

# Uganda

January – March 2021

Uganda is currently hosting **1,470,858** refugees and asylum seekers. The 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

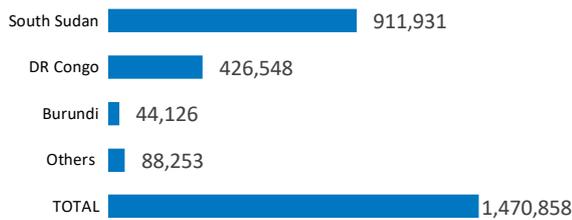
crossing points, owing to the dire humanitarian situation in these countries.

**COVID-19** - By the end of March, there were 41,016 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of whom, 399 were refugees and 293 humanitarian workers.

Deaths reported were 335 since March 2020, including 7 refugees and 1 humanitarian worker. A total of 80,836 people had been vaccinated by the end of March, including 542 refugees and 1,080 humanitarian workers

## POPULATION OF CONCERN: 1,470,858

### Countries of Origin\*



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

*\*These include refugees from Somalia, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and other countries of origin.*

### UNHCR PRESENCE

#### Staff:

- 460 National Staff
- 108 International Staff
- 10 IUNV
- 1 NUNV
- 40 National UNOPS
- 5 International UNOPS

#### Offices:

- 1 Representation Office in Kampala
- 5 Sub Offices in Adjumani, Arua, Kyangwali, Mbarara, Moyo, Yumbe
- 4 Field Offices in Kyaka II, Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kiryandongo
- 2 Field Units in Kisoro, Lawmo

### UNHCR's Financial Requirements 2021: USD344.8 M

Unfunded 83% - 302M

Funded 17% - 29M



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



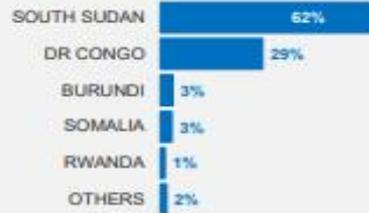
# Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Uganda

