

Uganda

March 2024

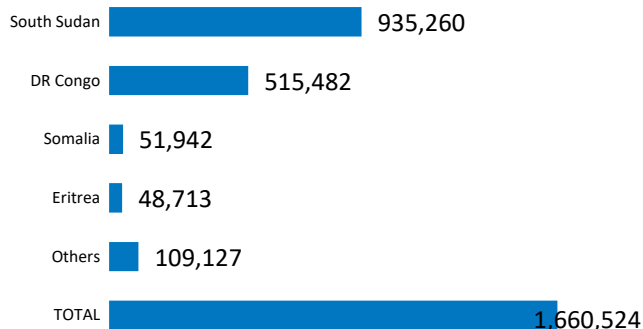
By the end of March 2023, Uganda was hosting **1,660,524** refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals continue to enter the country from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan.

Since the beginning of the year, Uganda has received **43,549** refugees from Sudan (16,841), South Sudan (8,458), Eritrea (8,312), DRC (7,986) and others (1,952). The number of new arrivals has led to overcrowding at some of

the collection and transit facilities with 5,986 individuals in the transit centers and collection points (3,838 in West Nile and 2,148 in the South and Mid-West).

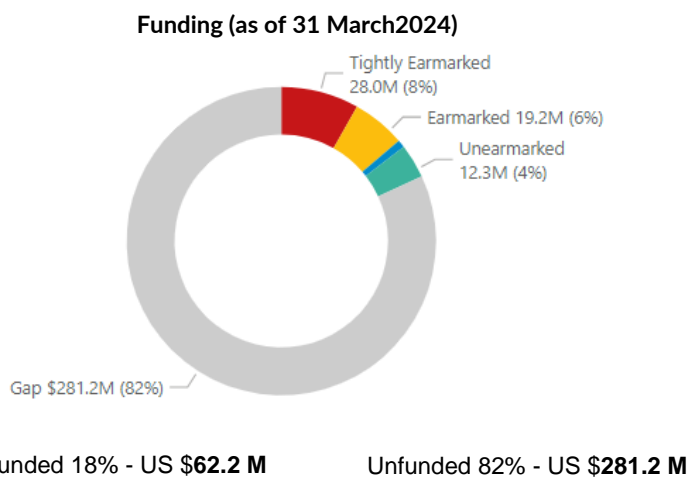
POPULATION OF CONCERN: 1,660,524

Countries of Origin*



Total refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda 31 March 2024

UNHCR's Financial Requirements 2024: USD \$343.4 M



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 586

474 National Staff

112 International Staff

07 IUNV

68 UNOPS

16 JPO, Deployees, Interns

Offices: 13

1 Branch Office in Kampala

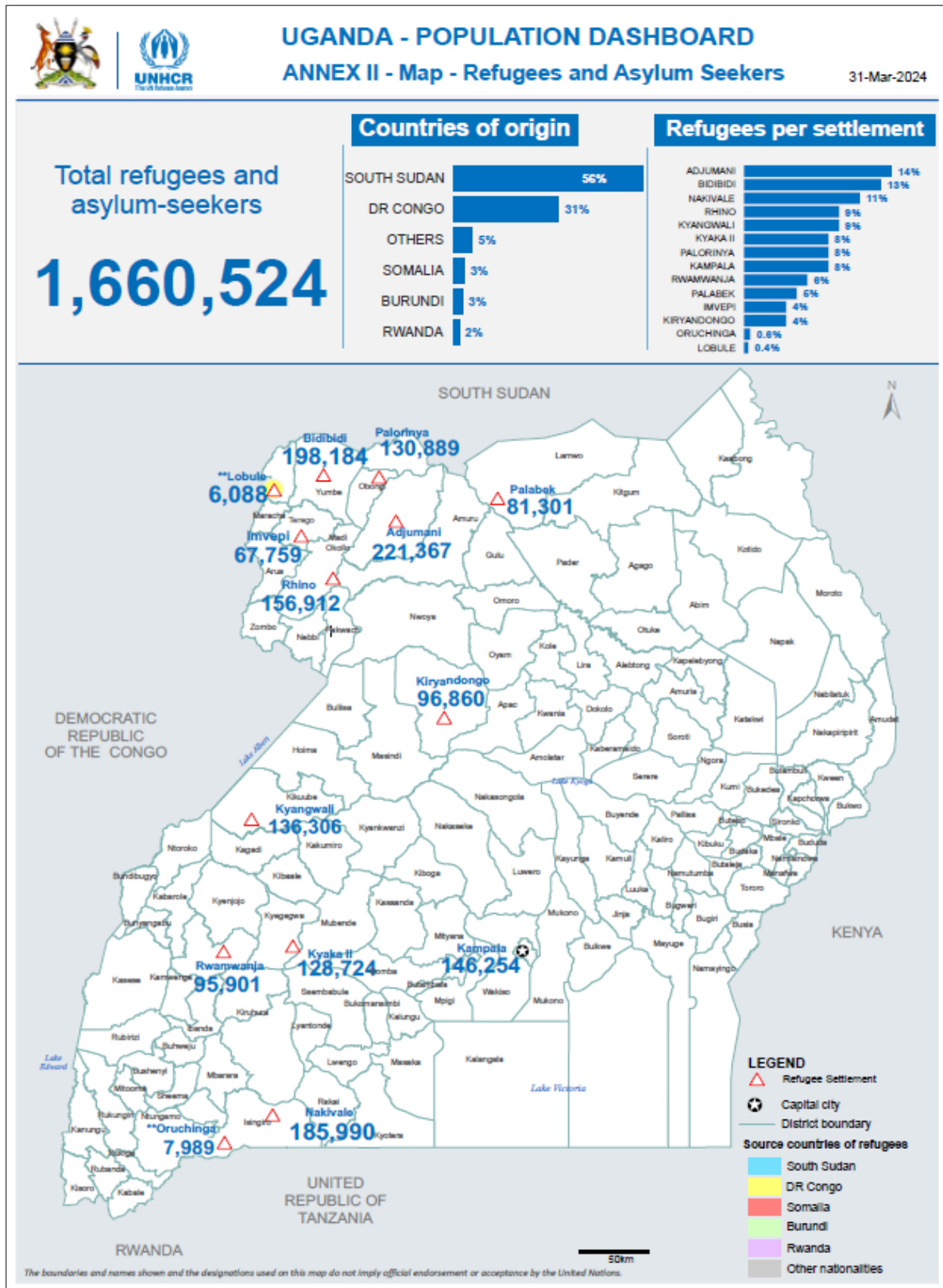
3 Sub Offices in Adjumani, Arua, Mbarara

7 Field Offices in Kyaka II, Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kiryandongo, Moyo, Yumbe, Kyangwali

2 Field Units in Kisoro, Lamwo



Congolese refugee Yuditah Mukashema serves as a Village Health Team (VHT) member in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, supported by UNHCR's health partner, Medical Teams International (MTI). VHTs like Yuditah help collect data and support HCII in planning community health services. Photo ©UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane



Uganda has 13 refugee-hosting districts (Adjumani, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Koboko, Lamwo, Madi-Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe). Refugees are hosted in 13 settlements (Adjumani¹, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Lobule, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja), in addition to the urban refugees in Kampala.

¹ Adjumani is made up of 18 settlements.

Main Activities

Implementation of the GCR and its CRRF

- The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Uganda has made significant progress since its launch in 2017, as refugees are included in national planning through Uganda's National Development Plan III and District Development Plans. The CRRF, guided by a high-level Steering Group, involves refugees in decision making. Uganda was among the co-conveners at the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, prioritizing areas such as transition of services, action against climate change, and localization of the refugee response.
- With assistance from the Joint Data Center and in partnership with UNFPA, UNHCR facilitated the inclusion of refugees in the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2023/2024.

