

# Refugee Access to Livelihoods and Housing, Land, and Property

May 2019  
UGANDA

## CONTEXT

Uganda is currently hosting the largest number of refugees in the region with over 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi.<sup>1</sup> Recently arrived refugees have joined Rwandese, Somali, and other refugees that have lived in Uganda for decades. Due to the large number of refugees, the range of countries of origin, and the varying lengths of displacement, there are key information gaps on how access to or lack of housing, land, and property (HLP) for refugees impact their potential for sustainable livelihoods. In partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), REACH conducted an assessment from 3 December 2018 to 15 March 2019 to collect baseline data on refugees' access to livelihoods and HLP. The assessment aims to provide a better understanding of the conditions of refugee access to livelihoods and HLP, the linkages, and other factors influencing sustainable livelihoods and potential movement within Uganda.

## METHODOLOGY

A mixed methods approach was used, driven by a household-level structured survey, semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs). The quantitative household-level survey produced results representative for the refugee population in 30 refugee settlements (considered as 25 due to five combined settlements in Adjumani) across 11 districts, as well as select divisions of Kampala (Makindye, Kampala Central, and Kawempe) with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error at the settlement level for all questions asked to the entire sample size. A total of 3,165 households were interviewed for this assessment. All questions referring to a subset are footnoted.

KIIs and FGDs were used to triangulate the data and provide context to quantitative findings. KIIs targeted settlement leadership, including Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) commandants and UNHCR staff, refugee welfare committee leaders, district local government officials, and key partners working in relevant sectors. Semi-structured FGDs were stratified by gender and conducted with refugee and host community groups in each location.

**Findings in this factsheet are representative of refugee households living in Imvepi refugee settlement. A total of 135 refugee households were interviewed in Imvepi.**

## POPULATION PROFILE OF REFUGEES IN UGANDA

### Demographics<sup>1</sup>

Female	Age	Male
2%	60+	1%
20%	18-59	16%
8%	12-17	9%
13%	5-11	13%
9%	0-4	9%

Female-headed households (HHs):  
**67%**

Average household size:  
**7**

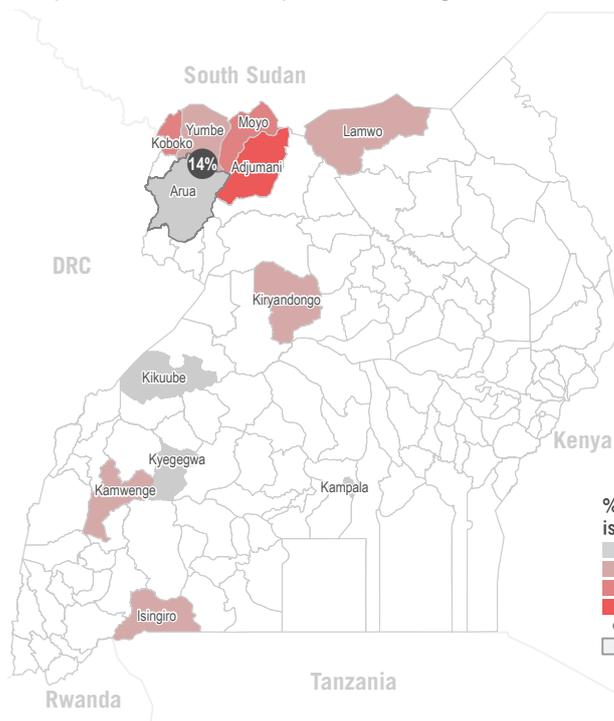
### Displacement demographic

#### Top countries of origin:<sup>1</sup>

- 1 South Sudan (65%)
- 2 DRC (27%)
- 3 Burundi (3%)
- 4 Somalia (2%)

## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF IMVEPI IN ARUA DISTRICT

Imvepi opened in February 2017 to accommodate South Sudanese refugees after the Palorinya settlement in Moyo district quickly reached its full capacity. Although the settlement no longer receives new arrivals, many refugees are registered at the reception center in Imvepi before being transferred to another settlement, such as the Omugo zone extension in Rhino camp.