## Uganda Refugee Response

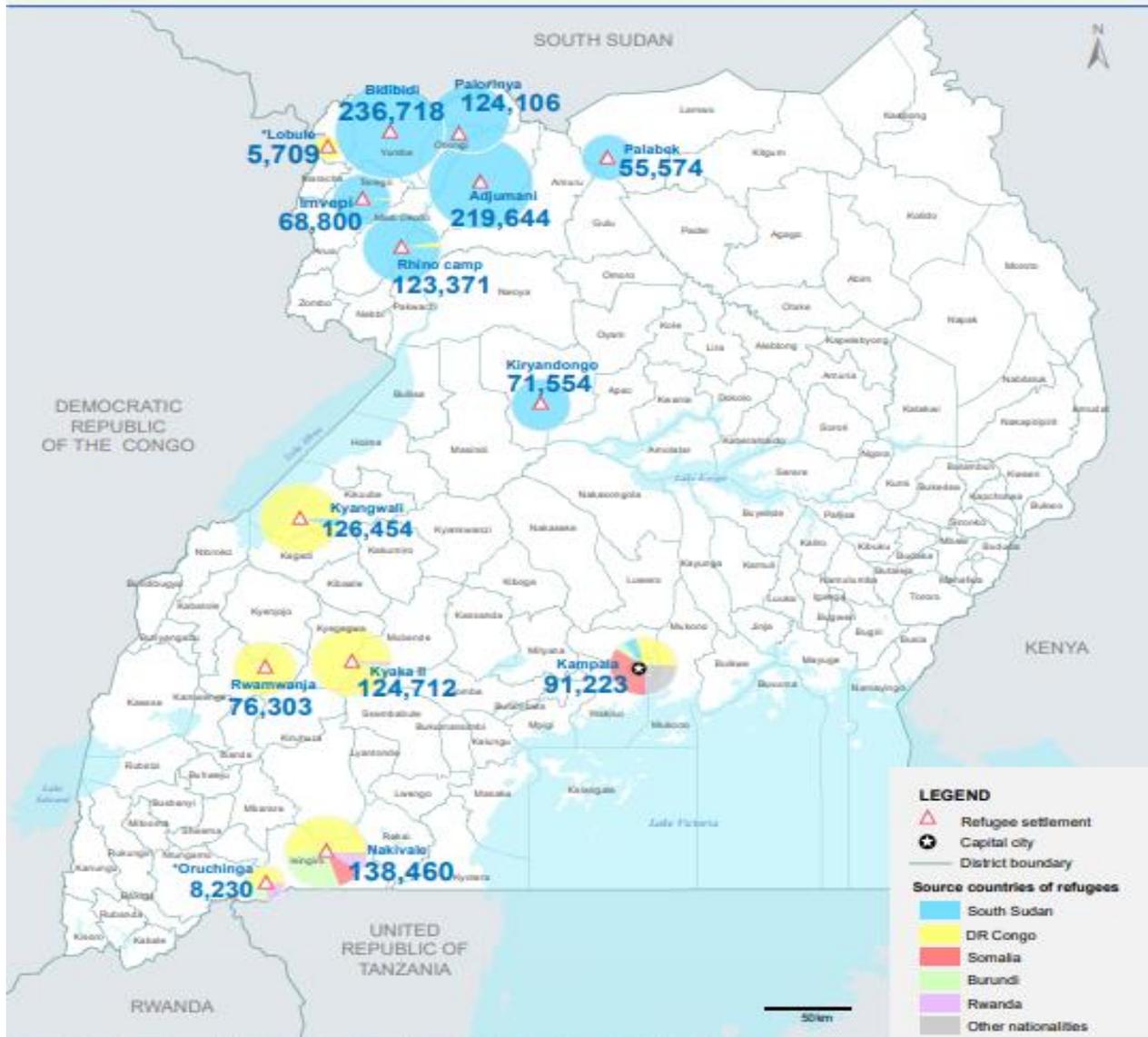
31 March 2021

Total refugees and asylum-seekers  
**1,470,858**

### Countries of origin



### Refugees per location



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\*Oruchinga and Lobule symbols not to scale

Population data: proGres (DPM) Author: UNHCR Representation in Uganda Feedback: ugakimug@unhcr.org For more info, please visit: www.ugandarefugees.org

Uganda has 13 refugee-hosting districts (Adjuman, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Koboko,

Lamwo, Madi-Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe). The refugees are hosted in 13 settlements (Adjumani<sup>1</sup>, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Lobule, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja), in addition to the urban refugees in Kampala.

<sup>1</sup> Adjuman is made up of 18 settlements

# Main Activities

## Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

- The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) is in its fourth year of implementation in Uganda. This builds on considerable progress made since 2017, when the Government of Uganda launched this multi-stakeholder and partnership approach to the refugee response. The Ugandan approach promotes self-reliance for refugees and measures to ease the pressure on refugee-hosting districts. The National Plan of Action to implement the Global Compact on Refugees and its CRRF defines the milestones to be reached until the end of 2022.
- An important element of the CRRF in Uganda is inclusion of refugees in national planning and local development. In order to ease pressure on refugee-hosting districts and to enhance service delivery for both refugees and host communities, comprehensive sectoral plans have been formulated which link the refugee response to government sector plans. The plans also enable Uganda to clearly highlight where the international community may usefully channel support for a comprehensive and people-centred response in its refugee-hosting districts. UNHCR has aligned its strategies with these comprehensive plans and supports the coordination structures for CRRF implementations, such as the Secretariat for the Education Response Plan for (ERP), the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan, the Water and Environment Response Plan and the CRRF Secretariat in OPM, which provides services for the CRRF Steering Group.
- Whereas refugees had already been included in the National Development Plan II (2016 – 2020) through the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), NDP III, which entered into effect on 1 July 2020, explicitly calls for refugees to be integrated into national planning and statistics. Refugee-hosting districts have included refugees in their planning for the next five years. UNHCR is working closely with the refugee-hosting districts to provide analysis on refugees in the settlements and support the planning processes for these District Development Plans (DDPs).
- These efforts offer opportunities to integrate longer-term resilience and development approaches within the refugee and host population assistance and create entry points for development partners to invest in the response. UNHCRs continues to foster a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach and to strengthen its convening role aimed at mobilizing and coordinating support, particularly regarding economic and social inclusion. Close collaboration with development partners has allowed for the handover of activities, which were previously funded by UNHCR. Development partners have also extended services for water and environment, allowing UNHCR to play a more catalytic and coordination role.

