Uganda

1 – 31 December 2020

The Ugandan borders have remained closed for asylum since March 2020 due to COVID-19. However, spontaneuos movements to/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 and accounted for.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2020, there were 34,677 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of whom, 370 were refugees and 257 humanitarian workers.

The cumulative number includes 11,579 recoveries, 331 of whom were refugees and 228 humanitarian workers. 75 deaths were reported, six of whom are refugees.

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

1,446,378*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 31 December 2020.

25,241

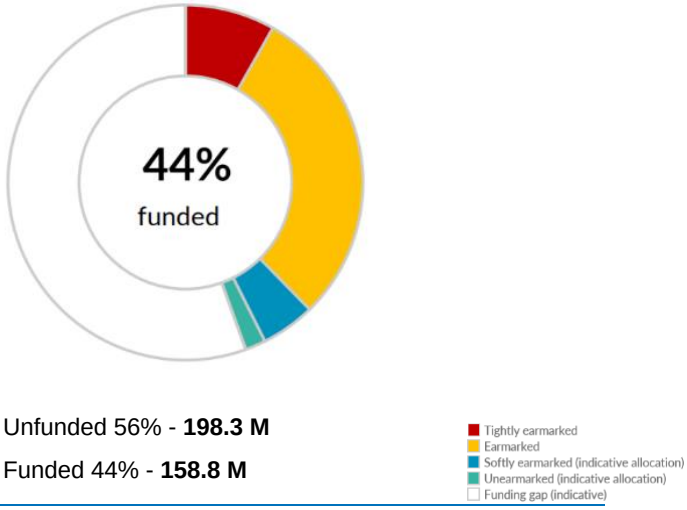
Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 December 2020.

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

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2020:

USD 357.1M

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 December 2020)



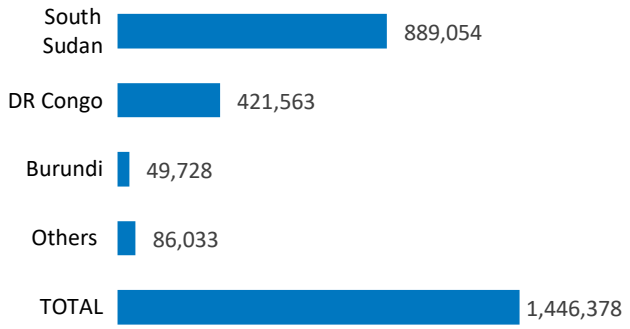
Unfunded 56% - **198.3 M**

Funded 44% - **158.8 M**

A family of Burundian refugees leaves their home to start the journey back home from Kyaka II settlement, Kyegegwa district. Photo ©UNHCR/Hameem

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality



Burundian refugees wave goodbye to Uganda, as they board at Entebbe Airport board say goodbye to Uganda as they board the flight back home. Photo ©UNHCR/Hameem Ddumba

Operational Highlights

COVID-19: Since March 2020, 370 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with six reported deaths. On 31 December 2020, the cumulative nationwide figure for COVID-19 positive cases stood at 34,677 cases and 251 reported deaths. In total, 257 humanitarian workers have also tested positive for COVID-19 across the country.

Kampala was reported to have the highest rates of COVID-19 cases among refugees (110 cases), followed by settlements located in Nakivale/Oruchinga (80), Adjumani (54), Kiryandongo (50), Kyangwali (43), Kyaka II (13), Bidibidi (5), Parlorinya (5), Rhino Camp/Imvepi (4), Palabek (4), and Rwamanja (2).

UNHCR and partners continued to support the Ministry of Health to investigate COVID-19 alerts and test refugees, with 28,921 COVID-19 alerts investigated and 6,982 refugees tested for COVID-19 as of 31 December 2020. A total of 478 individuals remained in quarantine across 11 quarantine centres in refugee-hosting districts by the end of December 2020, including 462 Ugandans and 16 refugees.

Repatriation of Burundi Refugees: In December, UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) facilitated the voluntary repatriation to Burundi of 231 Burundian refugees, who are part of a larger group of 522 Burundians who expressed their intention and requested our assistance to return home. UNHCR provided a cash grant of USD 135 to each refugee who departed for Burundi. While the initial plan was to repatriate 304 refugees this December, several refugees tested positive to COVID-19 prior to departing for the airport and were compelled to go into isolation along with their families and could no longer depart as scheduled – total of 73 individuals. Pending a negative COVID-19 test result, 291 Burundians are scheduled for repatriation in early 2021.

Progress towards reducing statelessness in Uganda - In line with the six pledges submitted by Uganda on the occasion of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019, a Cabinet Memo to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness prepared for the Attorney Generals' attention received affirmative response of no objection (Pledge 1). Furthermore, a Private Members Bill for Constitutional Amendment was introduced in Parliament to recognize or include the Maragoli as one of

the indigenous tribes in Uganda (Pledge 6) and it will be included in third schedule of the 1995 Constitution. The validation of the National Action Plan to end Statelessness in Uganda was also concluded (Pledge 2).

