

Uganda

Quarter 4, 2023

By the end of December 2023, Uganda was hosting **1,615,162** refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals have continued to enter the country, mainly from the DRC, Sudan, and South Sudan.

In 2023, Uganda received 98,232 new arrivals (24,804 during Q4), of which 50.7% arrived through the border entry points mainly at Kisoro, Lokung, and Bundibugyo, and 49.3% were received in Kampala.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has resulted in 12,900 new arrivals from Sudan since January 2023, of these 86% have arrived in Kampala and 14% arrived in the settlements.

1,615,162

Number of refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 December 2023.

1,577,502

Total refugees in Uganda as of 31 December 2023.

37,660

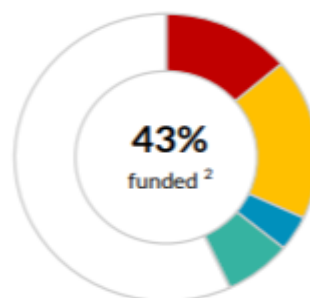
Total asylum-seekers in Uganda as of 31 December 2023.

** The total population figure is provisional and may change following completion of the ongoing verification exercise.*

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2023:

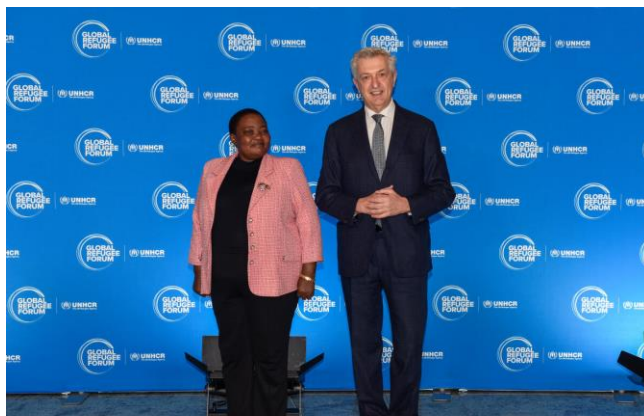
USD 343.4 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 15 December 2023)



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

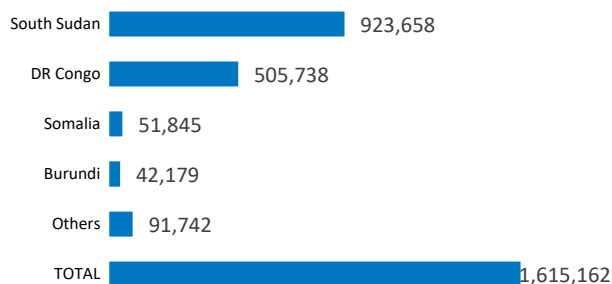
Unfunded 57% - US\$ 195.7M
Funded 43% - US\$ 147.7 M



UNHCR High-Commissioner, Filippo Grandi, welcomes Robinah Nabbanja, Prime Minister of Uganda, to the Global Refugee Forum held from 13 to 15 December 2023 in Geneva.

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN:

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality



Total refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda as of 31 Dec 2023



His Excellency William W. Popp (US Ambassador to Uganda) visit to Nakivale refugee settlement (October 2023).

Photo © UNHCR / Yonna Tukundane.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sudanese influx and Prima facie recognition: The Government of Uganda issued an official ministerial declaration, granting prima facie refugee recognition to asylum seekers from Sudan who arrived from 1 April 2023 and onwards, due to a surge in new arrivals. As of 10 December 2023, refugee identity documents were made available to all registered asylum seekers from Sudan. UNHCR, since 12 December 2023, has been relocating Sudanese refugees from Nyumanzi Refugee Collection Point in Adjumani District to Kiryandongo refugee settlement, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and partners. The Kiryandongo settlement was re-opened to new arrivals from Sudan after having been a non-receiving settlement for some years. This decision was taken by OPM considering their profile and specific needs as well as the availability of land. By the end of December 2023, up to 12,900 new arrivals from Sudan had been received in Uganda both in the refugee settlements and in the urban areas. This trend of new arrivals is expected to continue.

