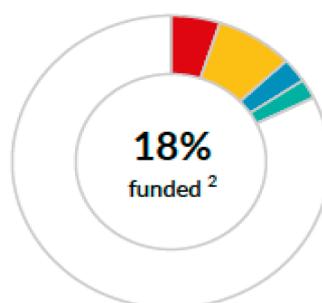


©UNHCR/E. Ndanga. South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani’s Pagirinya settlement wear masks made by fellow refugees with the support from UNHCR and partners.

FUNDING UPDATE | 2020

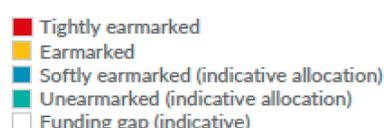
\$357.1 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020 ¹



UGANDA

as of 10 June 2020



CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | 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
European Union	-	-	-	5,966,168	5,966,168
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
Other private donors	-	-	5	106,076	106,081
Sub-total	-	-	30,028,935	19,110,040	49,138,975
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	7,679,834	9,582,626	(1,747,505)	(1,206,518)	14,308,437
Total	7,679,834	9,582,626	28,281,430	17,903,522	63,447,413

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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