

# Uganda

## May-June 2024

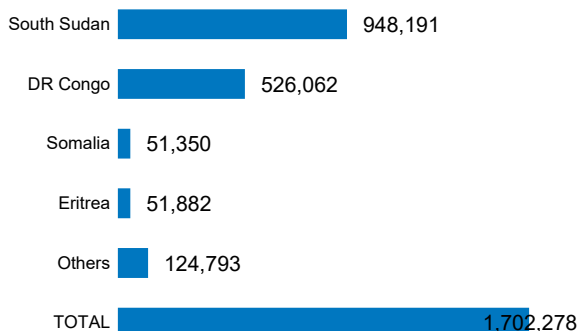
By the end of June 2024, Uganda was hosting **1,702,278** refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals continued to enter the country from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan.

Since the beginning of the year, Uganda has received **69,605** refugees mainly from Sudan (26,796), South Sudan (14,031), Eritrea (11,520), and DRC (14,280). This continuous influx of new arrivals has led to overcrowding

at some of the collection and transit facilities with 8,147 individuals in the transit centers and collection points (3,374 in West Nile and 4,773 in the South and Mid-West) waiting relocation at the end of June.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN: 1,702,278

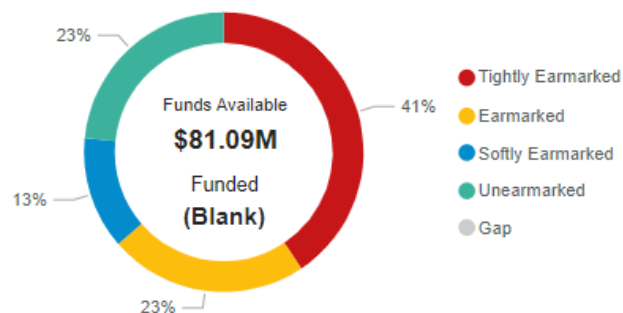
#### Countries of Origin



Total **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Uganda  
30 June 2024

