Uganda

1 – 30 November 2020

There were no new arrivals during the month of December 2020. However, the humanitarian situation remains unpredictable in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Some media and field reports indicate spontaneous movements across borders, however, these cannot be fully verified and accounted for.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Cumulatively, as of 30 November 2020, there were 20,459 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of whom, 255 are refugees and 233 humanitarian workers.

The cumulative number includes 8,989 recoveries, 209 of whom were refugees and 178 humanitarian workers. The cumulative number of reported deaths was 205, of whom, five are refugees.

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Number of **new arrivals** during November 2020, based on border monitoring.

1,415,946*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 30 November 2020.

26,192

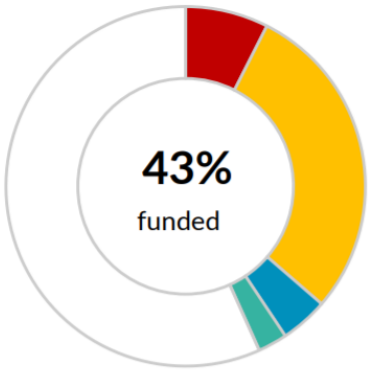
Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 30 November 2020.

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

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2020:

USD 357.1M

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 November 2020)



Unfunded 57% - **202.53 M**

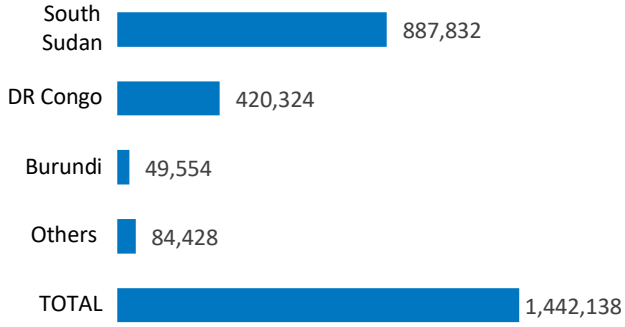
Funded 43% - **154.54 M**

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

UNHCR Representative visiting a group that produces soap in Rwamwanja refugee settlement. ©UNHCR/Juliet Nakiwala

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality



Ms. Liesse Ombeni, from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), making non-medical washable masks at her workshop in Kampala.
©UNHCR/Duniya Aslam Khan

Operational Highlights

COVID-19: Since March 2020, 255 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with five reported deaths. On 30 November 2020, the cumulative nationwide figure for COVID-19 positive cases stood at 20,459 cases and 205 reported deaths. In total, 233 humanitarian workers have also tested positive for COVID-19 across the country.

UNHCR and partners supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in investigating 28,891 COVID-19 alerts and 6,651 tests targeting refugees. The support included transportation of samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute.

Adjumani was reported to have the highest rates of COVID-19 cases among refugees (54 cases), followed by settlements located in Kiryandongo (50), Kampala (49), Kyangwali (41), Nakivale/Oruchinga (40), Bidibidi (5), Kyaka II (5), Palabek (4), Parlorinya (4), Rhino Camp/Imvepi (2) and Rwamanja (1).

UNHCR and partners continue their support to 11 COVID-19 quarantine centers across the country, located in settlements and at transit sites. The support includes medical supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), site management, food and logistics, for both refugees and Ugandan nationals.

Statelessness: The Ministry of Internal Affairs together with UNHCR, launched the National Action Plan to Eradicate Statelessness in Uganda, at a workshop held on 13 November 2020. Participants included leaders from communities affected by statelessness notably, the Maragoli, Benet and Bakingwe, as well as other stakeholders.

PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

South Sudan National Dialogue: A virtual South Sudan National Dialogue was held from 3 to 4 November 2020. Participants included three refugee representatives from Uganda, led by Mr. Simon Marot, who presented on transformation of governance, security reforms and national building. Key recommendations were highlighted in a report which was shared with the South Sudan government.

Joint UNHCR/WFP cash assistance programme: The joint UNHCR/WFP cash assistance programme reached over 54,000 urban refugees in Kampala. UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP), on 30 November 2020, concluded their joint cash assistance intervention in Kampala. They provided cash for food, rent and non-food items to 54,349 urban refugees (23,986 households), amounting to 68 per cent of the asylum seekers and refugees registered in Kampala. The assistance was disbursed through mobile network operators (mobile money) and bank accounts (cash over the counter). Litigation was ongoing with a few cases, including absentees whose family members are not in Kampala, but are eligible for cash disbursement. Lessons learned from this intervention will be documented after a joint Post Distribution Assessment by UNHCR, WFP and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

Training on Statelessness for the Media in Uganda: On 19 November 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with UNHCR, facilitated a training for the media in Uganda. The objective of the training was to share knowledge and information on statelessness, as well as explain the role of the media on advancing statelessness related issues. Both local and international media practitioners participated in the training and they interacted with representatives of communities affected by statelessness like the Maragoli, Benet, Bakingwe, and children born in captivity outside Uganda, by deceased Uganda parents.

Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual Violence: The event kicked off on 25 November 2020, across the refugee settlements and in Kampala. In Kampala, the process started with a half-day orientation of 80 community mobilizers from different organizations, followed by a radio talk show; Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) mobile clinics; community dialogue on SGBV; awareness creation on Mental Health, SGBV and Human Rights; as well as spot messages and dissemination of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials. A focus group discussion with adolescent girls on teenage pregnancies and other SGBV issues affecting school-going age was also held during the 16 days.

EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

Orientation Workshops for Education Partners: UNHCR commenced orientation workshops for teachers, District Education Officials and NGO partners, to plan for the distribution of tablets to schools. These devices were secured through a contribution from Education Cannot Wait (ECW), in support of continuity of learning during the COVID -19 school closure and the school reopening period for candidates. The content is loaded with offline content from the Kolibri Platform, which was approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES). The platform contains a rich repository of digital educational resources focused on science, mathematics and life skills for secondary education. Once distributed, the

devices will facilitate catch up on lost learning, while encouraging learners at the risk of dropping out to return to school.

Commitment of support from MoES for the Education Response Plan (ERP): During a bi-lateral meeting between MoES and Education Development Partners group, the Permanent Secretary reiterated MoES' commitment to provide technical support for the development of the ERP II, covering the period 2021-2023.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Presentations by MOES during a bi-lateral meeting with the Education Development Partners group highlighted that, there is limited investment in Special Needs Education (SNE), as most of the off-budget support is directed towards primary and secondary education. It was also revealed that, most schools have reopened for candidates, and public schools will receive a conditional grant from the World Bank funded Covid-19 Emergency Education Response (GPE), to support reopening of non-candidate classes next year. While the GPE grant should be refugee inclusive, funds are limited and can only cover a fraction of the needs for printing and distribution of self-study materials.

SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

Road Network: Rehabilitation of roads in Adjumani under the frame agreement is complete, enabling easy movement of people, goods and services within the settlements. In West Nile, road rehabilitation and maintenance works, in (Zone 2, 3, 4 and 5) approximately 41km in Yumbe, are 85 per cent complete. In the South West, rehabilitation of 21km of Kityaza - Rubondo Road in Nakivale is approximately 70 per cent complete, with bush clearing and grading completed, while excavation of culvert lines, side drains and gravelling of some sections on the road are ongoing.

Reception and Transit Centers Rehabilitation: In the South West, construction of four semi-permanent shelters at Kabazana Reception Centre is ongoing and expected to be finished in January 2021. In Yumbe, fencing of Kerwa Collection Centre with chain link, construction of guardhouse, construction of overnight shelter and five stance drainable latrine is approximately 53 per cent complete. Construction of four semi-permanent accommodation shelters; a food serving point (10 per cent complete); and improvement of surface drainage works (70 per cent complete) at Kagoma, in Kyangwali settlement, is ongoing. This will improve accommodation facilities at the reception centre once completed.

ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

To implement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), is spearheading the process of developing the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) for refugees and host communities, with support from GIZ and an inter-agency task team. The vision of the SERP is *"Refugee and Host Communities Attain Universal Access to Affordable, Reliable and Clean Energy for Socio-Economic Transformation, in an Environmentally Sustainable Manner."* As part of this process, settlement and district level stakeholder consultations across the refugee hosting districts were

carried out from 9 November to 9 December 2020. The consultations were to gather perceptions on energy for cooking, lighting and productive use.

Under the GIZ supported ESDS Project, energy audits were conducted for pre-selected sites of Palabek Field Unit in Lamwo district; Pakelle Sub-Office in Adjumani district; Yumbe Sub-Office in Yumbe district;Yoro Base-Camp in Madi-Okollo district; Imvepi Base-Camp in Terego district and Palorinya Base-Camp in Obongi district. During the reporting period, energy audits were completed for the first three sites, and their technical system designs are underway. Energy audits for the remaining three sites are still ongoing. The energy demand and supply assessments are part of the component on greening UNHCR infrastructure, to provide accurate data on energy supply and consumption patterns. This is necessary in ascertaining the most optimal solar system design, that can meet the existing energy demand at these sites, to enable substitution of diesel-powered electricity generation without overshooting CAPEX. Preliminary results from the first three sites show different possible solar system sizes under basic situation, partial autonomy and full autonomy scenarios.