## HHs WITH VULNERABLE MEMBERS

Unaccompanied/separated child, orphan	50%
Disabled members	52%
Pregnant / lactating women	44%
Female-headed HHs	56%

HHs reporting member with persons with specific needs (PSN) card: **40%**

HHs reporting that some members are not registered as refugees:



## TOP 3 HLP CHALLENGES<sup>2</sup>

Housing <sup>3</sup>	79%
Land accessed for cultivation	37%
Property	16%

<sup>1</sup> Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) population figures updated as of April 2019.

<sup>2</sup> This question was only asked to the 14% of respondents facing HLP challenges. The level of confidence may thus be lower than 95%.

<sup>3</sup> Respondents could answer more than one option for this question.

# HOUSING

UGANDA

DISTRICT: ARUA

SETTLEMENT: IMVEPI

## TENURE ARRANGEMENTS

% of HHs by shelter tenure:



87% Owned by the head of the household  
 10% Owned jointly between household members  
 2% Owned by the spouse  
 1% Owned by neighbors (rent free)

7% of HHs have documentation proving ownership or legal occupancy of shelter.

% of HHs by methods of shelter acquisition:



Of the 88% of HHs that reported constructing their shelter, most commonly reported ways of acquiring materials:<sup>3</sup>



## SHELTER CHALLENGES

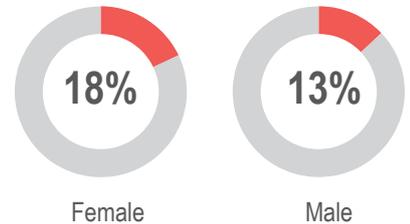
73% of HHs reported shelter damage. Of those, the most commonly reported parts of the shelter damaged are:<sup>3</sup>



29% of HHs reported not being able to conduct repairs. Of those, the most commonly reported reasons include:<sup>3</sup>



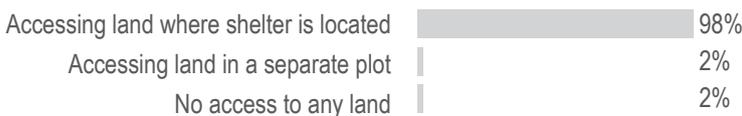
% of HHs reporting members do not feel safe in their current shelter:



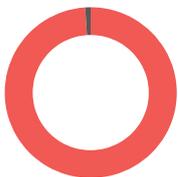
# LAND

## ACCESS TO LAND

% of HH reporting:<sup>3</sup>

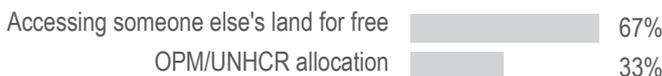


Method of accessing land around shelter plot:



99% OPM/UNHCR allocation<sup>4</sup>  
 1% The household owns the land

2% of HHs reported accessing land outside their shelter. Of those, the most commonly reported methods of accessing that land are:<sup>3</sup>



## USE OF LAND FOR CULTIVATION

87% of HHs reported using their shelter plot for cultivation. Of those, the following reported on sufficiency of the land to provide food for the HH in the most recent harvest.



79% Insufficient  
 21% Sufficient

## FORMAL AGREEMENTS

Of the 1% that access land around shelter plot through renting, free access, or ownership, 0% of HHs that have a formal agreement to access the land

Of the 67% of land accessed outside of shelter plot through renting, free access, or ownership, 0% are accessed through formal agreement

<sup>4</sup> The Government of Uganda allocates land for residential and agricultural purposes, to refugees, irrespective of ethnicity and origin. This is done via OPM with the support of UNHCR.