### UNHCR's Financial Requirements 2024: US \$343.4 M

#### Funding against requirements (as of 30 June 2024)



Funded 24% - US \$81.1 M

Unfunded 76% - US \$262.3 M

### UNHCR PRESENCE

**Staff: 586**

**474 National Staff**

**112 International Staff**

07 IUNV

68 UNOPS

16 JPO, Deployees, Interns

**Offices: 14**

1 Branch Office in Kampala

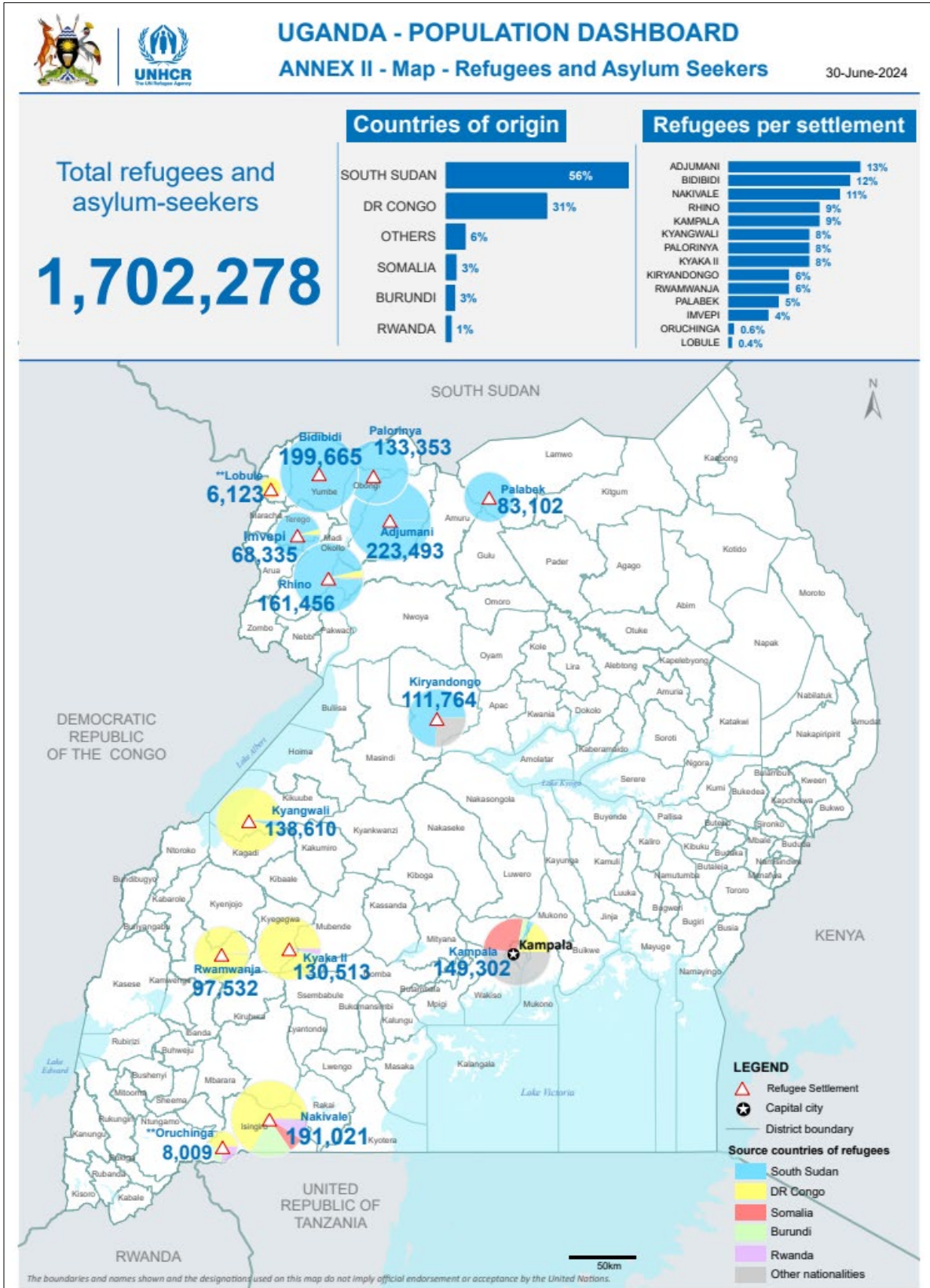
3 Sub Offices in Adjumani, Arua, Mbarara

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

3 Field Units in Kampala, Kisoro, Lamwo



Participants celebrating at the World Refugee Day in Rhino camp refugee settlement, Terego District: Photo ©UNHCR/Frank Walusimbi



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 (Adjumani<sup>1</sup>, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Lobule, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja), in addition to the urban refugees in Kampala.

<sup>1</sup> Adjumani consists of 18 settlements.

# Main Activities

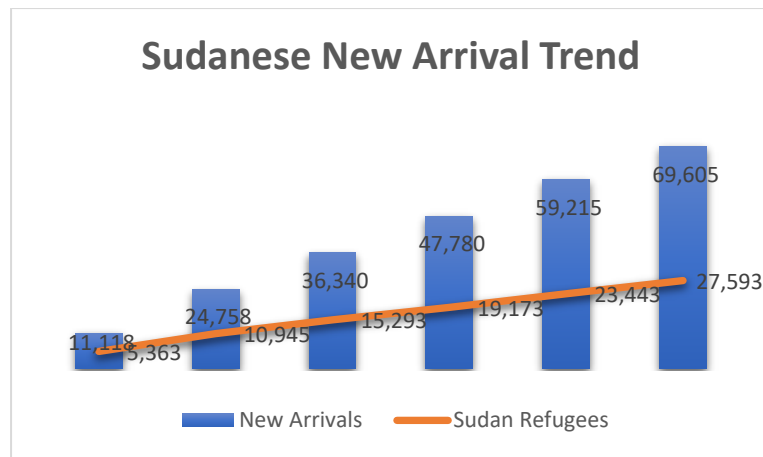
## Implementation of the GCR and its CRRF