Visit of UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner - Operations: UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner - Operations, Raouf Mazou and UNHCR Regional Bureau Director for Eastern, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Clementine Awu Salami visited Uganda between 30 November and 4 December to meet with government officials, donors, partners and refugees, including the Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hon. Hillary Onek. The team also visited water supply projects under management of National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) in Rwamwanja settlement, Kamwenge district, where commendable progress has been made with regard to the integration of water service delivery – in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The Assistant High Commissioner thanked Uganda for leading on the implementation of GRC and make inclusion of refugees a reality.

PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Inter-Agency Report Highlights Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls in Uganda. UNHCR and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in collaboration with the Government of Uganda, ALIGHT, CARE International, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, OXFAM, Overcomers Women's Group and the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, launched a join report on 1 December 2020, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on refugee women, girls, men and boys of different backgrounds in Uganda. The analysis can be found at this link Rapid Gender Analysis – COVID-19 and a press release highlighting the main findings is at this link: https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/press/2020/12/5fc7a6694/inter-agency-report-refugee-women-and-girls-in-uganda-disproportionately.html

Refugee Status Determination: During the month of December 2020, Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) sessions were held in Kyaka II and Nakivale settlements. The REC adjudicated a total of 712 asylum applications (373 in Kyaka II and 339 Nakivale), largely concerning Congolese and Burundians. The recognition rate was 83 and 84 per cent respectively. Overall, in 2020 REC adjudicated 8,221 asylum applications in 13 sessions, and the recognition rate was 92 per cent. Similarly, the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) reviewed 134 applications in six sessions, with UNHCR participating as an observer and providing logistical and technical support.

Resettlement: UNHCR submitted a total of 1,396 refugees for resettlement considerations to third countries by the end of December 2020, against a quota of 2,050. Seventy-five per cent of submissions were refugees from the DRC, 10 per cent from South Sudan, 7 per cent from Burundi and 8 per cent from other countries. In 2020, a total of 1,069 refugees departed for resettlement. Of the total submissions made in 2020, 47 per cent of submissions were survivors of violence and torture and 16 per cent were women and girls at risks. Submissions have been made to the following countries: Sweden, Norway, Canada, France, Australia, USA and Finland. Since May, UNHCR has been using remote interviewing to process resettlement cases, in an efforts to comply with COVID-19 safety measures.

EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF launched the distribution of tablets in Nakivale settlement. These devices are preloaded with Kolibri and the content is aligned with curriculum endorsed by the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC). Funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the distribution of 2,315 tablets will help secondary school children from the refugee and host communities prepare for final examinations, enabling them to continue learning from home. With a grant from COVID-response ECW First Emergency Response (FER), UNHCR is procuring an additional 715 tablets and materials to support these efforts.

HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

In December, 261,379 consultations were registered across the operation. Of these, 78 per cent were refugees and 22 per cent were nationals, with each clinician providing an average of 58 consultations per day. The leading causes of morbidity were: Malaria (44.5 per cent); Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) at 8.3 per cent; Skin Diseases (7.8 per cent); Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) at 4.4 per cent and Water Diarrhea (2.3 per cent). Among children under five years, Malaria was leading at 44.3 per cent; URTI at 11.9 per cent; Skin Diseases at 9. per cent; LRTI at 7.4 per cent; and Watery Diarrhea at 6.7 per cent.

Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) stood at 0.1 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month, with crude proportional mortality being Malaria at 19.5 per cent; LRTI at 5 per cent; and Neonatal death at 8.3 per cent. Under five mortality rate was at 0.15, which is within the public health standards of less than 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month, with major causes being Malaria at 28.5 per cent; LRTI at 8.5 per cent; Neonatal death at 29.2 per cent; and Acute malnutrition at 4.5 per cent.

6,481 children were vaccinated against measles and 5,416 received DPT and polio vaccine.

11,318 refugees were tested for HIV across all settlements, of which 163 were positive and enrolled into HIV care and treatment.

The mothers who attended antenatal care clinics were 21,385. Of these, 4,486 attended for the first time and were tested for HIV, in bid to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the disease. Those currently receiving HIV treatment in the settlements are 17,652, of which 36 per cent are refugees and 64 per cent are nationals. Ninety-five per cent of the 4,472 live births that were registered in December were conducted at health facilities by skilled health workers, with 68 per cent of the deliveries being refugees and 32 per cent nationals.

WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

Water supplied to refugees in the settlements stood at an average of 17.5 litres per person per day (l/p/d). This was achieved by increasing pumping hours for the 174 water schemes and ensuring 1,100 handpumps remained operational. The sector continued to utilize water attendants to support social distancing's efforts at water collections points.

Handwashing stations and soap was provided at all communal meeting points, water collection points and health facilities, along with increased risk communication on COVID-19. Hygiene promoters and Village Health Teams (VHTs) worked together to pass messages door-to-door, whilst mass media methods such as radio, *boda-boda* talks, billboards were introduced in all settlements. Soap distribution was sustained at 250g/person/month to support hand hygiene in response to COVID-19.