## Protection

- UNHCR works with the Government of Uganda to provide effective protection for refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda. The ultimate goal of the interim Multiyear Multi Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy (MYMPSS) 2021 is that refugees are protected by the Government of Uganda, live in safety and dignity with host communities, and progressively attain lasting solutions by 2021.
- **Strategic Objective 1:** Through 2021, Uganda's asylum space is maintained, equal and unhindered access to territory is preserved, and the government's emergency preparedness and response capacity is progressively strengthened.
- **Strategic Objective 2:** By 2021, government's protection systems that promote the full enjoyment of rights and international protection standards are efficient and fair: taking into consideration the specific needs of women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds, with special attention to Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and building on refugee communities' capacities to address protection concerns that arise.

- **Strategic Objective 3:** By 2021, the refugee response paradigm in Uganda has progressively shifted from care and maintenance to inclusion and self-reliance through the promotion of a conducive environment for livelihoods opportunities and provision of integrated basic social services including: health, education, water and sanitation, provided by national authorities in refugee-hosting districts.
- **Strategic Objective 4:** By 2021, refugees access durable solutions and are either able to return voluntarily to their countries of origin; or have found 3<sup>rd</sup> country solutions or have attained sufficient socio-economic empowerment including ability to exercise their full range of rights to integrate well into their host community.

### Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation when conditions in the country of origin have improved. On a limited basis, it also facilitates resettlement whereby a refugee or a refugee family leaves the country of asylum and legally settles in third country. UNHCR is currently working together with the Government of Uganda on creative legal solutions for long-staying refugees that are unwilling or unable to return home. In the current circumstance, UNHCR is not promoting voluntary repatriation to any of the countries of origin.
- Resettlement and third country admissions are part of solutions for refugees and play an integral role in the Ugandan national plan of action on the implementation the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Uganda. Resettlement from Uganda is a tangible demonstration of solidarity to a host country that has maintained its generous asylum policy, while responding to multiple emergencies.
- For the period January to March 2021, UNHCR supported 28 refugees for Complementary Pathways, including 20 for family reunification to Canada, France, The Netherland and USA and 8 for Private sponsorship to Canada. A total of 44 refugees departed through Complementary pathways, of which 2 through the International scholarship programme (World University Service Canada) and 42 through private sponsorship organized directly by embassies (Canada, France, UK, Norway, Germany, Italy and New Zealand).
- A total of 301 independent submissions were made to Sweden and Norway between January and March 2021, of which 201 were Congolese from Democratic Republic of Congo, 1 Ethiopian, 4 Somalis, and 95 South Sudanese.
- 236 persons were resettled between January and March 2021 to France (10), Norway (85), Sweden (140), and United States of America (1). UNHCR continues to advocate for an increase in the number of refugees who will benefit from these admissions.

### Education

- UNHCR provides service delivery to refugees and supports strengthening of education system. Together with NGO partners, UNHCR provides education to 79 per cent (264,470) of refugee children enrolled in UNHCR-supported Primary Schools and 11 per cent (20,991) enrolled in Secondary Schools within the settlements. Compared to the previous academic year (2019), this is an increase of 10,028 pupils and 678 students in Primary and Secondary Schools respectively.
- Schools re-opened for non-candidate classes and non-finalists for the academic year 2020. Following the Uganda's President decision approving the recommendation of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) phased re-opening of schools, the first to report back were Primary Six, Senior Three and Senior Five on 1 March 2021. The staggered reopening of schools has enabled settlement schools to remain within Government of Uganda guidelines on social distancing, hygiene, and use of masks in schools, as provided by Government, UNHCR, UNICEF and Education Partners.

- A MoES-UNHCR joint mission, led by State Minister for Primary Education Rosemary Nansubuga Sseninde and UNHCR Deputy Representative Mahoua Parums, to Kamwenge District (Rwamwanja settlement) and Isingiro District (Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements), witnessed the re-opening of schools for candidate classes (Primary 7, Secondary 4 and Secondary 6) since October 2020 and for semi candidate classes (P6, S3 and S5) since March 2021. Meetings with stakeholders highlighted the impacts of the long school closures on the protection and well-being of learners and their parents.
- UNHCR and UNICEF signed a Letter of Understanding toward system strengthening. This is to effectively deliver on the outcomes of the Education Response Plan (ERP), including improved data and information management – which is key in facilitating eventual inclusion of refugee children in the national Education Management Information System (EMIS).
- Uganda has made progress in refugee education through the implementation of the Education Response Plan (ERP). This includes the improvement of the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in primary from 76 per cent in 2019 to 79 per cent in 2020, the training and salary payment of some 4,000 teachers in Primary and 500 in Secondary to enhance the quality of education while progressively meeting the national standard; strengthening the education system for refugee inclusive planning through the contextualization of ERP at District level. The refugee-hosting districts of Koboko, Lamwo and Yumbe in West Nile, Isingiro and Kamwenge in the Southwest finalized and approved ERP at district level.

