

Uganda

1 – 31 March 2021

The Ugandan borders have remained closed for asylum since March 2020 due to COVID-19. However, spontaneous movements to and from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued via unofficial crossing points, owing to the dire humanitarian situation in these countries. These movements cannot be fully verified or accounted for.

COVID-19 update

Cumulatively, as of 31 March 2021, there were **41,016 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, of whom, **399 were refugees** and **293 humanitarian workers**. The cumulative number includes **40,452 recoveries**, **392** of whom were **refugees** and **287 humanitarian workers**.

Deaths reported were **335** since March 2020, **seven** of whom were **refugees** and **one humanitarian worker**.

COVID-19 vaccination

A total of **80,836** people had been vaccinated by the end of March, including **542 refugees** and **1,080 humanitarian workers**.

1,470,858

Number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** as of 31 March 2021.

1,445,996*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 31 March 2021.

24,862

Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 March 2021.

*Increase in number is attributed to the registration backlog and new-borns.

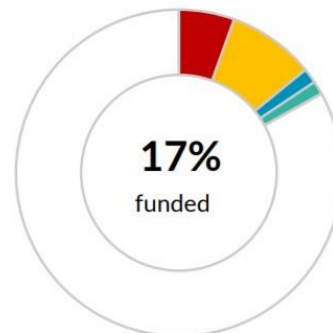


Primary Six pupils attending a lesson at Vuura Bieraffe Primary School in Rhino Camp settlement, Madi Okollo district. Photo ©UNHCR/Yanik Yankeu

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2021:

USD 344.8 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 March 2021)



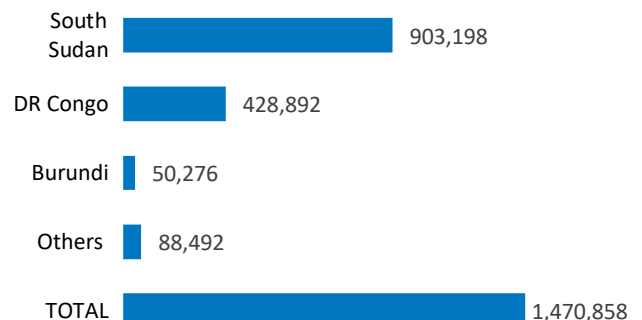
Unfunded 83% - **286.4 M**

Funded 17% - **58.4 M**

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality





South Sudanese refugee Agnes Batio, speaking to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi, during his visit to Bidibidi refugee settlement, Yumbe district. Photo ©UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

Contextual and Operational Highlights

Visit of the UN Refugee Chief to Uganda: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi undertook a visit to Uganda from 8-11 March, calling for [renewed high-level engagement to advance Uganda's comprehensive refugee response](#). On 9 March, he paid a visit to Bidibidi settlement and Yumbe town in northern Uganda to survey project benefitting refugees and the host community and supported by humanitarian and development partners working side by side. Back from the field, the High Commissioner met with the Acting Prime Minister, Moses Ali, Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hillary Onek, Ambassadors and Heads of Development Cooperation, the World Bank, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, in addition to delivering opening remarks at the 13th meeting of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Comprehensive Framework Steering Group. Before leaving Uganda, Grandi met Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, recognizing Uganda's progressive refugee policies, underlining the dividends of hosting refugees and expressing UNHCR's readiness to assist with reception of new refugee arrivals when the borders reopen for asylum. The High Commissioner also thanked the Ugandan President for including refugees in the national COVID-19 vaccination plan.

COVID-19: Since March 2020, 399 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with seven reported deaths. On 31 March 2021, the cumulative nationwide figure for COVID-19 positive cases stood at 41,016 cases, with 40,452 recoveries and 335 reported deaths. In total, 293 humanitarian workers have tested positive for COVID-19 across the country. It is worth noting that, the rate of COVID-19 infections and death have greatly reduced in Uganda. Kampala was reported to have the highest rates of COVID-19 cases among refugees (128 cases), followed by settlements located in Nakivale/Oruchinga (91), Adjumani (55), Kiryandongo (50), Kyangwali (43), Kyaka II (13), Bidibidi (5), Palorinya (5), Palabek (4), Rhino Camp/Imvepi (3), and Rwamwanja (2). UNHCR supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to investigate 28,959 COVID-19 alerts and test 7,053 refugees for COVID-19 as of 31 March 2021. There were no individuals quarantined in the 11 centres within the refugee-hosting districts by the end of March.