- 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 processes. UNHCR is supporting the Government of Uganda to progress on pledges (transition of services, action against climate change, and localization of the refugee response) made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023.
- UNHCR and the World Bank's Joint Data Center in partnership with UNFPA, facilitated the inclusion of refugees in the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2023/2024. Refugees were also included for the first time in the National Population and Housing Census which was conducted in May 2024.
- Refugees are integrated in national service delivery via the third National Development Plan (NDP III). In May, Uganda launched the process for the NDP IV development to address Uganda's major development challenges for the period 2025-2030. The implementation thereof will continue to be guided by the sector response plans in Health, Education, Water and Environment, Jobs and Livelihoods, and Sustainable Energy, catering for the needs of both refugees and host communities.
- The Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) operationalizes the CRRF principles within Uganda's context, translating the principles therein into actionable plans for Uganda's refugee response. The Uganda UCRRP for 2022-2025, is a joint initiative between the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, UN Agencies, and international and national partners to address refugee challenges in a holistic manner.
- The UCRRP focuses on maintaining asylum space, delivering life-saving assistance such as food and healthcare, improving access to public services like education, promoting co-existence and self-reliance between refugees and host communities, and pursuing durable solutions such as voluntary repatriation or local integration. By bringing together government agencies, UNHCR, NGOs, and other partners, the UCRRP ensures better coordination. This minimizes overlap and prevents duplication of services. By conducting thorough needs assessments, the plan identifies priority needs and gaps in refugee assistance and thus helps allocate resources efficiently.

## 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 of refugees and asylum seekers. Since the beginning of 2024, Uganda has registered over 69,605 individuals (38.5% Sudan, 20.1% South Sudan, 16.5% Eritrea, and 20.5% Democratic Republic of Congo).
- Uganda's asylum approach is flexible, with 94% of refugees recognized on prima facie<sup>2</sup> 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%. However, there remains delays in processing RSD because of some challenges including a continuous influx of new arrivals, particularly from Sudan, DRC, South Sudan, and Eritrea, inadequate RSD officers for asylum application processing, an existing backlog of over 49,000 asylum seekers, and advocacy to resume Somali asylum admissions by UNHCR which will further increase the backlog.

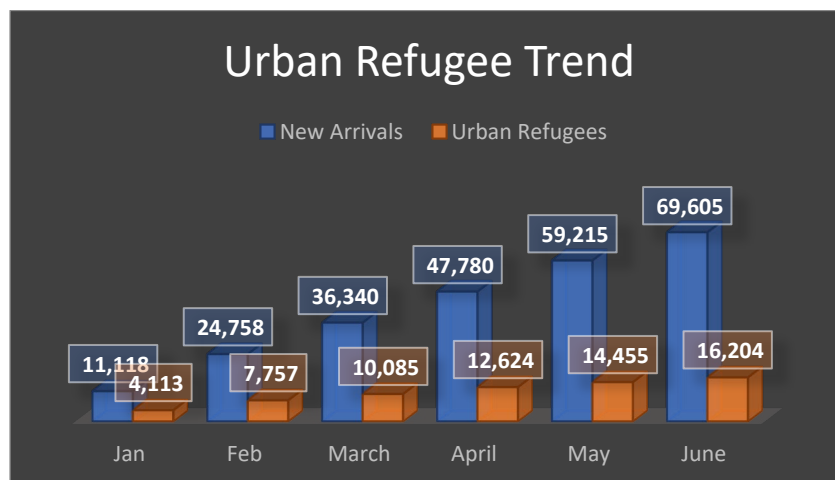
<sup>2</sup> Prima facie refugee recognition recognizes refugee status based on obvious, objective circumstances in the country of origin or former habitual residence, rather than individual details. It applies to groups fleeing conflict, persecution, or generalized violence, granting them the same rights as refugees recognized through other procedures.



- At transit and reception centers, UNHCR, WFP, and partners offer comprehensive support to refugees, including registration, protection, core relief items, non-food 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 the settlements. 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 13,705 Burundian refugees (including 1237 from January to June 2024) that had sought asylum in Uganda. Limited local integration prospects due to funding constraints constrain refugees' intentions of return to Burundi. A repatriation package, subject to an eligibility criterion, is in place for repatriated refugees.
- UNHCR regards resettlement to third countries as a key durable solution to the protracted refugee crisis. As of 30 June 2024, 1,556 individuals have departed for third countries.

