

# 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 Palabek refugee settlement. A total of 117 refugee households were interviewed in Palabek.**

## 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**

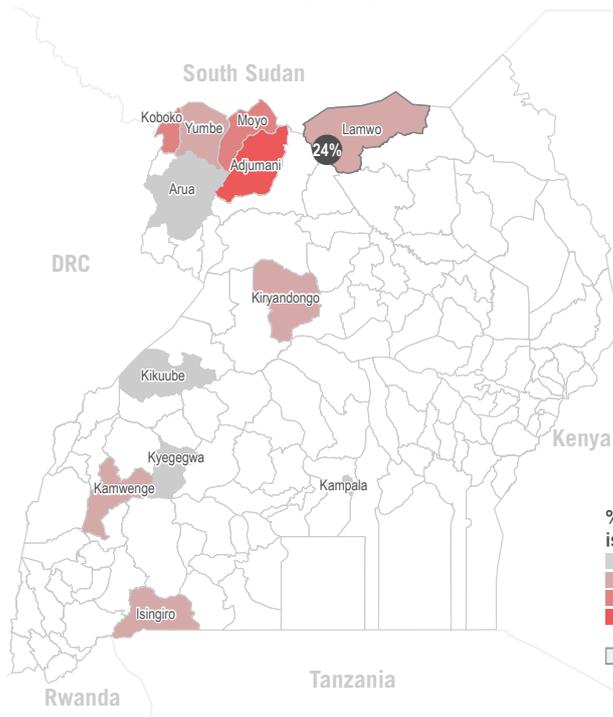
### Displacement demographic

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

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

## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PALABEK IN LAMWO DISTRICT

Palabek settlement was established in April 2017. Located in Lamwo district in the northern part of the country, the settlement hosts almost 38,000 South Sudanese refugees. Infrastructure is still being developed because the settlement's recent establishment. Refugees seem to be integrating well with the host community, as many of them are from the same ethnic group.



## HHs WITH VULNERABLE MEMBERS

Unaccompanied/separated child, orphan	56%
Disabled members	58%
Pregnant / lactating women	33%
Female-headed HHs	65%

HHs reporting member with persons with specific needs (PSN) card: **46%**

HHs reporting that some members are not registered as refugees:



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

Land accessed for cultivation <sup>3</sup>	71%
Housing	50%
Land accessed for housing	18%

<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 24% 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: LAMWO

SETTLEMENT: PALABEK

## TENURE ARRANGEMENTS

% of HHs by shelter tenure:



- 71% Owned by the head of the household
- 26% Owned jointly between household members
- 2% Owned by other family members
- 1% Owned by spouse

0% of HHs have documentation proving ownership or legal occupancy of shelter.

% of HHs by methods of shelter acquisition:

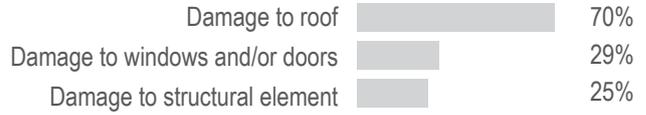


Of the 99% of HHs that reported constructing their shelter, most commonly reported ways of acquiring materials:<sup>3</sup>



## SHELTER CHALLENGES

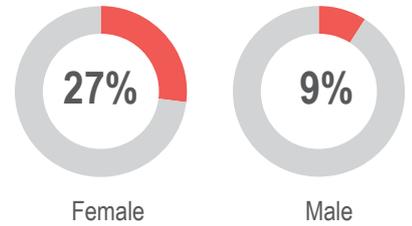
54% of HHs reported shelter damage. Of those, the most commonly reported parts of the shelter damaged are:<sup>3</sup>



57% of HHs reported not being able to conduct repairs. Of those, the most commonly reported reasons include:<sup>3</sup>



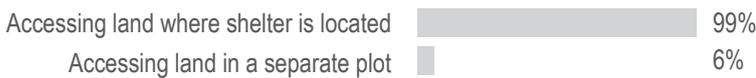
% of HHs reporting members do not feel safe in their current shelter:



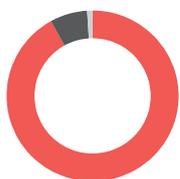
# LAND

## ACCESS TO LAND

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

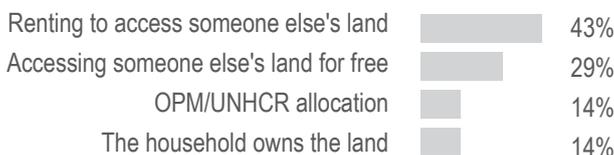


Method of accessing land around shelter plot:



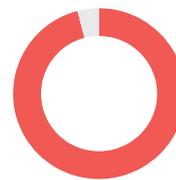
- 92% OPM/UNHCR allocation<sup>4</sup>
- 7% The household owns the land
- 1% Accessing someone else's land for free

6% 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

71% 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.



- 96% Insufficient
- 4% Sufficient

## FORMAL AGREEMENTS

Of the 8% that access land around shelter plot through renting, free access, or ownership, 33% of HHs that have a formal agreement to access the land

Of the 86% 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

24% 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

21% of the 43 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>



14% of the HLP issues reported were resolved

## PROPERTY

49% of HHs reported having no property at all. Out of the 51% who do:

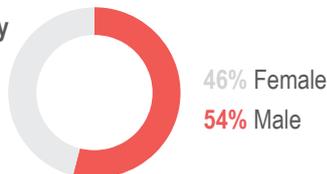
HHs with income-generating property: **9%**

Most commonly reported type of property:



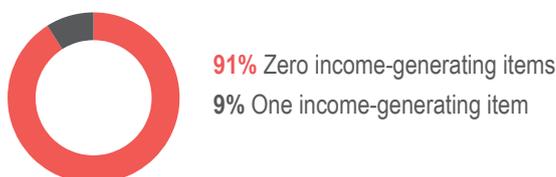
73% of property items are owned by one owner.

Proportion of those by sex of owner:



13% 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>



97% 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:

**97%**

## LIVELIHOODS SOURCES

Out of the **74%** 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>



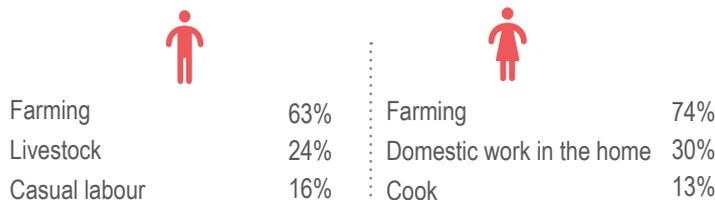
Most commonly reported livelihoods challenges:<sup>3</sup>



## SKILLS AND ASPIRATIONS

**72%** of HHs have men of working age and **92%** of HHs have women of working age. Of those:

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



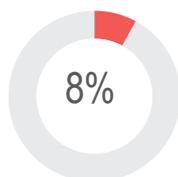
Most commonly reported livelihoods aspirations:<sup>3</sup>



# MOVEMENTS WITHIN UGANDA

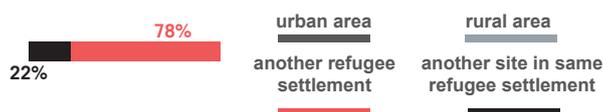
## PAST MOVEMENTS

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

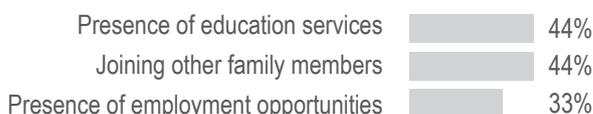


Of those:

Types of destinations:

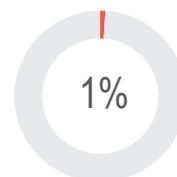


Most commonly reported reasons for moving:<sup>3</sup>



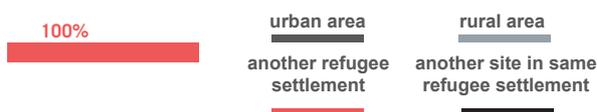
## MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

% 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>