US Ambassador Visit to Nakivale Settlement: On 24 October 2024, a delegation from the US Embassy, led by Ambassador William W. Popp, visited Nakivale Refugee Settlement in southwestern Uganda. The delegation visited Kabazana Reception Center, toured the Nakivale Vocational Training Center (VTC), visited WFP-supported general food/cash assistance points, and participated in focus group discussions on cash/food service delivery in the settlements. The US Embassy delegation's visit underscores their continued support to the refugee situation in Uganda and reflects their ongoing commitment to gain firsthand knowledge of the humanitarian efforts of the Government and partners here.

Ireland Ambassador to Uganda's visit to Nakivale settlement: Irish Ambassador Kevin Colgan inaugurated a new development project funded by the Government of Ireland which included three-classroom block and five-stand latrines in two schools. Ambassador Colgan also visited a livelihoods project and engaged with Gender-Based Violence activists. Ireland remains steadfast in their support to UNHCR with US \$10.2 million provided since 2014. This funding has also helped UNHCR, which has also helped to respond rapidly during an emergency..

Voluntary Repatriation to Burundi: In the 2023 Quarter four, a total of 905 Burundian refugees (259 households) were facilitated and repatriated from Uganda to Burundi in seven convoys. This includes the =414 Burundian returnees who were onward movers from Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp and opted not to seek asylum in Uganda. The cumulative repatriation total in 2023

was 1,475 individuals and 12,468 individuals (3,602 households) since the resumption of voluntary repatriation in 2021.

GRF Ambassadors' Mission to Nakivale: Co-convenors of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), France, Japan, and Uganda, conducted a joint mission to Nakivale refugee settlement in December. The delegation included French Ambassador Xavier Sticker, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Japan Tomotaka Yashimura, State Minister for Refugees Esther Anyakun, CRRF Secretariat Director Helen Bugaari, and UNHCR Country Representative Mathew Crentsil. During the visit, they inspected Nakivale Health Centre III, Nakivale Vocational Training Centre, newly settled refugees in Juru, and the Kagera water project funded by Agence Française de Développement, as part of the preparations for the GRF.

Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023: Following the endorsement of the policy pledges by the Government, a Ugandan delegation led by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, co-convened together with France, Colombia, Japan, Jordan, and Niger, the GRF 2023 in Geneva from 13-15 December. The Uganda's pledges were presented during the plenary session of the GRF, the world's largest international gathering on refugees. Uganda's pledges were collaboratively designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees. The pledges focused on five thematic areas: 1. support to resilience and self-reliance; 2. climate change; 3. localizing the refugee response; 4. transition to national systems; and 5 durable solutions for refugees. The Prime Minister of Uganda delivered a keynote speech. Uganda's co-convenorship of the 2023 GRF enabled the country to share its best practices and advocate for increased support and funding for refugee programmes amidst a growing influx of new arrivals. The Government called for greater international support to ensure the well-being and self-reliance of refugees.

MoU with the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU): On December 6th, 2023, UNHCR signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU), the umbrella private sector organization with about 3000 members in Uganda. Through the MoU, UNHCR and PSFU will jointly engage in advocacy with the government for an enhanced enabling environment for the private sector, and support PSFU member companies to take advantage of investment opportunities in the refugee hosting districts, notably through an information desk. With the financial services providers (FSPs), the advocacy will also focus on policy barriers that impede regulated FSPs from lending to refugees and on the inclusion on refugees in the national financial inclusion strategy and programs.