Uganda began vaccination against COVID-19: Uganda launched its mass COVID-19 vaccination program on 10 March, following receipt of 864,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine via the COVAX facility. Uganda targets to vaccinate 49.6 per cent of the population (22 million people) through a phased approach, including refugees. The target audience in the first phase are health workers, humanitarian workers, teachers, security personnel, population above 50 years and those with underlying health conditions. By the end of March 2021, a total of 80,836 people had been vaccinated including 1,622 from the refugee settlements. Those vaccinated in the settlements include 542 refugees and 1,080 humanitarian workers, including health workers and teachers.

Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on refugees in Uganda: The World Bank in collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), OPM and UNHCR, has been undertaking monthly High-Frequency Phone Surveys (HFPS) to track the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on refugees, over a period of three months. The data collection for the first round took place between 22 October and 25 November, and that of the second took place in December 2020. The results were summarized in a report titled, "[Monitoring Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Refugees in Uganda](#)," which was presented at a meeting on 18 March 2021.

Reopening of schools: Following the President's decision approving the recommendation by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) to reopen schools in a phased manner, Primary Six, Senior Three and Senior Five started on 1 March 2021. These semi-candidates will study for 14 weeks and break off on 21 May 2021. So far, the staggered reopening of schools has enabled education institutions in the settlements to adhere to the Ministry of Health (MoH) guidelines on social distancing, hygiene and use of masks. All the settlement schools have put in place foot-operated handwashing stations with soap, hand-sanitizers, temperature guns and masks. These were provided by the Government of Uganda, UNHCR, UNICEF and Education partners.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Access to territory: While the borders remain officially closed for asylum, 196 new refugee arrivals from South Sudan crossed to Uganda via Elegu border point during the month of March 2021. Following UNHCR's advocacy, they were allowed to remain in Uganda and were taken to Palabek settlement, in Lamwo district.

Refugee Status Determination: The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) has handled 1,093 asylum applications since the year begun, while the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) has handled 30 appeal cases. The REC and RAB have each held two sessions since the beginning of the year. During this year's first REC session for the urban caseload, 508 applications involving 1,978 individuals mainly from DRC, South Sudan, Eritrea, Burundi, Sudan and Rwanda were adjudicated. Overall recognition rate was 88.9 per cent. The RAB adjudicated 21 appeal applications concerning Eritrean and Congolese asylum seekers. The RAB confirmed seven decisions of the REC, set aside 14 applications, and deferred another one for additional clarification. UNHCR participated in both sessions as an observer, providing logistical and technical support.

International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations: International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations were held on 8 March 2021 across the refugee settlements in Uganda. In Kampala, refugees commemorated

the day at Kabusu Access Centre in Rubaga Division. Approximately 200 female refugees from Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Rwanda participated in the event. In line with the day's theme, participants shared stories on how they had positively impacted their communities. There was also exhibition of products produced by refugee women as part of their income generating activities like handicrafts, hand-washing soap and hand-sanitizers.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

Minister's visit to Rwamwanja and Nakivale settlements: The State Minister for Primary Education, Rosemary Sseninde visited Kamwenge district's Rwamwanja settlement on 15 March 2021, and Isingiro district's Nakivale settlement on 17 March 2021. She was accompanied by UNHCR's Deputy Representative Mahoua Parums, and representatives from the Education Response Plan Secretariat. The purpose of the visit was to assess the level of preparedness of the schools, to appreciate the schools' adherence to COVID-19 safety measures and to clarify issues around the phased reopening of schools. Schools in Rwamwanja reported an almost 100 per cent return, while Nakivale and Oruchinga have experienced a lower return of candidates and semi candidates. All schools visited adhered with the Ministry of Health Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the Education Ministry's guidelines on COVID-19.

Meetings with stakeholders highlighted the impact of the long school closure on the protection and well-being of learners and their parents. Other issues brought to the attention of the Minister by refugee communities included: recognition and registration of refugee teachers to fill teacher gaps; consideration of coding more schools; increased supply of vocational skills for out of school youth; increased recognition and equation of certificates from francophone systems; and more scholarships for university and tertiary education.

Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE): MoES organized the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) from 30 - 31 March 2021. A total of 749,811 candidates, including 10,424 refugee candidates (3,379 girls and 7,045 boys), sat for their PLE.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

During the month of March, 163,054 consultations were registered across the refugee response, with 22 per cent nationals and 78 per cent refugees. On average, each clinician provided 52 consultations per day. Overall, the major disease burdens were malaria (32.4 per cent); Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) at 10.5 per cent, skin diseases (7 per cent), Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) at 7 per cent and intestinal worms (6.5 per cent). Among children under five years, malaria was leading at 35.4 per cent, followed by URTI (15.1 per cent), skin diseases (6.3 per cent), LRTI (11.5 per cent), and watery diarrhoea (6.2 per cent).

Crude mortality rate stood at 0.1 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month in March 2021. Leading causes of death were malaria (12.9 per cent), LRTI (10.4 per cent), and Neonatal death (7.9 per cent). Under-five mortality rate was at 0.13, which is within the public health standards of

less than 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month. The major causes of death were malaria (16.6 per cent), LRTI at (9.7 per cent), neonatal death (26.2 per cent) and acute malnutrition (5.1 per cent). Children vaccinated against measles were 5,625, and 5,428 received diphtheria and polio vaccine. Of the 3,327 live births registered, 95 per cent were conducted at health facilities by skilled health workers. Sixty-eight per cent of the deliveries were refugees and 32 per cent nationals.

A total of 10,105 individuals were tested for HIV across all settlements, of whom 139 tested positive were enrolled into HIV care and treatment. The mothers that attended the antenatal care clinics for the first time were 6,206 and were tested for HIV, in a bid to prevent mother-to-child transmission. A total of 17,621 patients are currently receiving HIV treatment in the settlements, 36 per cent of whom are refugees and 64 per cent nationals.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

During the month of March, water supply across the settlements stood at an average of 21.7 litres per person per day. Efforts to reach higher sanitation coverage through the market-based approach are ongoing (with a current coverage of 49 per cent), and dome shaped slabs are continuously being produced. Village Health Team volunteers promoted hygiene, with a specific focus on COVID-19 and diarrhoea prevention, through good hygiene practices and safe water chains.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

Solar mini-grid project: On 4 March 2021, the Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (i4SD) handed over the solar mini-grid project to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in Rubondo zone, Nakivale settlement. The power supply system is fed by solar panels of 30 x 360 watts with a power bank of 24 battery array of 2x1,500Ah capacity. It supplies power to all wards of the Health Centre II, Youth Centre, partners' administrative offices, two accommodation buildings for OPM and Medical Teams International (MTI) staff. The solar system has been installed and connected to the existing 24 kVA diesel generator, which serves as a backup during the rainy and cloudy days.

Lorena cookstoves: During the reporting period, 1,765 households were supported with lorena cookstoves in Imvepi, Rhino Camp and Kiryandongo settlements. In Adjumani, 625 stoves were constructed for Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) in 12 settlements. Artisan groups worked closely with the caretakers of PSNs to enable transfer of knowledge and skills on maintenance and usability of the stoves, under a cash-for-work modality. On average, the benefiting households are saving between 20 to 35 per cent of the firewood that they have been using with the three-stone stoves. In addition, 2,483 kilograms of briquettes were produced by groups in refugee settlements found in Terego and Koboko districts.

Identified Needs and remaining Gaps

- Prolonged dry spell continued to affect the survival of trees in the woodlots and seedlings in the nursery bed.

- Water scarcity continued to affect rocket lorena stove construction in the settlements.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

Construction works: In South West, four new accommodation shelters at Kabazana reception centre, Nakivale settlement, were completed and handed over for use. In Kyaka II, Sweswe Reception Centre upgrading works are at 70 per cent progress. The kitchen at the same Reception Centre has been completed. In Kyangwali settlement, construction works of two-blocks of permanent communal accommodation at the Reception Centre is complete and works at the protection house at Maratatu police post are at 90 per cent complete.

In Arua, construction of overnight shelters and waiting shade in Imvepi settlement is at 40 per cent at Ocea, while the two overnight shelters are 85 per cent complete.

Construction of the motor vehicle workshop at the warehouse in Nakivale settlement is approximately 30 per cent while that in Kyaka II settlement is about 80 per cent done. This will reduce the need to travel to Mbarara for service and provide appropriate working space.