As part of the tree growing campaign to replace the trees cut down for fuel, timber and construction poles across the operation, 318,111 assorted tree seedlings were distributed for planting during season two in Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyaka II, Rwamwanja, Isingiro and Kamwenge. In Kiryandongo settlement, 1,957 assorted tree seedlings were distributed and planted along boundaries and homestead compounds, by 129 females with support from DanChurchAid (DCA) and Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS).

WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

During the reporting period, the water supplied to refugees in the settlements stood at an average of 17 litres per person per day (l/p/d). The sector continued to utilize water attendants at collections points, to ensure compliance with social distancing in line with COVID-19 prevention guidance, by the Government of Uganda.

Handwashing stations at communal meeting points, water collection points and health facilities are operational. The focus was on ensuring a wide coverage of hand-washing facilities, access to soap at household level, and proper handwashing attitudes. Hygiene promoters and Village Health Teams (VHTs), worked together to carry-out door-to-door sensitization. Radio, *bodaboda* talks and billboards continued to be used in all settlements for hygiene promotion. Sanitation coverage stands at about 70 per cent, with a ratio of beneficiary per stance at 1:7.

COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

Quarterly Refugee Engagement Forum (REF): The 8th Refugee Engagement Forum (REF), was held virtually on 4 to 5 November 2021, and it brought together 37 refugee leaders from all settlements and Kampala. Two people were elected as representatives, and they attended the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group, to represent the 1.4 million Persons of Concern (PoCs) in the country. Key issues discussed at this REF meeting were: strengthening two-way communication mechanisms and the role of the REF; inputs into the quarterly CRRF SG meetings; revision of the National

Plan of Action; prioritization of extra support for REF; and documentation of the REF to showcase its potential as a good practice for refugee participation.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Achievements and Impact

Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE): This is aimed at providing all partners in the Comprehensive Refugee Response with refugee profiling data, required to better understand the needs, vulnerabilities and coping strategies of individuals and households within the population. The exercise, led by UNHCR in collaboration with key partners, was due to start in May but was postponed to late 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been postponed again, in order to explore synergies between the IPE and the upcoming re-verification exercise, which is slated to begin in 2021.

Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA): The FSNA was started in all settlements and Kampala. The cycle was coordinated and administratively led by UNHCR, with technical contributions from all partners. Preparations started by making the survey available for use with Kobo and conducting several trainings of enumerators across Uganda, to familiarize them with data collection tools. The aim was to finish the data collection before the end of 2020, while considering lessons learned from the last two FSNAs.

Working in partnership with:

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

Refugee Hosting Districts – Adjumani, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, 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 Voluntari (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), Cooperazionee 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 94 million | **Denmark** 11.1 million | **European Union** 7.1 million | **Norway** 4.4 million | **Germany** 3.2 million | **CERF** 2.8 million | **Netherlands** 1.8 million | **Republic of Korea** 1.7 million | **Fast Retailing Co. Ltd (UNIQLO)** 1.6 million | **Qatar** 1.5 million | **Japan** 1.2 million | **Sweden** 1.2 million | **Ireland** 1.1 million | **Canada** 1.1 million | **Unilever (UK)** 1.1 million | **Switzerland** 1 million | **United Nations Foundation** 1 million

Education Cannot Wait | United Kingdom | Remon L Vos | Spotlight Initiative | Finland | France | Latter-day Saints Charities | Solvatten | IGAD | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Other private donors

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 77 million | **United States of America** 46.8 million | **United Kingdom** 24.8 million | **Denmark** 14.6 million | **Private donors Australia** 11.4 million | **Canada** 10.2 million | **Private donors Germany** 9.7 million | **Private donors USA** 8.7 million | **Sweden** 6.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 4.5 million | **Spain** 3.4 million | **Ireland** 3.3 million | **Finland** 3.3 million | **France** 2.8 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2.5 million | **Norway** 2.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.3 million | **Private donors Lebanon** 2.1 million

Holy See | Iceland | Japan | Jersey | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Morocco | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 76.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 66.8 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million **Private donors Republic of Korea** 34 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Private donors Japan** 27.8 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Japan** 23.8 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 15.7 million | **France** 14 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.7 million | **Private donors USA** 10.8 million | **Italy** 10.6 million

Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | 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:
Uganda Refugee Response Portal
UNHCR Uganda Facebook Page
UNHCR Uganda Twitter account
UNHCR Uganda Instagram account
South Sudan Regional Portal