PROTECTION

Achievements and impact

Refugee Status Determination (RSD): The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) implemented a 40-day accelerated Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure, adjudicating 9,645 applications (16,708 individuals) for Eritrean, Burundian, Pakistani, and Congolese nationals. Of these, 8,756 applications (14,559 individuals) were granted refugee status, achieving a 97% recognition rate. Sudanese nationals were excluded from accelerated procedures due to the government's prima facie recognition. The overall recognition rate, including normal RSD processing, was 91%.

The Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) held four sessions, reviewing 30 applications (85 individuals). The RAB confirmed REC decisions in 12 cases (41 individuals), set aside decisions in 15 cases (33 individuals), ordered a rehearing for two cases (8 individuals), and deferred one case (3 individuals).

Gender Based Violence (GBV): GBV incidents in this quarter totaled 5,222, including 741 new cases, which received appropriate assistance. The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD), in collaboration with UNHCR and key stakeholders, established a collaboration framework integrating GBV and Child Protection (CP) into government to support further integration of refugees into national structures.

Legal and Physical Protection: The UNHCR Protection team further conducted a successful training on International Protection for Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Protection staff and other Ministries in November to enhance participants' knowledge of Protection standards and principles.

Child Protection: As of December 2023, children made up 57% of the refugee population, with 55,825 identified with specific protection needs, including Unaccompanied or Separated Children (UASC), children at risk of child labor, teenage pregnancy, and child-headed households among others. The reduction in food rations for the refugee population has led to an observed rise in child protection cases. These cases include instances of child labor, child marriage, foster parents expressing reluctance to continue care, as well as school dropouts and absenteeism. This information is derived from a survey on child protection conducted by the National Child Protection Sub-Working Group.

Community Based Protection: A cumulative total of 249 suicide cases were reported by the end of this quarter, with 183 attempted suicides, 47 deaths by suicide, and 19 repeat attempts. The reported high number of suicide cases, particularly among refugees, raises significant concerns about the mental health and well-being of affected individuals. The higher concentration of cases were noticed in Bidibidi and Rwamwanja, demonstrating a need for increased assistance in those areas.

The Interagency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (IFRRM): The FRRM recorded 9,114 new queries. Over half of these inquiries were successfully resolved at the helpline level, while others were referred to UNHCR and partners for further follow-up and assistance. The Inter-Agency FRRM helpline cumulatively received a total of 48,755 new queries in 2023.

The Regional Peace Building Programme (RYPP)–Youth Network workshop took place in Kampala on 28 and 29 November. The event was graced by the participation of youth representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda who shared best practices and experiences about peace efforts in their communities. The workshop focused on shaping a peaceful future to prevent further displacement through impactful peace advocacy and collaborative problem-solving.

Community Empowerment and Localization: The 19th Refugee Engagement Forum session convened in Kampala from 1 to 3 November, with 33 refugee representatives from various settlements and Kampala, including five youth representatives. During the session, participants finalized the pledges which were presented during the December GRF event in Geneva. Additionally, four Refugee Led Organizations (RLOs) in Uganda received USD 45,000 each from the innovation fund for the implementation of projects. UNHCR will help to ensure the success of these projects by providing support and oversight..

South Sudan Constitutional review process. The South Sudan Constitutional review process involved consultations with South Sudanese refugees on the electoral process and drafting of a permanent constitution. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission conducted these consultations in various locations around Uganda, with support from UNHCR. This initiative aligns with the preparations for the South Sudanese general elections in 2024, as outlined in the revitalized comprehensive peace agreement of 2018.

Challenges and Gaps

Insufficient funding: Despite capacity-building for the Refugee Appeals Board, a significant challenge persists due to insufficient funding for additional Refugee Status Determination (RSD) staff recruitment and a dedicated RSD centre. UNHCR continues to provide crucial logistical and technical support to the Refugee Eligibility Committee and Refugee Appeals Board.