### Urban Refugee Response

- By end of June 2024, Kampala hosted 149,302 refugees and asylum seekers, many living in crowded conditions like other urban poor. Urban refugees face socioeconomic challenges including limited funding, insufficient livelihood opportunities, language barriers, lack of academic qualification accreditations, mental health issues and inadequate healthcare despite the Government's expectation for self-reliance. There is a dedicated urban field unit to assist refugees in addressing these issues.





## Education

- UNHCR facilitates access to basic education for refugee children. The Government's integration policy is outlined in the National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25) and Education Response Plan (ERP) II (2022-2025). The aim is to progressively include refugees in the national education system. UNHCR is supporting this transition by supporting teacher salaries (4,775), providing scholastic and instructional materials, hygiene kits, accelerated education programs, staff capacity building, school fees and scholarships, support to children with disabilities, translation of certificates, and enabling access to 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 considering that 57% of refugees are under 18 and in need of education. Indicators for refugees, including teacher-to-pupil (1:79 in primary level) and pupil-to-classroom ratios (1:126 at primary level), fall below national standards. As of June 2024, 1,784 more teachers in primary school and 1,998 in Early Childhood Development (ECD) are needed to meet national standards.
- Data from 662 settlement schools and 475 host community schools indicates that 626,804 students (421,517 refugees, 205,287 nationals) are enrolled by the end of June. This is 93% of the targeted 674,895 learners that Education partners aim to be in school. The Gross Enrolment rate at pre-primary school is 36% for refugees and 14% for nationals, 91% for refugees and 28% nationals at primary level and 9% for refugees and 16% nationals at secondary level. Approximately 100,863 host community children are accessing education through UNHCR-supported settlement schools, while about 191,834 primary refugee learners and 3,099 secondary refugee learners are learning in public schools.
- UNHCR and its partners facilitate education across 287 pre-school centres, 270 primary, and 61 secondary schools. 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 the 2,785 Village Health Teams to address factors contributing to ill-health, including non-communicable diseases. There are 67 health and nutrition partners in the operation providing health services to forcibly displaced individuals.
- UNHCR is delivering primary healthcare through support to 94 health facilities in 13 refugee hosting districts, including core staffing support of around 1,918 health workers, upgrading and rehabilitating infrastructure, supplying medical equipment, essential medicines, and ensuring the operation of 65 ambulances for emergency response across the refugee hosting districts. There are 80% of health facilities which have been accredited which has strengthened the national healthcare system's capacity to cope with the increasing demand for health services for refugees and host population.
- Overall, health indicators in the operation are within standard thresholds, with a Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) of 0.04 deaths/1000 population, Under-5 Mortality Rate of 0.08 deaths/1,000 population, and only 4 Maternal Mortalities registered.
- Outpatient facilities provide a monthly average of 165,326 consultations with each clinician handling at least 44 consultations per day. The leading causes of morbidity are malaria (28%), upper respiratory tract infections (12%), lower respiratory tract infections (7%), and skin diseases (6%). By June, 97% of the 24,936 registered live births were attended to by skilled health workers.

## 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 is being used by WFP to prioritize food assistance to vulnerable refugees. There are 14% of the most vulnerable households who receive 60% rations and 80% of the moderately vulnerable households receive 30%. 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. Food insecurity in refugee households rose to 67.6% from 54.6% in 2022 due to ration reductions by WFP.

## Water and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR works with partners and government institutions to ensure that refugees have access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. In settlements, there has been 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 24.3 million liters of water supplied daily through 221 motorized water systems and 1,057 handpumps, ensuring average 17 liters per person per day access. Notwithstanding, a few settlements in the mid and southwest still fall below this overall settlement average. On average, 45% of the water is pumped through renewable energy sources. Sanitation/latrines coverage stands at 65%.
- The Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) aids the integration into national systems of WASH services in the refugee settlements. Efforts include transferring water systems to entities like the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and the Northern Umbrella for Water and Sanitation (NUWS). As of June 2024, there are 13 water schemes under the management of national utilities with one settlement fully under the management of a national utility.

