

Uganda

1 – 30 April 2021

The Ugandan borders have remained closed for asylum since March 2020 due to COVID-19. However, spontaneous 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 30 April 2021, there were **42,384 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, of whom, **423 were refugees** and **293 humanitarian workers**.

The cumulative number includes **41,971 recoveries**, **396** of whom were **refugees** and **287 humanitarian workers**.

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

1,482,101

Number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** as of 30 April 2021.

1,457,236*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 30 April 2021.

24,865

Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 30 April 2021.

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

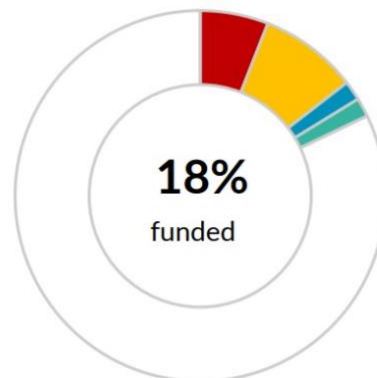


A jolly youth participant in 'Bidibidi Got Talent' in Bidibidi settlement Yumbe District. Photo ©UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2021:

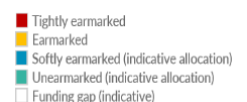
USD 344.8 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 April 2021)



Unfunded 82% - **283.1 M**

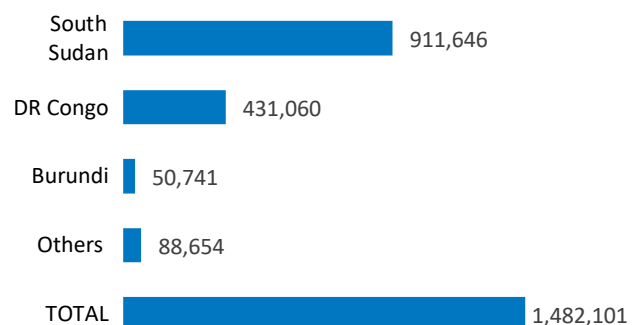
Funded 18% - **61.7 M**



POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by

Nationality





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Winners in 'Bidibidi Got Talent' music category, present during the grand finale held on 29 April in Bidibidi settlement, Yumbe district

Contextual and operational highlights

COVID-19: Since March 2020, 423 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with nine reported deaths. The cumulative countrywide figure for COVID-19 positive cases stood at 42,384 cases as of 30 April 2021, with 41,971 recoveries and 335 reported deaths. In total, 293 humanitarian workers had tested positive for COVID-19 across the country by the end of April. Since Uganda began the vaccination campaign in mid-March 2021 under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, 330,077 people have been vaccinated as of 30 April 2021 Uganda, including 5,644 individuals in the refugee settlement. These include 1,690 health workers, 1,501 teachers, 537 humanitarian workers and 1,916 refugees above 50 years as well as those with underlying co-morbidities.

Uganda introduces new COVID-19 travel restrictions: On 30 April, Uganda announced a series of new COVID-19 travel restrictions amid a resurgence in infections over the last six weeks. With the country currently facing five COVID-19 variants (including those found in India, South Africa and the United Kingdom), all passenger flights between Uganda and India have been suspended as from 1 May 2021 until further notice. Travelers from category 2 countries (USA, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, South Africa, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Tanzania) will be subjected to a COVID-19 test upon arrival in Uganda.

UNHCR and Government to reopen transit centres gradually to register backlog of asylum seekers: The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR agreed to reopen the transit centres in a staggered manner to register persons of concern who arrived during the lockdown and are currently hosted by local communities. Given the public health imperatives, UNHCR and OPM want to incentivize individuals on Uganda soil to come out of the shadows and approach the transit centres, where the public safety risks related to COVID-19 and Ebola can be properly managed. This will also allow relieving the pressure on the local communities and offering the much needed humanitarian assistance to persons of concern. The registration of the backlog of asylum seekers will start in May in Lamwo district's Palabek settlement, Madi Okollo district's Rhino Camp settlement and Lawmo district's Palabek settlement, where the numbers appear to be greatest.

Uganda launches plan to expand job opportunities for refugees and their hosts: The Government of Uganda launched on 22 April the [Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda](#) (JLIRP), seeking to ensure that over 1.46 million refugees and 5.7 million host community members are socially, economically and financially included in a sustainable manner in local development by 2025. In particular, the JLIRP offers opportunities to integrate longer-term resilience and development approaches within the refugee and host population assistance and creates entry points for development partners to invest in the response. It also provides a framework for actors, especially development agencies and government, to make visible multi-year development interventions that can be implemented at scale to expand business and employment opportunities for refugee and host communities. The JLIRP is estimated to cost approximately US \$69 million over five years. UNHCR Representative to Uganda Joel Boutroue, who was among the guest speakers along with First Deputy Prime Minister Moses Ali, commended Uganda for the progress made towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugee (GCR). The Representative also acknowledged the contributions from the international community, in particular development partners such as the US, EU, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Belgium, UK and World Bank as well as NGOs and UN sister agencies for their valuable contributions to the finalization of the JLIRP and their engagement in jobs and livelihoods activities in refugee-hosting districts.