Protection & Durable Solutions

- UNHCR collaborates with the Government to protect refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda through a Multi Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy (MYMPSS) 2021-2025. UNHCR supports the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in registration and documentation. Since the beginning of 2024, Uganda has registered over 44,700 individuals (30% Sudan, 18% South Sudan, 16% Eritrea, and 13% Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Uganda's asylum approach is flexible, with 94% of refugees recognized on prima facie upon entry. Other asylum seekers undergo Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processes, managed by the government with UNHCR's advisory role, resulting in an overall recognition rate of 91%.
- At transit and reception centers, UNHCR, WFP, and partners offer comprehensive support to refugees, including registration, protection, core relief items, hot meals, nutrition screening, psychosocial first aid, vaccination, medical treatment, and referral for services.
- The protection strategy prioritizes the legal and physical safety of Refugees through their equitable inclusion in the national justice system with police stations established in settlements. Yet, significant protection issues remain, with gaps in documentation, Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection and Psychosocial support.
- Since December 2020, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 13,206 Burundian refugees that had sought asylum in Uganda. However, limited local integration prospects due to funding constraints have reduced refugees' intentions of return.
- UNHCR regards resettlement to third countries as a key durable solution to protracted refugee crisis. As of 31 March, 1,068 individuals have departed for third countries in 2024.

Urban Refugee Response

- By end of March 2024, Kampala hosted 146,254 refugees and asylum seekers, many living in crowded conditions like the urban poor. Despite government expectations for self-reliance, urban refugees face socioeconomic challenges including limited funding, insufficient livelihood opportunities, language barriers, academic qualification accreditations, mental health issues and inadequate healthcare. The urban field unit is dedicated to addressing these issues.
- On March 19, 2024, OPM and UNHCR discussed the Uganda Urban Refugee Strategy. An action plan with timelines was developed, including the establishment of a joint taskforce, strategy dissemination to key stakeholders, policy-level engagement, and presentation at coordination meetings.

Education

- UNHCR, ensures that all refugee children access basic education. The government's integration policy via the National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25) and Education Response Plan

(ERP) II (2022-2025), progressively includes refugees in the national education system. UNHCR is supporting this transition through constructing schools, teacher salaries, and academic scholarships, with a focus on accessible quality education, and strengthened service provision.

- Education is a critical protection and solutions tool, as well as a key priority of the Uganda refugee operation. About 57% of refugees are under 18 children requiring education. Indicators for refugees, including teacher-to-pupil and pupil-to-classroom ratios, fall below national standards. 1,784 more teachers in primary school and 1,998 in ECD are needed to meet national standards.
- UNHCR and its partners facilitate education across 287 pre-school centres, 270 primary, and 61 secondary schools. This involves providing salaries for 4,775 teachers, school supplies to 500,921 learners, capacity building for staff, support for fees, scholarships, translation of certificates, inclusive education for disabilities, and instructional materials. UNHCR's inclusion roadmap aims to code 55% of community schools in refugee settlements by 2025. Coding involves government-supported takeover, as part of the transition strategy.

Health

- UNHCR works to ensure that all refugees have access to basic and life-saving healthcare, reproductive healthcare, HIV prevention and nutritional well-being. The UCRRP 2022-2025 and the Government's Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP) 2019-2024, avail access to healthcare services for refugees and host communities with no restriction on nationality. UNHCR Uganda aims to improve access to high-quality primary healthcare, leveraging on Village Health Teams to address factors contributing to ill-health, including non-communicable diseases.
- UNHCR is delivering primary healthcare services through support to 78 health facilities in 13 refugee hosting districts. In addition, UNHCR supports 1,918 health workers, upgrades and rehabilitates infrastructure, supplies medical equipment and essential medicines, as well as ensure the operation of 65 ambulances for emergency response across the refugee hosting districts.
- Overall, health indicators in the operation are within standard thresholds, with a Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) of 0.06 deaths/1000 population, Under-5 Mortality Rate of 0.12 deaths/1,000 population, and a Maternal Mortality Rate of 62 deaths/1000 live births. Outpatient facilities provide a monthly average of 200,000 consultations with the leading causes of morbidity being malaria (16%), lower respiratory tract infections (12%), neonatal death (11%), anemia (6%), and liver disease (4%).

Food Security and Nutrition

- With UNHCR and OPM support, WFP maintains general food assistance (GFA) for refugees in Uganda, delivered as in-kind (38%) and cash (62%). Due to funding shortfalls, a needs-based targeting approach by WFP prioritizes food assistance to vulnerable refugees, allocating 60% rations to the most vulnerable households and 30% to moderately vulnerable households. Only new arrival refugees receive 100% rations and for only the first 6 months.
- The 2023 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) showed regional disparities: Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was 3.1% in the Southwest and 9.8% in West Nile. Refugee household food insecurity however rose to 67.6% from 54.6% in 2022 due to ration reductions by WFP.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR works with partners and government institutions to ensure that refugees have access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. In settlements, there's a shift from emergency to long-term WASH infrastructure development, focusing on reducing carbon footprint and operating costs. Refugees are increasingly involved in service delivery, promoting ownership and sustainability, with about 24 million liters of water supplied daily through 215 motorized water systems and 1,037 handpumps, ensuring approximately 17 liters per person per day access.

