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.[1] 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 Palorinya refugee settlement. A total of 120 refugee households were interviewed in Palorinya.

POPULATION PROFILE OF REFUGEES IN UGANDA

Demographics[1]

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%
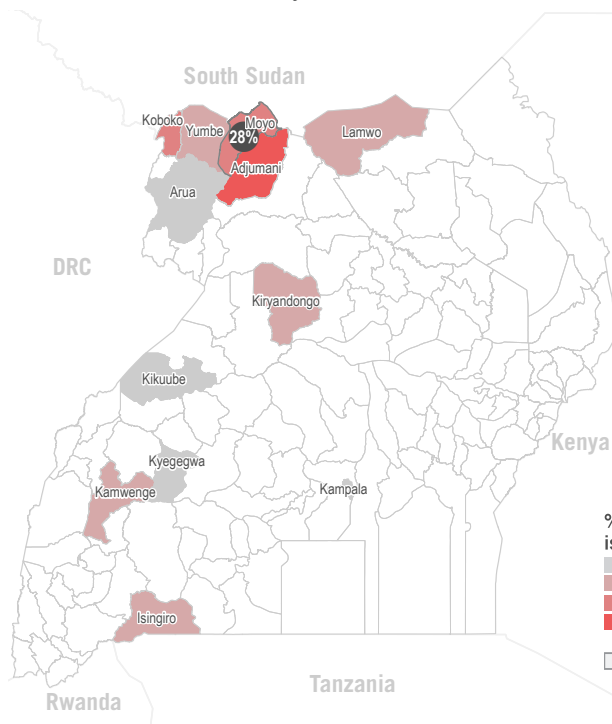
Average household size: 7

Displacement demographic

Top countries of origin:[1]

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

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PALORINYA IN MOYO DISTRICT

Palorinya refugee settlement was established in December 2016 and is located in Moyo district in the West Nile region of Uganda. The settlement currently hosts approximately 166,000 South Sudanese refugees with a total surface area of 37.58 square kilometers and is currently closed to new arrivals.


% of HHs reporting HLP issues aggregated by district
- 13% - 17%
- 18% - 25%
- 26% - 34%
- 35% - 69%
- Focus settlement (Palorinya)
- Focus district

HHs WITH VULNERABLE MEMBERS

Unaccompanied/separated child, orphan	41%
Disabled members	48%
Pregnant / lactating women	37%
Female-headed HHs	66%

HHs reporting member with persons with specific needs (PSN) card: **43%**

HHs reporting that some members are not registered as refugees: 6%
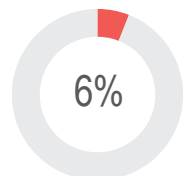
TOP 3 HLP CHALLENGES[2]

Housing[3]	50%
Property	44%
Land accessed for housing	21%

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[1] Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) population figures updated as of April 2019.
[2] This question was only asked to the 28% of respondents facing HLP challenges. The level of confidence may thus be lower than 95%.
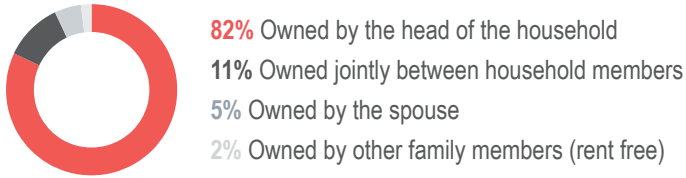[3] Respondents could answer more than one option for this question.

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

DISTRICT: MOYO
SETTLEMENT: PALORINYA

HOUSING

TENURE ARRANGEMENTS

% of HHs by shelter tenure:

82% Owned by the head of the household
11% Owned jointly between household members
5% Owned by the spouse
2% Owned by other family members (rent free)

8% of HHs have documentation proving ownership or legal occupancy of shelter.

% of HHs by methods of shelter acquisition:

Construct	100%
Acquire	0%

Of the **100%** of HHs that reported constructing their shelter, most commonly reported ways of acquiring materials:[3]

Nature	51%
Purchased	48%
Assistance	42%

SHELTER CHALLENGES

60% of HHs reported shelter damage. Of those, the most commonly reported parts of the shelter damaged are:[3]

Damage to roof	83%
Damage to wall material	33%
Damage to structural element	22%
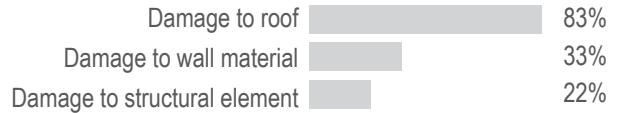
44% of HHs reported not being able to conduct repairs. Of those, the most commonly reported reasons include:[3]

No money for repair	84%
Material not available	59%
No technician/labor available to repair	6%
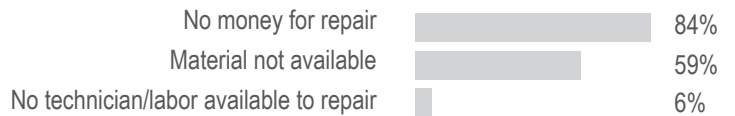
% of HHs reporting members do not feel safe in their current shelter:

33% Female   **26%** Male
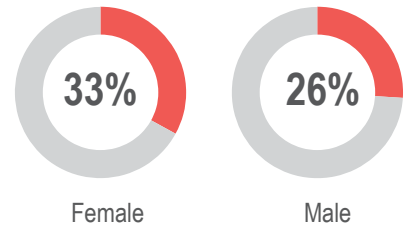
LAND

ACCESS TO LAND

% of HH reporting:[3]

Accessing land where shelter is located	100%
Accessing land in a separate plot	13%
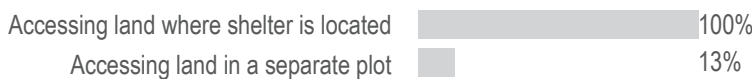
Method of accessing land around shelter plot:

98% OPM/UNHCR allocation[4]
**2%** Accessing someone else's land for free
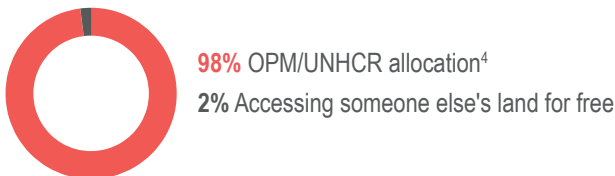
13% of HHs reported accessing land outside their shelter. Of those, the most commonly reported methods of accessing that land are:[3]

OPM/UNHCR allocation	44%
Renting to access someone else's land	31%
Accessing someone else's land for free	31%
Other	6%
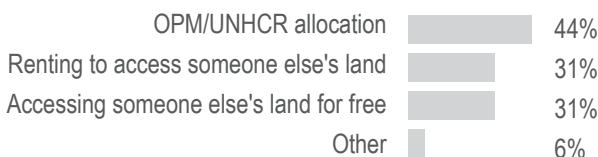
USE OF LAND FOR CULTIVATION

81% 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.

94% Insufficient
6% Sufficient
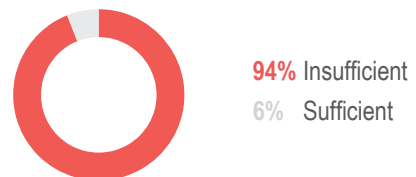
FORMAL AGREEMENTS

Of the **3%** 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 **62%** of land accessed outside of shelter plot through renting, free access, or ownership, **17%** are accessed through formal agreement

[4] 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

28% of HHs reported facing HLP challenges. Of those:

Most commonly reported areas of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):[3]

|	
Housing	50%
Property	44%
Land accessed for housing	21%

Most commonly reported types of HLP issues (% of HLP issues):[3]

Theft	50%
Plot given was unusable	27%
Boundary dispute	18%

HLP ISSUE RESOLUTION

19% of the **44** 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:[3]

Refugee Welfare Committee	48%
Help desk	36%
LC1 chairperson/local gov official	32%
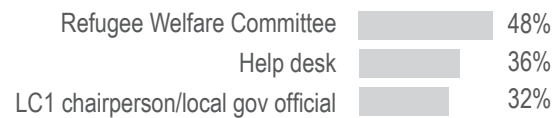
19% of the HLP issues reported were resolved

PROPERTY

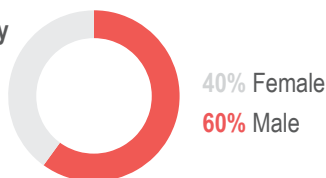**39%** of HHs reported having no property at all. Out of the **61%** who do:

HHs with income-generating property: 23%

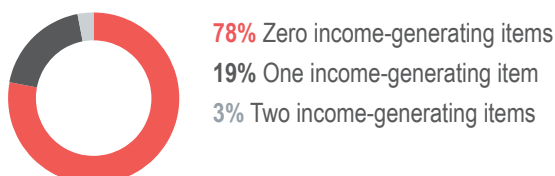**Most commonly reported type of property:**

Livestock	35%
Solar panel	27%
Bicycle	26%

95% of property items are owned by one owner.
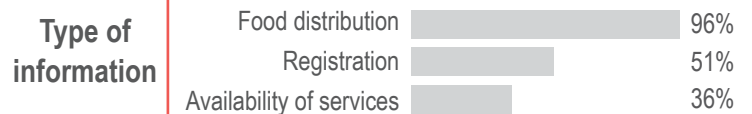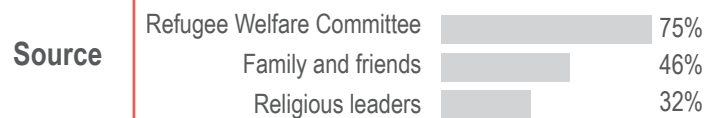Proportion of those by sex of owner:

40% Female
60% Male

24% of HHs that own property/assets reported having documentation proving ownership or legal access