Construction and rehabilitation of roads: Construction and rehabilitation of roads in Kyaka II settlement (a total of 63.1 km in nine zones) is ongoing. In the same settlement, clearing of the Kakoni road was completed and shaping of Bwiriza road is at approximately 60 per cent complete. In Rwamwanja, road maintenance and rehabilitation works of 53 km are progressing at 60 per cent. In Kiryandongo, road rehabilitation, which involves bush clearance, shaping, compaction and gravelling, is at 90 per cent complete. Once completed the roads will ease movement of goods and services in respective settlements.

Land survey and acquisition: With regard to land survey and acquisition, a total 743.4 acres of proposed additional land to Bidibidi settlement was assessed and measured together with OPM. In Palabek settlement, 261 acres were assessed for potential settlement of new arrivals.

Identified Needs, Remaining Gaps and Challenges

- Road rehabilitation remains a major challenge throughout the settlements. Most of the roads are in bad state and need improvement.
- There is still a need for physical planning to guide developments within the settlements.



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

The 13th Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group meeting: Uganda's high-level decision-making platform to steer the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the CRRF, took place on 10 March 2021. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hon. Eng. Hilary Onok, and the Minister of State for Local Government, Hon. Jennifer Namuyangu. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, addressed the CRRF Steering Group as part of his visit to Uganda. He highlighted Uganda's impressive progress and pointed out that since the beginning of the CRRF in 2017, Uganda was able to mobilize over

USD 2.5 billion for its refugee response. The High Commissioner urged the international community to accelerate development funding, whilst continuing its support to humanitarian programmes to address urgent needs. During the meeting, steering group members recognized the CRRF achievements and progress made in 2020.

2020 quarter four performance dashboards: The 2020 quarter four dashboards were published on 18 and 19 March 2021. The dashboards, which show performance overall and by sector, can be found at ugandarefugees.org

Refugee Engagement Forum: The Refugee Engagement Forum (REF), which brings together 38 members from all settlements and Kampala, held its 10th meeting virtually, between 9 and 11 March 2021. The REF taskforce, chaired by OPM Department of Refugees and UNHCR, supported the members to hold consultation meetings in all settlements and Kampala, prior to the forum. This was the first time the refugee representatives were able to bring up to the national high-level decision-making table key issues raised by their communities,

Working in partnership with:

Government - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Governments (DLGs), Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE).

District authorities – Adjumani, Arua, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kisoro, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Ntoroko, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe.

UN - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Migration Agency (IOM), United Nations Officer for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations World Health Organization (WHO).

NGOs - Action Africa Help (AAH), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Andre Foods International (AFI), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ), Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (ACAV), A-Z Children's Charity, Baylor, Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC), Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), CARE, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Caritas Uganda (CU), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Child Voices International, Communication and Education (PACE), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN), Concern World Wide (CWW), Cooperazione Sviluppo (CESVI), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), Drop in the Basket (DiB), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), Friends of Kisoro, German International Cooperation (GiZ), Give Directly, Global Aim, Global Refugee International (GRI), Healing Kadi Foundation, Help Age International, Humane Africa Mission (HAM), Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Humanitarian Open Street Map Team (HOT), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), IMPACT, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), InterAid, Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO Cooperation), International Aid Services (IAS), International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IsraAid, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Johanniter, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Malteser International (MI), Medical Teams International (MTI), Mercy Corps (MC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (NSAMIZI), OXFAM, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF), Plan International (PI), Programme for Accessible Health, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Right to Play (RtP), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile (RICE-WN), Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children International (SCI), Self Help Africa (SHA), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (Tunado), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Trocaire, Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR), Uganda Law Society (ULS), Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDMC), War Child Canada (WCC), War Child Holland (WCH), Water Mission Uganda (WMU), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Windle International Uganda (WIU), World Vision International (WVI), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), ZOA – Uganda (ZOA).

External Relations

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 16.7 million | **Denmark** 9.6 million | **European Union** 4.8 million | **Germany** 3.2 million | **Japan** 2.5 million | **Netherlands** 1.97 million | **Qatar** 1.8 million | **Republic of Korea** 1.7 million | **Remon L Vos** 1.3 million | **Sweden** 1.2 million | **Ireland** 1.2 million

Education Cannot Wait | UN Children Fund | IGAD | BOREALIS AG | Agility Logistics | Unilever (UK) | Fast Retailing Co. Ltd (UNIQLO) | USA for UNHCR | UN programme on HIV/AIDS | Other private donors

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 12.2 million | **Germany** 10.9 million

Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 22.1 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 13.3 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

The Refugee Response in Uganda is coordinated jointly by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Links:

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