- The Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) is in place, to aid the integration into national systems of WASH services provided in refugee settlements, as part of the transition strategy. Efforts include transferring water systems to entities like the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and the Northern Umbrella for Water and Sanitation (NUWS).

Shelter, infrastructure and NFIs

- In Uganda, the Shelter, Settlement, and NFI sector prioritizes comprehensive settlement planning to foster socioeconomic transformation and resilience of refugees in settlements and the host communities. UNHCR provides a technical support role to OPM and District Local Governments (DLGs), with physical planning and land optimization of refugee settlements through the Refugee Settlement Land Taskforce (RSLT).
- The Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items Working Group (SSNFI WG) adopted a novel 'self-help' model where, standard shelter kits are provided to refugees, enabling them to construct emergency shelters that can be upgraded later to semi-permanent structures, with qualified external labor available for non-abled vulnerable households. Similarly, UNHCR is progressively monetizing the Non-Food Items (NFI) package to empower refugees and contribute to the local economy.
- UNHCR is committed to enhancing living conditions at reception facilities, by expanding their capacities through the construction of new accommodation and WASH structures. Efforts continue to replace dilapidated temporary and semi-permanent structures with permanent buildings.

Energy and Environment

- UNHCR is committed to addressing its environmental footprint. The arrival of displaced populations can exacerbate environmental issues, therefore, UNHCR promotes sustainable practices in refugee settlements, including promotion of clean energy, waste management, water conservation, and reforestation. Since 2019, UNHCR has partnered with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to combat environmental degradation in refugee-hosting areas and to foster peaceful coexistence with host communities by mitigating competition for forest resources.
- In line with the Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy (2019-2025), and the Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (2022-2025), UNHCR and its partners are committed to facilitating access to clean, safe, and affordable energy sources for cooking and lighting. By the end of March, 5,802 households receiving energy-efficient cookstoves and 287 heat retaining baskets, increasing access to clean cooking solutions to 37.56%.
- By the end of March, 5.1 million seedlings had been raised, with over 2.4 million ready for transplanting, while seedling distribution continues. The new woodlots established were 205.4, and 580.2 hectares maintained.
- In line with the global strategy for reducing UNHCR's environmental footprint, solar systems were installed in Adjumani-Pakelle Sub Office and Yumbe Field Office, enhancing sustainability.

Livelihoods, Resilience, and Economic Inclusion

- For refugees and displaced populations, self-reliance is crucial for integration, dignity, and empowerment. UNHCR focuses on enhancing livelihood opportunities by supporting vocational training, facilitating access to employment and income-generating activities, and promoting entrepreneurship and small business development. However, despite the efforts, only 42 per cent of refugee households have access to land for agricultural activities and access an average of 0.6 acres which is the minimum amount of land recommended for self-sufficiency.
- Despite funding challenges, the operation continues in bolstering refugee livelihoods to foster long-term self-reliance. Given the ongoing food prioritization, there's a pressing need to amplify

investments by development partners and private sector actors in livelihoods and economic inclusion initiatives, particularly in agriculture and enterprise development.

Logistics

- Supply and logistics are among the cornerstones of humanitarian programme delivery. It is a critical enabler for program delivery, and improved logistics, including fleet management is an integral part of UNHCR's operations. UNHCR coordinates with partners to transport Non-Food Items (NFIs) to various sites and provides transportation support for new arrivals.

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

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 15.4 million | European Union 13 million | Netherlands 4.4 million | Spotlight 3 million | Japan 2.4 million | Sweden 1 million | Republic of Korea 1 million

IKEA Foundation | IGAD | Private donor in Canada | Germany | Other private donors.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 8.6 million | Norway 2.8 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Belgium 11 million | Australia 10.7 million

Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | 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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