## Shelter, infrastructure, and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Shelter, Settlement, and the NFI sector prioritizes comprehensive settlement planning to foster socioeconomic transformation and resilience of forcibly displaced individuals in refugee settlements and hosting communities. UNHCR serves as 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).
- UNHCR implements a shelter strategy that considers more environmentally sustainable, culturally sensitive, and flexible designs to improve site planning and contribute to land use optimization.
- The Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items Working Group (SSNFI WG) has adopted an innovative 'self-help' model. Refugees receive standard shelter kits for constructing emergency shelters. These can later be upgraded to semi-permanent structures, with external labor support for vulnerable households. Similarly, UNHCR is progressively monetizing the NFI package (cheaper for UNHCR to implement) to empower refugees and to contribute to the local economy.
- As per UNHCR policy all new arrival households receive a shelter support kit (including Plastic Sheeting, Ropes, Poles, Basic tools, and other NFIs such as blankets, kitchen sets, and home hygiene items) to enable them to establish temporary shelter structures. 100% of all new arrivals by June 2024, including 114 vulnerable refugee households received emergency shelter support.
- UNHCR is committed to enhancing the living conditions at refugee reception facilities and has expanded their capacity 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. By the end of June 2024, 8.4 million tree seedlings had been raised, and over 4.2 million distributed, 737.1 new woodlots established, with a further 1,563.6 hectares maintained.
- 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 22 partners are committed to facilitating access to clean, safe and affordable energy sources for cooking and lighting. As of June 2024, 22,722 households had been supported with energy-efficient technologies and fuels for cooking.
- In line with UNHCR's global strategy, solar systems were installed in Adjumani-Pakelle Sub Office and Yumbe Field Office under the Green Financing Facility (GFF). At 52 schools in Nakivale, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja and Kyaka II settlements funding by the European Union provides reliable electricity for charging of gadgets and lighting.

## Livelihoods, Resilience, and Economic Inclusion

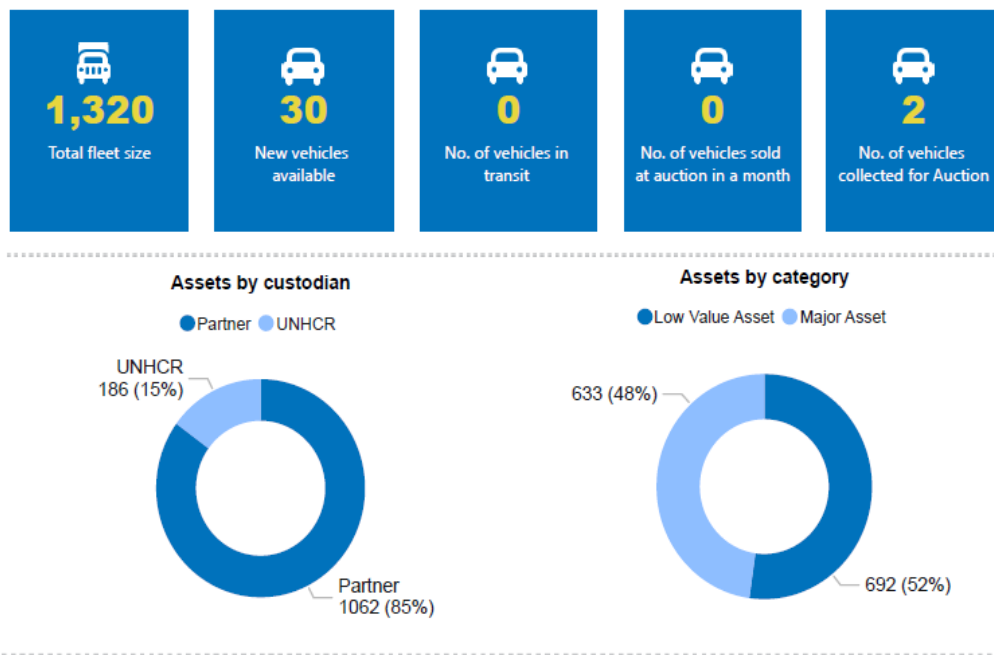
- The Livelihoods and Resilience Sector guides humanitarian organizations, development agencies, and the private sector in refugee-hosting districts to foster resilience and self-reliance among refugees and host communities. This includes enhancing agricultural production, promoting wage employment, vocational training, and supporting enterprise development in alignment with the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan and the National Development Plan III. UNHCR's strategic directions (2023-2028) focus on enabling refugees in Uganda to achieve self-reliance and resilience through advocacy, partnerships, and coordination, with direct implementation as a last resort.
- There are 53 partners (40 INGOs, 11 National NGOs, 01 UN Agency, 01 Refugee Led Organization) implementing livelihoods projects in the refugee operation with a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 162M which is only 24% funded as at the end of June. There is a pressing need to amplify investments by development partners and private sector actors in refugee self-reliance to reduce aid dependency.
- Despite funding challenges, the operation continues in bolstering refugee livelihoods to foster long-term self-reliance. Due to the ongoing food prioritization, there is increased needs in livelihoods and economic inclusion initiatives, particularly in agriculture and enterprise development to reduce aid dependency considering the declining humanitarian funding.
- The Self-Reliance Measurement Index tool, developed collaboratively by UNHCR, OPM, and stakeholders, has completed validation. Led by the government's Self Reliance Index taskforce, efforts now focus on setting final thresholds and operational frameworks aligned with national standards. The initiative integrates self-reliance measurement into Uganda's statistical system, enhancing OPM's Monitoring and Evaluation capabilities. The tool tracks households' progress towards self-reliance, identifies effective interventions, and informs policy, advocacy, and resource allocation. Future steps include finalizing the framework, presenting it to national committees, and launching it for implementation by September 2024.