Limited resources and funding also present significant challenges in addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), resulting in inadequate ratios of case workers and restricted access to survivor-centred GBV response services. Insufficient funding has also hampered the rollout of comprehensive prevention programs, including initiatives like SASA that are designed to progressively transfer services to community-based structures in the larger framework of Transition. Capacitating these structure would provide a sustainable response to the decrease of humanitarian funding.

**EDUCATION:****Achievements and impact**

Annual joint monitoring: The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) led a joint monitoring and physical verification field mission across 12 refugee hosting districts to assess the current situation and disseminate the recommendations included in the Education Response Plan (ERP II). This has helped to inform the prioritization of resources in the Education sector overall.

End of year national examinations: The Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) conducted the final certification examinations, including the Uganda Certificate of Examination (UCE), Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE). A total of 21,510 learners, including 13,246 refugees (7,151 Male, 6,095 Female) and 8,264 host population (2,874 Male, 5,390 Female), registered for the examinations across the refugee hosting districts.

Validation of qualifications: UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), has facilitated the establishment of a government-led Task Team to systematically validate and recognize foreign qualifications held by refugees seeking tertiary and higher education. This initiative addresses the significant barrier of access to post-primary and tertiary education caused by the lack of recognized academic documentation, promoting equity and access to higher education for refugee learners.

Inclusion of refugees in the EMIS: The MOU between the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and UNHCR has been concluded and signed. This agreement facilitates interoperability between MOE and OPM data systems, enabling the inclusion of refugees in the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

Systems Strengthening: Between 27 November and 08 December 2023, the ERP Secretariat organized workshops for MOES, MGLSD and District Local Government officials in Gulu and Fort Portal. These workshops aimed to address challenges in integrating refugee education data into district planning systems. Each district successfully identified and costed key priorities for both refugees and host communities, fostering improved leadership and coordination.

DAFI scholarship: In December 2023, the program organized Uganda's first refugee career trade fair. The program served as a strategic platform for its graduates and fostered the ongoing growth and success of the wider alumni community.

Inclusive Education Training and Material Distribution: UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports, conducted a training on delivering inclusive education to learners with disabilities. This aligns with the National Continuous Professional Development (NCPD) package, a national framework for teachers' capacity development. Additionally, with funding from Education Cannot Wait (ECW)-First Emergency Response, UNHCR provided educational materials to new arrivals, covering various education levels from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to secondary education.

Challenges and Gaps

Low secondary school enrolment rates: Due to the large influx of new refugees and the high fertility rate, absolute numbers of refugees learners has increased by 9%, however Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in secondary education decreased from 11.5% in 2022 to 10% at the end of 2023, This GER remains below the national average in Uganda (GER 34%) and the global refugee average (24%) Access to tertiary education remains under 1%, underscoring the pervasive lack of access to higher education for refugees and the inability of most refugee children to continue education beyond primary school. UNHCR continues to advocate for refugees to have equal access to higher education opportunities.

Quality of Education: In 2023, the primary school exam pass rate (85%) remained consistent with 2022 results (86%). The settlements with the lowest pass rates include Imvepi (26%), Adjumani (19%), Lobule (17%) and Rhino (16%). These are also the settlements with significant teacher and infrastructure gaps. The efficiency indicators, such as Pupil to Teacher (PTR) ratios, fall outside the national standard required for the delivery of quality education in these

settlements. Therefore, more investments are needed in refugee-hosting districts to ensure the education provided is on par with the national standards.



HEALTH

Achievements and impact

Health statistics: A total of 608,434 consultations were recorded (26% nationals and 74% refugees) in this quarter. The high number of consultations, amidst a substantial refugee population, underscores the ongoing demand for healthcare services in the refugee operation. The prevailing health concerns were predominantly linked to Malaria (43%), Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (10%), Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (8%), Skin Diseases (6%), and Urinary Tract Infection (4%).