# HLP Challenges

14% of HHs reported facing HLP challenges. Of those:

Most commonly reported areas of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):<sup>3</sup>



Most commonly reported types of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):<sup>3</sup>



## HLP ISSUE RESOLUTION

13% of the 27 HLP issues reported were attempted to be resolved by the household

Out of the HLP issues that HHs attempted to resolve, the following mechanisms were used:<sup>3</sup>



13% of the HLP issues reported were resolved

## PROPERTY

41% of HHs reported having no property at all. Out of the 59% who do:

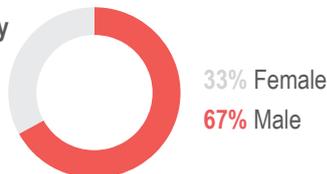
HHs with income-generating property: **30%**

Most commonly reported type of property:



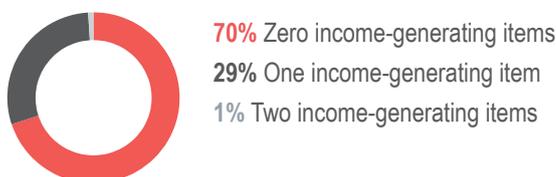
99% of property items are owned by one owner

Proportion of those by sex of owner:



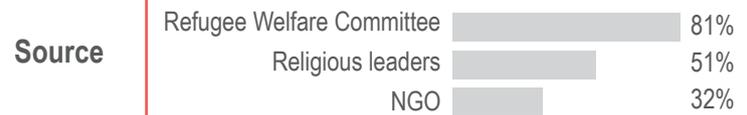
23% of HHs that own property/assets reported having documentation proving ownership or legal access

% of HHs owning number of income-generating property items:



## ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Most commonly reported sources and types of information HHs access:<sup>3</sup>



93% of HHs reported trusting the information they receive

Most commonly reported information needs of HHs by area:<sup>3</sup>

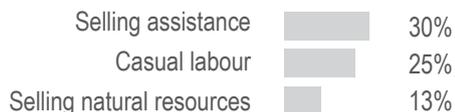


HHs reporting perceived livelihoods challenges:

**100%**

## LIVELIHOODS SOURCES

Out of the **94%** of HHs who reported having a source of income, the most commonly reported sources are:<sup>3</sup>



Most commonly reported livelihood groups HH members participate in:<sup>3</sup>



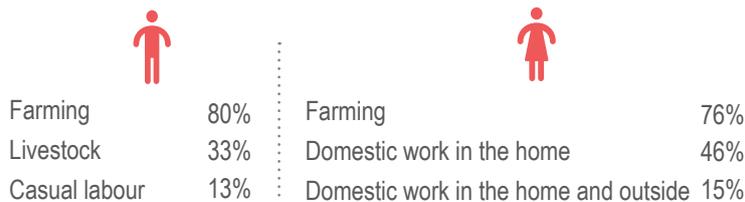
Most commonly reported livelihoods challenges:<sup>3</sup>



## SKILLS AND ASPIRATIONS

**76%** of HHs have men of working age and **91%** of HHs have women of working age. Of those:

Most commonly reported livelihoods skills gained in country of origin:<sup>3</sup>



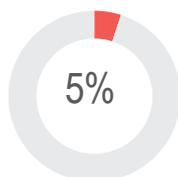
Most commonly reported livelihoods aspirations:<sup>3</sup>



# MOVEMENTS WITHIN UGANDA

## PAST MOVEMENTS

% of HHs that had at least one member move in the year prior to data collection:



Of those:

Types of destinations:



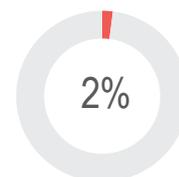
Most commonly reported reasons for moving:<sup>3</sup>



**50%** of the HHs with at least one member who moved reported that they receive resources from the member that moved

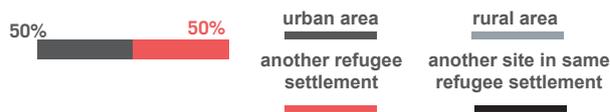
## MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

% of HHs that have at least one member planning to move in the 6 months following data collection:



Of those:

Types of destinations:



Most commonly reported reasons for planned movement:<sup>3</sup>