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

78% Zero income-generating items
19% One income-generating item
3% Two income-generating items

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Most commonly reported sources and types of information HHs access:[3]

Source		
	Refugee Welfare Committee	75%
	Family and friends	46%
	Religious leaders	32%

Type of information		
	Food distribution	96%
	Registration	51%
	Availability of services	36%

93% of HHs reported trusting the information they receive

Most commonly reported information needs of HHs by area:[3]

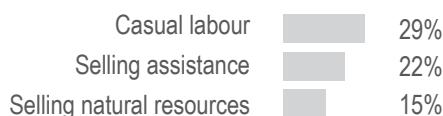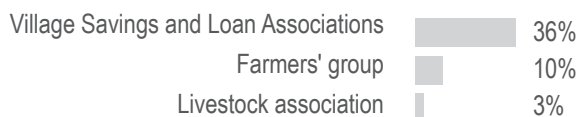|	
Food distribution	68%
Availability of services	53%
Employment opportunities	48%
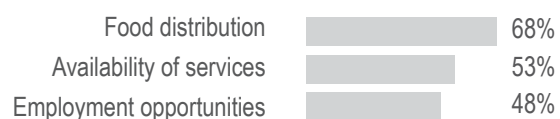
LIVELIHOODS

HHs reporting perceived livelihoods challenges: **100%**

LIVELIHOODS SOURCES

Out of the **95%** of HHs who reported having a source of income, the most commonly reported sources are:[3]

Casual labour		29%
Selling assistance		22%
Selling natural resources		15%

Most commonly reported livelihood groups HH members participate in:[3]

Village Savings and Loan Associations		36%
Farmers' group		10%
Livestock association		3%

Most commonly reported livelihoods challenges:[3]

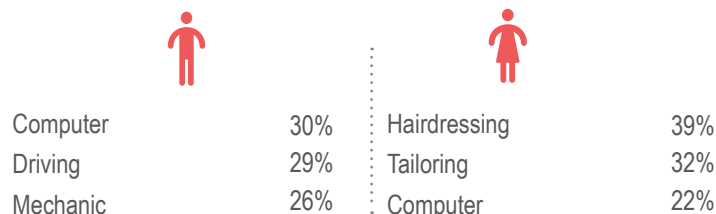|		
Lack of work opportunities		77%
Lack of credit to start/continue a business		75%
Lack of skills/qualifications		43%
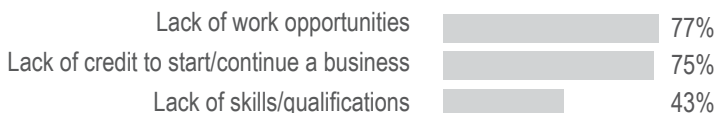
SKILLS AND ASPIRATIONS

83% of HHs have men of working age and **92%** of HHs have women of working age. Of those:

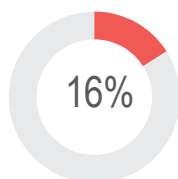**Most commonly reported livelihoods skills gained in country of origin:[3]**

Farming	50%	Farming	46%
Casual labour	32%	Hairdressing	26%
Construction	16%	Domestic work in the home	21%
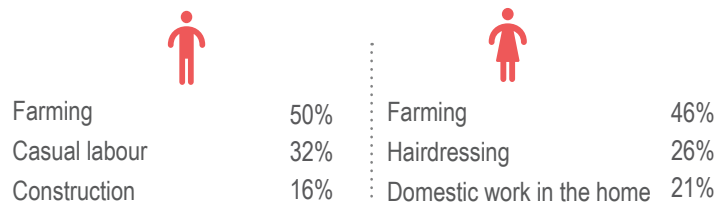
Most commonly reported livelihoods aspirations:[3]

Computer	30%	Hairdressing	39%
Driving	29%	Tailoring	32%
Mechanic	26%	Computer	22%

MOVEMENTS WITHIN UGANDA

PAST MOVEMENTS

% of HHs that had at least one member move in the year prior to data collection: **16%**

Of those:
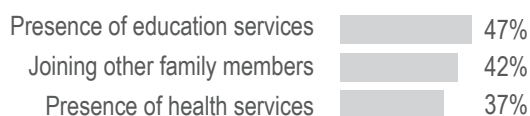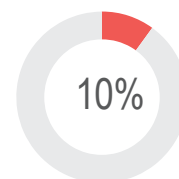
Types of destinations:

16%   58%
10%   16%

urban area   **rural area**
another refugee settlement   **another site in same refugee settlement**

Most commonly reported reasons for moving:[3]

Presence of education services		47%
Joining other family members		42%
Presence of health services		37%

100% 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: **10%**

Of those:

Types of destinations:

67%
8%   25%

urban area   **rural area**
another refugee settlement   **another site in same refugee settlement**

Most commonly reported reasons for planned movement:[3]

Presence of education services		67%
Presence of health services		25%
Plant crops/cultivate land		17%