## Health

- The Uganda refugee operation has a total of 2,221 Health Workers across all settlements, of which 41 are medical doctors. Consultation per clinician per day is at 46 against the standard of <50. Refugees access health services from 89 health facilities in the settlements, with District Hospitals, Regional Referral Hospitals and Mulago National Referral Hospital acting as referral points for the secondary and tertiary health care. Disease prevention activities are continuously carried out to minimize the number of outbreaks such as measles, watery diarrhea, and cholera in the operation.
- A total of 17,579 patients are currently receiving HIV care and treatment in the facilities within the settlements, of which 37 per cent (6,589) are refugees. Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services are provided to the refugees and host population, as a measure of preventing the spread of HIV from positive mothers to the babies.
- Under maternal and child health care, maternal mortality rate is at 76 deaths per 100,000 live births. Under 5 mortality rate is at 0.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Health facilities in the settlements of Rwamwanja and Kyangwali have been supported with theaters and theater equipment for Emergency obstetric care.
- According to the preliminary findings of the Food Security and Nutrition Assessments carried out by UNHCR and partners in 2020 in the refugee settlements and in Kampala, over 76 per cent of the health facilities have been accredited and coded into the national system with the remaining 24 percent in process of being accredited.

## Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR, through its partners and with support of District Local Governments (DLGs), UNICEF, and World Food Programme (WFP) continues to provide care to refugees and asylum seekers with acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies across all settlements. The curative interventions, mostly facility-based, are complemented with preventive actions aimed at promoting, protecting and supporting optimal feeding practices, improving dietary diversity and mitigating micronutrient deficiencies for all refugees for optimal growth and development. The interventions largely target the most vulnerable groups, including infants, children, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) and other Women of Reproductive Age (WRA), adolescents and the elderly. UNHCR currently prioritizes a nutrition-sensitive food system approach to scale-up the production and consumption of micronutrient-rich foods. This approach involves the adaptation of available small spaces for backyard gardening. Other actions include: community sensitization on feeding practices, cooking demonstrations, community demonstration gardens, counselling, and

support to influence household behavior change on feeding practices and health seeking. WFP closely supports with nutrition commodities and community nutrition services. UNICEF closely supports with the commodities and medicines, and health systems strengthening.

- With support from UNHCR and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WFP continues to provide food assistance to over 1.4 million refugees in Uganda, delivered as in-kind and cash. Distribution of General Food Assistance is implemented using the New Food Assistance Collection Standard Operating Procedures and the Global Distribution Tool (GDT). The new food assistance collection standard operating procedures have been adapted to the COVID-19 context since March 2020 to include double distribution (2 monthly rations) and crowd management to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- UNHCR partners are strategically positioned to resume screening, and detection of acute malnutrition among new arrivals and linking them to care once the Government of Uganda opens the points of entry, transit and reception centers to admission of persons of concern.

### Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to refugee and host communities in close collaboration with partners, including government institutions. Generally, service provision is evolving from emergency to medium and long-term WASH infrastructure development. This includes improving performance of piped solar systems to decrease usage of generators and hence contributing to decreasing the carbon footprint. Significant progress has been made in engaging refugees to participate in service delivery, including contribution towards the costs of the service delivery, thus promoting ownership, sustainability of services and a more equal access to services compared to host communities.
- On average, over 20 million litres of potable water are supplied daily to refugees living in the settlements, ensuring a per capita access of about 16.5 litres per person per day, through almost 100 water systems. To decrease the carbon footprint efforts are made to solarize water systems or connect them to the national grid, leading towards generators used only for 25 per cent of all the water supplied.
- Over 44,000 new latrines were constructed in 2020, mostly through a market-based approach and community involvement in dome-shaped slab production, leading to an increase of latrine coverage from around 60 per cent to over 70 per cent.
- The implementation of the Water and Environment Refugee Response Plan (WERRP) is ongoing, including integrating of water delivery services in refugee settlements and host communities into national systems. All water systems in Rwamwanja refugee settlement and 34 per cent of the water systems in Kiryandongo have been taken over by National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). In West Nile, the Northern Umbrella for Water and Sanitation is managing nine water systems, serving both refugees and host communities.
- Hygiene promotion is progressively mainstreamed with national Village Health Team (VHT) structures.