The Ministry of Water and Environment water supply projects in Bidibidi settlement were completed and commissioned. This is part of a broader initiative funded by the European Union Trust Fund in West Nile and implemented by the Water and Sanitation Development Facility (WSDF-North). The Northern Umbrella Authority is managing these water schemes, which serve both refugees and host communities – in line with the approach to shift to a utility scheme and include refugee into national systems.

SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

Construction of Shelters for Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs): In Nakivale, 80 PSNs were provided with 160 roofing sheets to help them renovate their shelters. In Kyaka II, 11 PSN shelters were handed over to beneficiaries after completion by Alight and UNHCR. Another eight PSN shelters are still under construction.

Reception and Transit Center Construction. In Nakivale settlement, construction of four semi-permanent shelters at Kabazana Reception Centre is at 95 per cent and expected to be completed before the end of January 2020. The interview rooms at Sweswe reception center in Kyaka II settlement have been completed. At Nyakabande Transit Centre in Kisoro, the site was handed over to the contractor for renovation of two shelters and extension of drainage channels.

COVID-19 Response. In West Nile, construction of semi-permanent isolation units and waiting sheds at selected health facilities in Arua, Kiryandongo and Koboko districts has been completed. In Yumbe, construction of treatment / isolation centres in six health units is progressing well.

Road Construction and Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of 21 km of Kityaza - Rubondo road in Nakivale is approximately at 70 per cent complete, with bush clearing and grading finished. Side drains and gravelling of some sections on the road are ongoing. All culverts have been installed and gravelling of 14 out of 18 km has been completed.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Despite efforts to improve connectivity, most roads across settlements are in dire state and need rehabilitation. Current rains throughout the country have caused destruction of the roads thus, making most settlements inaccessible.

More settlement maps and preparation of block plans need to be updated to ensure efficient distribution of social and physical facilities as well as settlement physical development planning to guide spatial development in the settlement.

ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

Commissioning of assessments. In December, two assessments were commissioned. The first was the assessment for the greening of UNHCR offices and basecamps with the goal of replacing expensive and polluting diesel generators. The second was an assessment for the solarization of six health centres in the West Nile operation, which targeted unelectrified health centres supported by UNHCR. Both assessments are funded by GIZ. The prioritization and background data collection is being led by UNHCR.

UNHCR in collaboration with UNDP and UN Women submitted a proposal on Component 2 of the Joint Programme (JP) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund titled *"Accelerating Innovative Finance for Renewable Energy in Social Sectors and UN Operations in Uganda"*. The fund, worth USD 5.5 million, is aimed at eliminating diesel generators in the Uganda operation through the deployment of renewable energy systems and increased access to affordable, sustainable and modern energy. In addition, it will contribute to the development of strategic objectives and priorities in Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP III), Uganda's Green Growth Development Strategy and Renewable Energy Policy.

COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

The 12th high-level Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group (SG) meeting was held on 3 December 2020 and chaired by the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The following decisions were taken to shape the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its CRRF in Uganda**:**

- The strategic direction 2021-2025 macro level framework, which will guide the implementation of the GCR and the CRRF in Uganda, was endorsed in principle. Areas for prioritized GCR/CRRF joint action are strengthening national arrangements; strengthening district engagement and coordination; mainstreaming CRRF into national planning to address long term impact of hosting refugees; regional partnerships; and international responsibility-sharing.
- The Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP) was adopted. Uganda now has four comprehensive sector response plans to increase refugees and host communities' resilience, self-reliance and expand national service delivery, to address the immediate and long-term needs of refugees and host communities. These efforts will be complemented by the Sustainable Energy Response Plan**,** which is currently under development.
- There is an initiative led by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), whose objective is aimed at developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for research, studies, and assessments. The SOPs are aimed to standardizing research and analytics conducted in refugee-hosting districts, to

inform data gaps, strengthen knowledge management, and avoid duplication of services. A task team will be constituted to finalize the SOPs in early 2021.

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** 6.6 million | **Germany** 3.2 million | **CERF** 2.8 million | **Belgium** 2.4 million | **Netherlands** 1.8 million | **Fast Retailing Co. Ltd (UNIQLO)** 1.8 million | **Republic of Korea** 1.7 million | **Qatar** 1.5 million | **Unilever (UK)** 1.5 million | **Japan** 1.2 million | **Sweden** 1.2 million | **Ireland** 1.1 million | **Canada** 1.1 million | **Switzerland** 1 million | **United Nations Foundation** 1 million

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

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 92.2 million | **United States of America** 46.7 million | **United Kingdom** 31 million | **Denmark** 14.6 million | **Private donors Australia** 12.9 million | **Private donors Germany** 10.3 million | **Canada** 10.2 million | **Private donors USA** 8.9 million | **Sweden** 6.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 4.5 million | **France** 4 million | **Spain** 3.4 million | **Ireland** 3.3 million | **Finland** 3.3 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2.8 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.5 million | **Norway** 2.4 million | **Private donors Lebanon** 2.1 million

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

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 88.2 million | **Private donors Spain** 73.5 million | **United Kingdom** 45.7 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 37.5 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Japan** 31.6 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Japan** 23.8 million | **Private donors Italy** 17.6 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Sweden** 14.2 million | **France** 14 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