UNHCR joins press conference to appreciate support from Japan: UNHCR Country Representative attended on 20 April a press conference with Japanese Ambassador Hidemoto Fukuzawa, UN Resident Coordinator Rosa Malango and Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hillary Onek to highlight [Japan's contribution in support of refugees and host communities in Uganda in 2021](#), of which UNHCR received US \$2.5 million. UNHCR Representative appreciated the contribution, underlining that “these resources are more needed than ever as the refugee population and their needs continue to grow.” Thanks to Japan, continued the Representative, “health services have continued uninterrupted in Bidibidi, Africa’s largest refugee settlement, mitigating the risks and impact of COVID-19.”

Refugee Response Plan (RRP): Planning for the 2022-2023 RRP started during the month of April, with bilateral consultations involving key stakeholders. Outcomes from these discussions will be used to ensure that the next RRP is building on what has worked in the past, linkages with existing frameworks are strengthened, process is well coordinated and inclusive.

Bidibidi Got Talent: *Bidibidi Got Talent* is an annual event to engage refugee youth in identifying their unique talents and support their development. Currently in its third season, the Grand Finale was held on 29 April 2021 in Bidibidi refugee settlement, Yumbe district. This year, it stretched beyond Bidibidi settlement to include refugees from Adjumani and Obongi districts. The winners were in the categories of music, dance, drama as well as art and design.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Refugee statistics: As of the end of April 2021, Uganda hosted 1,482,101 refugees and asylum seekers, marking an increase of 11,243 individuals (0.8 per cent) compared to the population in March 2021. The increase is due to ongoing backlog and continuous registration activities, including new births. In April, the population targeted for assistance was 1,390,908 individuals. Of note, 63,213 individuals who missed three consecutive cycles of assistance had their assistance inactivated, which corresponds to about 4.5 per cent of the total population receiving assistance in the settlements.

Protection training for border authorities and immigration officials in Adjumani: UNHCR and OPM organized a two-day training on International Protection and protection principles for 28 border authorities in charge of admissions at the Adjumani /Elegu border areas. Topics covered included the Legal framework, Roles and Responsibilities of UNHCR and the Government of Uganda, Refugee Status

Determination, Non-Refoulement, Management of ex-combatants, Protection of vulnerable groups, Pendular movements and spontaneous returns and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Ugandan returnee from Kenya: On 15 April 2021, the operation received a Ugandan refugee who returned from Kenya on voluntary repatriation. The returnee, a young woman aged 18 years old, was reunited with her relatives in Uganda after eight years in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. She is from Patongo, Agago District in northern Uganda.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

Phased re-opening of schools for non-candidate classes for the academic year 2020: The re-opening of schools in Uganda continues in a phased approach. Primary four and five classes reported back on 6 April 2021 and will study for 8 weeks until 4 June 2021. Primary one and two will report back to school in June 2021. For secondary, the senior one class reported back on 12 April 2021 and will study for 14 weeks until 3 July 2021. Senior two will report back in May while senior three will start in June 2021. So far, 69 per cent of classes have reported back to school.

The staggered reopening of schools enabled those in the settlement to remain within Government of Uganda (GoU) guidelines, focusing on social distancing, hygiene, and use of masks. All the settlement schools put in place foot operated handwashing stations with soap and hand sanitizer, temperature guns and masks, as provided by GoU, UNHCR and education partners.

Construction and expansion of secondary schools: The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), World Bank and UNHCR selected eight sites for construction of new secondary schools in refugee areas, and expansion of 61 others, through the Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Project (SEEP). The objective of the World Bank/Government of Uganda SEEP is to enhance access to lower secondary education, by focusing on underserved populations (including host communities, refugees, and girls) in targeted areas. The total cost of the project is US \$150 million, including US \$90 million is International Development Association (IDA) 18 Credit and US \$60 million is a conditional grant from IDA 18 Refugee Window.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

Congo Crime Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF): During the month, two cases of CCHF were reported in Kyangwali settlement and both were successfully treated and discharged from the treatment units. Active surveillance and response to alerts is ongoing. All animals in the settlements are being sprayed and community sensitization is being conducted using *boda-boda* talk, among other interventions.

Pharmacy management: UNHCR conducted a training of UNHCR Public Health Officers in *Rx Solutions*, a pharmacy management software, and additional controls. UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) pharmacy division to digitize the medicine management system and link all the pharmacies in the operation, in order to ease stock tracking, movement, and control.

Health statistics: During the month of April, 161,801 consultations were registered across the refugee response, with 22 per cent nationals and 78 per cent refugees. On average, each clinician provided 43 consultations per day. Overall, the major disease burdens were malaria (27.6 per cent), Upper Respiratory Tract Infection-(URTI) at 11.4 per cent, skin diseases (6.4 per cent), and Lower Respiratory Tract Infection

(LRTI) at 7.5 per cent. Among children under five years, malaria was leading at 25.2 per cent, followed by URTI (16.4 per cent), skin diseases (6.3 per cent), LRTI (12.2 per cent), watery diarrhea (8.0 per cent) and skin infection (7.9 per cent).