Residual Spraying: indoor residual spraying was implemented in West Nile settlements to combat and reduce the Malaria burden in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Joint Monitoring: A comprehensive joint monitoring exercise in all refugee settlements successfully brought together the Ministry of Health, UN agencies, and health partners to work together in overcoming health care access barriers. It also allowed for discussion on implementing recommendations from the Midterm Review of the HSIRRP and the OIOS report, and strategically developing public health priorities amidst reduced funding challenges.

Mortality rates: The crude mortality rate stood at 0.05, significantly below the emergency sphere standard of 0.75 deaths per 1000 population per month. The under-five mortality rate was recorded at 0.13, equally below the standard rate of 1.5 deaths per 1000 population per month. Both rates demonstrate a significant achievement in population health and positive strides in improving overall health conditions and reducing the risk of death across all age groups. These results reflect the effectiveness of the operation's healthcare interventions and access to healthcare services, ultimately contributing to the well-being of the population.

Live births and Immunization: A total 12,518 (6,950 refugees, 5,568 nationals) live births were registered, of which 98 per cent were attended to by skilled health workers, with only 11 per cent requiring caesarean section procedures. This is a positive indicator of safer deliveries and quality maternal healthcare access with a substantial portion of the population, both refugees and nationals, having access to professional healthcare during childbirth. Additionally, 27,093 children were vaccinated against Measles, while 11,327 received the DPT and polio vaccines (12,216). The coverage rates were 90% for Measles, 79% for DPT, and 100% for Polio.

HIV prevention, care, and treatment: A comprehensive HIV testing initiative was conducted across all settlements, reaching a total of 22,537 individuals out of which, 175 individuals tested positive and subsequently enrolled in dedicated HIV care and treatment programs.

Malnutrition: A total of 883 individuals were admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), albeit with an impressive recovery rate of 88%, leading to their successful discharge into the outpatient therapeutic program. Furthermore, 127 SAM children received effective management in the outpatient therapeutic program, and 86% were transitioned to outpatient care for continued stabilization. In addition, 1,156 children under-5 received treatment for moderate malnutrition, with a recovery rate of 93%. All malnourished children were appropriately managed through dedicated nutrition programs.

Challenges and Gaps

The prevalence of diseases like Malaria necessitates targeted health interventions and resources to address specific health challenges. The distribution of disease burdens emphasizes the need for preventive measures and tailored healthcare services to effectively manage prevalent conditions like Respiratory Tract Infections (10%), Skin Diseases and Urinary Tract Infections.

Funding Reduction: Decreased humanitarian funding has already resulted in the closing of several health outposts. Additional resources are necessary to support the GoU in the process

of transition of services to maintain access and quality of services while ensuring the sustainability of investments made by UNHCR and partners.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and impact

Water supply: The water supply was consistently maintained at an average of 18 liters per person per day (L/P/D). This represents an increase of 1% compared to the third quarter. December 2023 alone witnessed the delivery of 23.6 million liters of water per day, sustained by the operation and maintenance of 218 motorized water systems and 1,132 hand pumps.

Household latrine coverage: The household latrine coverage improved slightly from 67% to 68%, with the construction of 150 emergency latrines across the operation. All the latrines are strategically positioned within a one-minute walking distance, minimum 30 meters from a water source, and 10 meters from shelters. The Village Health Teams (VHTs) approach is now fully implemented in all settlements after two years of trials in the Southwestern region. This is reducing the pressure on WASH and Health services by capacitating community-based structures to allow for more responsive and resource efficient response.

WASH Country Strategy Development (2024-2026): In December 2023, the Uganda Country Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment developed a new WASH strategy for the period 2024-2026, replacing the expired Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) which concluded in 2023. The new strategy aligns with the country's strategic direction, and the Ugandan National Development Plan II, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. The primary goal of the strategy is to transition all services to national systems.

Challenges and Gaps

Insufficient Water Access in Settlements: The ongoing challenges faced by the National Water Utility in enhancing water production through fuel pumping have led to water access levels in settlements consistently falling below the critical threshold of 15 liters per person per day. In places like Rwamwanja, per capita water consumption has decreased due to a rise in private connections to the main transmission line and low water pressure.

