

Uganda

21 July 2020

1,425,040

Refugees and asylum seekers as of June 2020

52

Refugees tested positive to date

52

Refugees recovered to date

2,919

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 1,124 as of 20 July 2020, including 1,072 Ugandans and 52 refugees. Across Uganda, 1,010 people have recovered from COVID-19 to date, including 52 refugees. No deaths have been registered so far. A total of 250,029 samples were tested by the Uganda Virus Research Institute as of 20 July 2020
- In his 19th address to the nation on 21 July, President Yoweri Museveni announced further relaxation of lockdown measures, reducing the curfew time from 9.00 pm to 5.30 am, opening some arcades and saloons and allowing boda boda riders to carry passengers as from 27 July. The airport and land borders will remain closed until further notice. A decision about the reopening of schools will be made in September.

Highlights

Protection

- In a meeting with the King of Alur, Philip Olarker Rauni II, Minister for Northern Uganda, Grace Freedom Kwiycwiny and Commissioner for Refugees, Gerald Menhya on 19 July, UNHCR agreed to consider providing support to establish a "refugee village" in Zombo district to accommodate the asylum seekers who have recently fled violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). An emergency operation has been underway at Zombo since early July to assist and quarantine over 3,000 asylum seekers, following the temporary reopening of the Uganda-DRC borders between 1-3 July. A joint assessment involving UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister, Zombo district authorities, Alur Kingdom officials and humanitarian partners is scheduled on 22 July to look at the land, infrastructure and proximity of services to the site proposed for the village. Given the diverse background of the newly arrived asylum seekers, an intention survey will be carried out this week to understand how many asylum seekers would opt for staying in Zombo and how many would prefer to relocate to an existing settlement.
- The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) sub working group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA, concluded an analysis of SGBV incidents in the refugee response in the first six months of 2020, with a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on prevention and response to SGBV. Since January 2020, a total of 1,860 SGBV incidents have been recorded in refugee settlements and Kampala, with 1,725 female survivors and 135 male survivors. Of the total, 729 incidents were reported between January-March and another 1,131 between April-June, representing an increase of 55 percent in the three months that followed the enforcement of COVID-19 lockdown measures in Uganda (April-June). Twelve out of 14 sites hosting refugees (13 settlements and urban Kampala) showed an increase in the number of SGBV incidents, with Kyangwali and Bidibidi reporting the highest rates. The top three reported incidents were physical assaults (566), rape (486) and psychological abuse (396) by the end of June. The main factors contributing to increased SGBV incidence during the COVID-19 crisis were economic hardship and inability to earn money; increased alcoholism and reduced food rations, triggering domestic violence; failure by the heads of households to provide for their family, leading to intimate partner violence; and limited access to financial support.

UNHCR and partners provided psychosocial support, medical care and legal assistance to all identified SGBV survivors

- The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC), an inter-ministerial body established under the 2006 Refugee Act, resumed its sessions on 6 July for the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown, adjudicating 3,242 asylum cases in Kampala. Among them were asylum seekers from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Pakistan. A total of 3,197 cases were granted refugee status, representing 98 per cent of the cases reviewed to date. In its capacity as an observer, UNHCR attended the sessions and provided technical guidance on complex Refugee Status Determination (RSD) issues. Another six REC sessions are planned until the end of 2020 to adjudicate applications from asylum seekers living in Kampala and other parts of the country.
- As part of UNHCR/WFP/OPM joint cash assistance programme to assist 42,694 refugee households in Kampala, a pilot distribution of SIM cards took place during the reporting period, targeting 355 refugee households without a valid cell number to receive mobile money. Awareness-raising is ongoing to inform refugees about the upcoming large-scale distribution of SIM cards in Kampala, targeting about 35,000 households.

Health & Nutrition

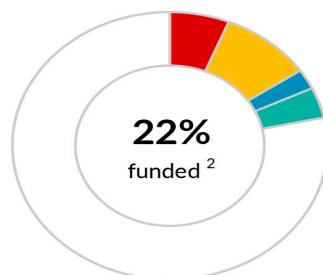
- UNHCR and partners helped Ministry of Health (MoH) investigate 3,380 COVID-19 alerts and test 4,022 refugees for COVID-19, including by covering the costs of transporting samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute. Since March, Kyangwali settlement registered the highest number of alerts (793), followed by Adjumani (558), Bidibidi (537) and Nakivale (453).
- UNHCR and partners continued to support at least 19 quarantine facilities within the settlements and at transit centres across the country, including by covering the costs of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, site management, food and logistics. At present, 3,266 individuals are quarantined in these facilities, including 2,910 asylum seekers and refugees and 356 Ugandans and foreigners. At the institution quarantine centre in Zombo district, Zeu Farm Institute, all asylum seekers were tested twice for COVID-19. The results of the first round of testing, administered to 3,056 individuals, returned all negative. For the second round, a total of 2,300 samples have been collected to date, with 2,172 returning negative so far and 128 others pending results. More samples are to be collected for testing.



©Artolution/M. Frieder. Artolution teaching artists Esero Nalyong and Pato'o pose in front of a COVID-19 mural painted by refugees in Uganda's Bidibidi refugee settlement.

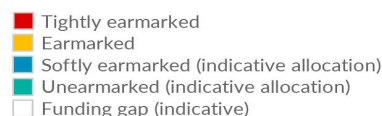
\$357.1 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020 ¹



UGANDA

as of 9 July 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	-	-	-	7,085,989	7,085,989
Norway	-	-	-	4,359,673	4,359,673
Germany	-	-	-	3,174,523	3,174,523
Republic of Korea	-	-	1,666,666	-	1,666,666
Qatar	-	-	-	1,507,745	1,507,745
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
United Nations Foundation	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
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
France	-	-	568,828	-	568,828
Solvatten	-	-	-	291,895	291,895
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	106,827	106,832
Sub-total	-	-	30,360,009	23,268,006	53,628,015
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	13,183,334	8,614,266	3,218,624	(1,441,134)	23,575,090
Total	13,183,334	8,614,266	33,578,633	21,826,872	77,203,106

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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