Mortality rate: Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) stood at 0.06 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month in April 2021. Leading causes of death were malaria (12.9 per cent), LRTI (7.1 per cent), and Neonatal death (14.1 per cent). Under five mortality rates was at 0.09, which is within the public health standards of less than 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month. The major causes were malaria (8.0 per cent), LRTI (16.0 per cent), neonatal death (40.0 per cent) and acute malnutrition at 4.0 per cent.

Live births and immunization: Of the 3,854 live births registered, 97 per cent were conducted at health facilities by skilled health workers. Sixty-seven per cent of the deliveries were refugees and 33 per cent nationals. Children vaccinated against measles were 5,518, and 15,830 received diphtheria and polio vaccine.

HIV prevention, care, and treatment: A total of 9,964 individuals were tested for HIV across all settlements, of whom 142 tested positive and were enrolled into HIV care and treatment. The mothers that attended the antenatal care clinics for the first time were 6,399 and were tested for HIV, in a bid to prevent mother-to-child transmission. A total of 17,624 patients are currently receiving HIV treatment in the settlements, 36 per cent of whom are refugees and 64 per cent nationals.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

During the month of April, water supplied to refugees in the settlements stood at an average of 16.3 litres per person per day. This was achieved by increasing pumping hours for the 188 water schemes and ensuring 1,150 handpumps remained operational. The sector continued to utilize water attendants to ensure enforcement of social distancing at water collection points. Risk communication on COVID-19 continued in all settlements, with families being encouraged to observe hand hygiene and social distancing at water collection points. Soap distribution was sustained at 250g per person per month to support hand hygiene in response to COVID-19.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

Trees: By the end of April, 336,742 assorted tree seedlings in the various nurseries in Arua were ready for transplanting, while Obongi had 300,000. In Isingiro, 1,802 fruit-tree seedlings were distributed to 25 individual farmers for planting in their gardens, in order to help meet nutritional needs and support beekeeping in Rubondo zone.

Energy saving stoves: In Adjumani, two community institutional stoves and 522 energy saving stoves were constructed for Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), providing an income generating opportunity for young labourers. An assessment among sampled households found that 96 per cent of families supported with the stove construction are still using the stove. A total of 422 were constructed in Imvepi, 508 in Rhino Camp and 67 in Lobule settlement. In Palorinya settlement, two energy saving institutional stoves were constructed at Idiwa and Luru Secondary Schools, while four were constructed at Nakivale, Ruhoko, Kajaho and Kibwera Primary Schools in Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements. The energy saving stoves aim at reducing use of wood fuel at household and institutional levels, while promoting forest conservation and protection.

Plastic waste disposal: A rapid assessment on severity of plastic waste disposal in Adjumani markets was carried out during the month. It revealed an opportunity for income generation for the youth, who will collect the plastic waste for recycling, contributing to protect the environment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Erratic rains in Adjumani have discouraged farmers from planting trees.
- Few seedlings from National Forestry Authority (NFA) nurseries are available for planting, despite the availability of rains. A recommendation was made to NFA to fast-track seedling production and ensure timely distribution of any seedlings that are ready, to optimize on the available rainfall.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

Kabazana Reception Centre in Nakivale settlement received four blocks of five-stance latrines, with four blocks of five-cubicle bath shelters completed and handed over to the centre management. This will ensure that refugees at the reception center have access to WASH facilities within the Sphere standards. Fencing of Busanza collection point in Kisoro was also completed and handed over to CAFOMI for management. This will improve security at the collection facility.

The motor vehicle workshop construction at the warehouse in Nakivale settlement is approximately 55 per cent complete, up from 30 per cent in March 2021. The one in Kyaka II was completed and handed over to African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) for management. The workshops will enable AIRD to service vehicles in a specialized working space.

Construction and rehabilitation of a 63.1 kilometers road in Kyaka II settlement is ongoing with progress at approximately 80 per cent, up from to 60 per cent in March 2021. In Rwamwanja settlement, progress on the roadworks is at 15 per cent. Maintenance of selected roads in Rhino Camp settlement has been completed to enable easy movement of goods and services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

Refugee Response Plan (RRP): Planning for the 2022-2023 RRP started during the month of April, with bilateral consultations involving key stakeholders. Outcomes from these discussions will be used to ensure that the next RRP is building on what has worked in the past, linkages with existing frameworks are strengthened, process is well coordinated and inclusive.

RRP reporting: Quarter one reporting cycle started on 6 April 2021, with more than 50 partners having reported on their achievements for the first three months of 2021.

Working in partnership with:

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

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

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

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

External Relations

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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

Canada | Education Cannot Wait | Switzerland | UN Children Fund | IGAD | BOREALIS AG | Toyota Tsusho Corporation | 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 | **Canada** 8.5 million | **Private donors Germany** 2.5 million | **Finland** 2.4 million

Norway | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Private donors Spain** 21.5 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 10.8 million

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

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

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