Setback in Water Management Transition: The process of transitioning water management to national utilities encountered a challenge, notably with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation's decision to not take over the Nakivale, Oruchinga, and Kiryandongo settlements, as per the joint roadmap. This decision has introduced delays and heightened complexities to the scheduled transition.

Limited Funding: The sector faces a significant challenge primarily due to insufficient funding, which affects not only emergency response efforts but also hampers the development of crucial infrastructure required to enhance access levels. To achieve the SDG goal 6, 120,000 additional household latrines, with an estimated cost of USD 4.7 million investment in water systems are required.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and impact

Seedling Distribution and Woodlot Establishment: A total of 76,638 seedlings were distributed, while 166.53 hectares of woodlot were established across settlements, contributing to a cumulative total of 1,387.53 hectares of restored Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) since 2019. Additionally, a total of 619 hectares of existing woodlots were maintained. These efforts have

contributed to the replenishment of tree cover in refugee hosting landscapes which will support a sustainable and long-term supply of fuelwood for cooking.

Clean cooking: In total 3,613 energy efficient cookstoves were produced. The purpose was to promote the use of fuel-efficient cooking stoves that use less firewood, emit less fumes, and reduce associated protection risks with firewood collection. With 33,271, energy saving stoves distributed in 2023, the use of these stoves will reduce the demand for firewood in beneficiary households and institutions thereby reducing pressure on existing tree resources.

A total of 86,506 kilograms of handmade briquettes were distributed to new arrivals to ease their successful transition to the settlement by improving access to sustainable fuel for cooking. It also helped to promote the use of briquettes as a renewable source of energy.

Finally, 43% (45,240m³) of the water provided throughout all refugee settlements was extracted using clean energy sources (solar and National Grid power).

Challenges and Gaps

Weather-Related Challenges: Arua and Adjumani have experienced contrasting effects of heavy and erratic rainfall. In Arua, persistent heavy rains have resulted in the flooding of rice and simsim gardens, jeopardizing the drying process, and compromising crop quality. Conversely, Adjumani has benefited from favorable planting conditions due to continuous rainfall. However, the increased risk of flooding poses a significant threat to the community.

Pressure on natural resources: With the continuous influx of refugees and the high fertility rate, the population in the refugee hosting areas is increasing, therefore putting additional pressure on the available natural resources. While there is a surge in demand for seedlings, UNHCR does not have sufficient resources to meet the demand or to consistently maintain the woodlots planted in previous years. The degradation of natural resources increases the risk of natural catastrophe as well as threaten both livelihoods and social cohesion.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENT & NFI

Achievements and impact

Construction: Several infrastructure projects have been completed, including a semipermanent block with three classrooms at Ofua Secondary School in Adjumani, a staff latrine block and bath shelter at Ofua Health Centre. In Yumbe and Moyo districts, completed projects such as landscaping at Valley View Secondary School, community centers in Dongo West and Ibakwe, have been completed and handed over for community use, contributing to improved educational and community engagement spaces in the respective districts. Ongoing projects, like community centres in Rubondo (Nakivale) and Rhino (Arua), are nearing completion.

Road Maintenance: In Bubukwanga, UNHCR is collaborating with Ntoroko district to maintain a 4.5km, 7m wide section of the Kabimbiri-Haibale Road to facilitate the movement of refugees crossing from DRC to Bundibugyo through Ntoroko. The maintenance works were completed in November.

Plot demarcation: In Nakivale, 814 plots were demarcated and allocated to the newly settled refugees. These were also supported with core relief items to restart their lives in Uganda.

Challenges and Gaps

Allocating plots in low-lying areas poses a flooding risk to refugees. It is recommended that OPM receives guidance on appropriately identifying safe areas for settling refugees.