### Shelter, Settlements and NFIs

- UNHCR provides a technical support role to OPM and DLGs, with physical planning and land optimisation of refugee settlements. In 2019, the Refugee Settlement Land Taskforce (RSLT) surveyed and demarcated 7,744 shelter plots (12m x 20m each), out of the targeted 10,000.
- The UNHCR Non-Food Items (NFIs) Distribution Entitlement Scale has undergone an official revision, as the emergency shelter kit component was tested within the operation. In future, where market access is possible, some NFIs will be monetised.
- The tracking of NFI distributions using proGres V4 has been rolled out for the regular replenishment of soap and hygiene kit distributions to existing refugees in settlements, where feasible. This has

enabled a more accurate recording of items delivered to beneficiaries and inform the monthly reconciliation reports and warehouse inventory reports that UNHCR and partners are producing.

- In order to enable refugees to have a strong voice in the design of their own homes, the Shelter, Settlement and Non-Food Items Working Group (SSNFI WG) moved away from producing strict design drawings and bills of quantities as minimum standards for semi-permanent shelter. Instead, the WG is aiming for a 'self-help' model, in which shelter actors provide material/financial and technical support. This will help extremely vulnerable households to construct their own homes and facilitate qualified external labour to construct homes for non-abled vulnerable households.

## Energy and Environment

- The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) with financial support from GIZ, hired a consultant in August 2020 to help guide the process of Developing the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) for refugees and host communities. The SERP aims at increasing access to energy for household, community, commercial, agricultural and industrial users, and other institutions working in areas where refugees are located, as envisaged in its vision: "*Refugee and host communities attain universal access to affordable, reliable and clean energy for socio-economic transformation in an environmentally sustainable manner*". Stakeholder consultations were also held at settlement and district level to identify the needs, challenges, and possible actions to enhance access to sustainable, clean, affordable and reliable energy in refugee-hosting areas. The draft consultation report is in place as well as the costed plan for the SERP of approximately US \$572 million for over 4 years. The draft SERP document will be reviewed by stakeholders and the final document will be available in June 2021.
- In February 2021, Cabinet approved the proposal to borrow special drawing rights equivalent to US \$78.2 million from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group to finance the "*Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development (IFPA-CD) Project*". The project will cover aspects of sustainable management of forests and protected areas, increase revenue from forests and wildlife protected areas, tree planting on private land and address the impact of refugees on forestry and environment in refugee-hosting districts. The project will be implemented in the Albertine region and refugee-hosting districts of West Nile and Lamwo. The project, which is funded by World Bank, has a component of providing fuel wood to a selected number of persons with special needs (PSNs).
- Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (i4SD) handed over a solar mini grid project to the OPM in Rubondo-Nakivale settlement in March 2021. The power supply system (fed by solar panels of 30 x 360 watts panels with a power bank of 24 battery array of 2x1,500Ah capacity and smart distribution meters) supplies power to administrative offices of partners, all wards of health center II, Youth Center, and OPM accommodation buildings. The solar system was installed and integrated with the existing 24 kVA diesel generator through a manual changeover switch, which serves as a backup during the rainy days.
- Energy audits were carried out for six sites including Palabek field office, Pakelle sub office, Yumbe sub office, Imvepi, Yoro and Palorinya base camps, under the Energy Supply for Displacement Settings (ESDS) project supported by GIZ. The audit was aimed providing a detailed data on supply and consumption patterns for energy in these offices which will facilitate technical system design and sizing, ascertaining technical requirements as well as financial modelling to support solarization of the sites. This would replace the diesel generators that currently supply energy in these offices.

## Logistics

- UNHCR works with partners to ensure transportation of NFIs to the various sites is coordinated. It also works with relevant partners to ensure transportation support for new arrivals and assisted spontaneous returns.

**Working in partnership with:**

**Government** - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Government (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 Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC).

**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 e 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

*Thank you to donors for providing generous un-earmarked and earmarked contributions to UNHCR Uganda in 2021*

### 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

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## LINKS

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