## Logistics

- Supply and logistics are 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 NFIs to various sites and provides transportation support for new arrivals.

## Fleet Management

June 2024



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

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**United States of America** 16.1 million | **European Union** 13 million | **Netherlands** 4.4 million | **España con ACNUR** 3.9 million | **Spotlight** 3 million | **Japan** 2.4 million | **Sweden** 1 million | **France** 1 million | **Republic of Korea** 1 million

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

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**Denmark** 6.8 million | **Finland** 6.6 million | **Australia for UNHCR** 3.9 million | **UNO Flüchtlingshilfe** 3.9 million | **Norway** 2.8 million

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**Sweden** 90.6 million | **Norway** 58.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **France** 33.4 million | **España con ACNUR** 31.2 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **Switzerland** 19.2 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 18.1 million | **Republic of Korea** 17.9 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 14.6 million | **Belgium** 14.2 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Australia** 10.7 million

Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Qatar | Russian Federation | 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).

**Government of Uganda (OPM) Coordination Contacts:**

Douglas Asiimwe, Acting Commissioner, [asiimwedw@yahoo.com](mailto:asiimwedw@yahoo.com) Tel: +256 772 969 054

Polyne Abina, Refugee Desk Officer, Mbarara, [abbypolly@yahoo.com](mailto:abbypolly@yahoo.com) Tel: +256 782 202 465

Titus Jogo, Refugee Desk Officer, Adjumani, Tel: +256 392 725 718

Solomon Osakan, Refugee Desk Officer Arua, Tel: +256 772 854 919

Jolly Kebirungi, Refugee Desk Officer, Hoima, [jo.ke87@yahoo.com](mailto:jo.ke87@yahoo.com) Tel: +256 786 696 984

**Reporting and Media Contacts:**

Elise Villechalane, Senior External Relations Officer, [villedcha@unhcr.org](mailto:villedcha@unhcr.org) Tel: +256 760 496 668

Wendy Daphne Kasujja, Associate External Relations Officer, [kasujja@unhcr.org](mailto:kasujja@unhcr.org) Tel: +256 780 143 854

Frank Walusimbi, Associate Communications Officer, [walusimf@unhcr.org](mailto:walusimf@unhcr.org) Tel: +256 772 701 140

**UNHCR Coordination Contacts:**

Aman Aligo, Senior Operations Officer, [aligo@unhcr.org](mailto:aligo@unhcr.org) Tel: +256 780 425 531

**Data and Information Management Contact:**

Bekir Yildiz, Associate Information Management Officer, [yildiz@unhcr.org](mailto:yildiz@unhcr.org) Tel: +256 776 497 037

Festo Muriisa, Assistant Information Management Officer, [muriisa@unhcr.org](mailto:muriisa@unhcr.org) Tel: +256 772 701 053

**Links:**

[Uganda Refugee Response Portal](#)

[UNHCR Uganda Facebook Page](#)

[UNHCR Uganda Twitter \(X\) Account](#)

[UNHCR Uganda Instagram Account](#)