Poor roads, especially in Kyangwali, need urgent rehabilitation (25 km identified). Advocacy is ongoing for funding support from partners for continuous road maintenance.

Persistent road rehabilitation challenges affect access to crucial services in various settlements due to limited funding.

The absence of shelter partners since 2019, has created a significant challenge in providing PSN shelters across the operation.



LIVELIHOODS, RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Achievements and impact

Launching the Market access, Design and Empowerment (MADE51) programme:

The Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion team, with technical guidance from the MADE51 team in Geneva, began implementing a pilot phase of the MADE51. This innovative program aims to link artisanal products created by refugees with international markets, boosting income opportunities for the artisans involved. The pilot phase is set to be implemented in collaboration with the *Milaya* Project and *Rwenzori* Sustainable Trade Centre, focusing on Bidibidi and Rwamwanja refugee settlements.

Entrepreneurship and innovation by refugees in Kampala: Stanford University, in partnership with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) Entrepreneurship Innovation and Incubation Centre, successfully concluded a 12-week business pitching program aimed at ten groups of refugee entrepreneurs. Three groups (videography, a daycare service centre, and a natural beauty products manufacturer) each received a US \$500 prize to support them in their business moving forward.

Review of Four-Year Financial Inclusion Program: UNHCR, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation (GCAF), and three financial service providers (BRAC, UGAFODE Microfinance, and Vision Fund) reviewed the achievements and challenges of the four-year financial inclusion program in November 2023. Initiated by SIDA, UNHCR, and GCAF, the program dedicated to refugees, reached over 116,000 refugee and host entrepreneurs, with 76% being women. Recognized as a successful model, other institutions aim to replicate it globally. As Sida's guarantee scheme concludes, GCAF and FSPs will sustain efforts to serve refugees and host communities.

Draft Minimum Standards for Self-Reliance Measurement: The self-reliance measurement reference group presented draft minimum standards for stakeholder input during the November Livelihood sector meeting, led by UNHCR and World Vision. Seven essential needs were identified for measurement: Economic capacity, food security, health, education, shelter, WASH, and social capital. The self-reliance index measurement will allow for accurately assessing the impact of livelihood projects by creating a comprehensive set of indicators. The sector working group is contributing to the work of the Bureau of Statistics by encouraging all Livelihood actors to report on the same set of indicators aligned with the national framework.

Current livelihood projects: There are 64 partners implementing 124 projects, investing approximately USD 246M and targeting 817,920 beneficiaries (70% refugees; 30% host communities). Agriculture has the highest project count (66) with a budget of USD 65M, followed by skills and employment (26 projects, USD 40M), enterprise development (22 projects, USD 43M), financial inclusion (21 projects, USD 11M), and graduation activity (4 projects, USD 76M). About 37% of these projects end in 2023, 65.2% end in 2024, and 34.5% are ongoing until 2025-2027.

Challenges and Gaps

The absence of a standardized framework for measuring results and assessing progress in households' transition from dependency to self-reliance and resilience is a challenge. The Livelihoods and Resilience Sector Working Group (LRSWG) is currently in the process of finalizing a self-reliance measurement index to address this. Overcoming the current lack of coordination within the sector presents a significant hurdle, leading to duplicated support and inefficiencies in the delivery of livelihood programs. Addressing this challenge requires concerted

efforts to strengthen coordination with District Local Governments, partners, UN agencies, and donors.

Insufficient impact of existing interventions: Most Livelihood interventions in refugee-hosting areas are of relatively small scale and over short durations. Additionally, those projects often lack the holistic approach necessary to allow beneficiaries to graduate from humanitarian assistance. Therefore, UNHCR is advocating for multi-year, medium-term programming focusing on integrated development interventions and inclusion in national systems

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

In 2023, UNHCR played a central role in the Refugee Coordination Model, collaborating with diverse partners, including NGOs, government entities, UN agencies, donors, the private sector, civil society, and refugee-led organizations. The Representation signed 59 partnership agreements (PAs) with various entities, comprising 27 government bodies, 18 international NGOs, six local NGOs, five refugee-led organizations (RLOs), and two community-based organizations (CBOs). Notably, four local partners engaged in twinning agreements with INGOs for capacity building.

The Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) for 2024-2025 underwent detailed planning updates in 2023, symbolizing a joint effort involving OPM, UNHCR, and 96 partners. This plan aligns with government-led sector response plans, aiming to meet humanitarian needs and implement sustainable solutions.

UNHCR provided technical and financial support to enhance national responsibility-sharing arrangements, fostering dialogue with key partners and steering the response towards an integrated and sustainable service delivery system.

In preparation for the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, the Government of Uganda collaborated closely with UNHCR, submitting pledges focusing on service transition, climate action, resilience, self-reliance, localized response, and durable solutions. Uganda's co-convenorship allowed the country to share best practices, advocate for increased support, and address funding challenges.

Monthly Refugee Humanitarian Partners Group (RHPG) meetings and quarterly ambassadors' meetings provided platforms for strategic discussions, addressing operational issues and underlining funding priorities. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group, co-chaired by UNHCR, OPM, and the Ministry of Local Government, conducted six national coordination meetings in 2023, with an additional ad hoc meeting discussing security concerns related to food distribution prioritization.

For more information on partners involved in the refugee response please see the [Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan Detailed planning 2024-2025](#).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: UNHCR is grateful for the donors' support to the operation.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 60.1 million | **Education Cannot Wait** 14.2 million | **European Union** 11.4 million | **Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex)** 9.9 million | **Netherlands** 6.5 million | **Japan** 4 million | **Ireland** 2.1 million | **Republic of Korea** 2 million | **Fast Retailing Co., (UNIQLO)** 2 million | **Canada** 1.8 million | **Sweden** 1.4 million

France | **IKEA Foundation** | **Solvatten** | **Astellas Global Health Foundation** | **World Food Programme** | **IGAD** | **Austria** | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** | **United Nations Population Fund** | **Toyota Tsusho Corporation** | **Private donors United Kingdom** | **Eaglecom Foundation** | **Augustinus Fonden** | **Muslim World League** | **UN Programme on HIV/AIDS** | **Coca-Cola Foundation** | **Fred Foundation** | **Hope Health Action** | **UN Children Fund** | **Other private donors.**

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Australia for UNHCR 10.6 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 7.6 million | **United States of America** 6.9 million | **Denmark** 6.8 million | **Italy** 5 million | **Australia** 3.9 million | **USA for UNHCR** 3.2 million | **Finland** 3.1 million | **UK for UNHCR** 3.2 million | **Canada** 2.4 million | **Private donors in China** 2.3 million | **Germany** 1 million | **Isle of man** | **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg** | **Argentina for UNHCR** | **Japan** | **Japan for UNHCR** | **Sweden for UNHCR** | **Switzerland for UNHCR** | **Private donors**

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 69 million | **España con ACNUR** 68.1 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 44.3 million | **United Kingdom** 41 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **France** 27.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 24.7 million | **Germany** 23.3 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Japan** 16.3 million | **Private donors Italy** 15.4 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 12.9 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million | **Private donors USA** 10.8 million

Algeria | **Angola** | **Australia** | **Austria** | **Bulgaria** | **Canada** | **Republic of Costa Rica** | **Estonia** | **Finland** | **Iceland** | **Republic of Indonesia** | **State of Kuwait** | **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg** | **Malta** | **Principality of Monaco** | **Republic of Montenegro** | **New Zealand** | **Peru** | **Philippines** | **Portugal** | **Republic of Korea** | **Russian Federation** | **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** | **Serbia** | **Republic of Singapore** | **Thailand** | **Türkiye** | **UK for UNHCR** | **Switzerland for UNHCR** | **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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