Uganda

1 – 31 January 2021

The Ugandan borders have remained closed for asylum since March 2020 due to COVID-19. However, spontaneuos movements to/from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued via unofficial crossing points, owing to the dire humanitarian situation in these countries. These movements cannot be fully verified and accounted for.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Cumulatively, as of 31 January 2021, there were 39,314 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of whom, 381 were refugees and 277 humanitarian workers.

The cumulative number includes 14,114 recoveries, 372 of whom were refugees and 229 humanitarian workers.

Deaths reported were 318 since March 2020, six of whom were refugees and one humanitarian worker.

1,450,317

Number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** as of 31 January 2021.

1,424,325*

Total **refugees** in Uganda as of 31 January 2021.

25,992

Total **asylum-seekers** in Uganda as of 31 January 2021.

*Increase in number is attributed to the registration backlog and new-borns.

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2021:

USD 344.8 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 January 2021)

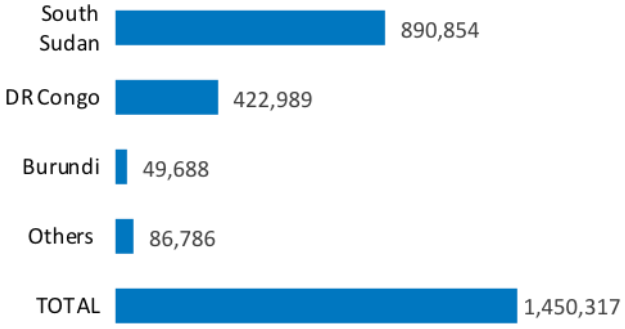
Unfunded 89% - **307.6 M**

Funded 11 % - **37.2 M**

Senior four students at Valley View Secondary School, Bidibidi settlement, Yumbe district attend class after schools re-opened. Photo ©UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality



A senior four candidate at Valley View Secondary School, Bidibidi settlement, Yumbe district, studies in preparation for his final examinations. Photo ©UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane

Operational Highlights

Uganda Elections: President Yoweri Museveni was declared winner of the Uganda presidential elections, with over 58 per cent of the total votes, according to the Uganda Electoral Commission. The incumbent will now serve a sixth term as president of Uganda, following what media portraited as some of the worst pre-election violence since he took office in 1986. His main opposition, singer Bobi Wine, also known as Robert Kyagulanyi, alleged vote-rigging throughout the process and had strong support in urban centres. He won 34.8 per cent of the total vote, according to the commission. He petitioned the Supreme Court seeking nullification of President Yoweri Museveni's election victory. In the petition, Kyagulanyi cited 25 grounds for nullification of Museveni' victory. During the voting period, the internet was turned off for five days and social media for close to a month.

COVID-19: Since March 2020, 381 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with seven reported deaths. On 31 January 2021, the cumulative nationwide figure for COVID-19 positive cases stood at 39,314 cases, with 14,114 recoveries and 318 reported deaths. In total, 277 humanitarian workers have tested positive for COVID-19 across the country.

Kampala was reported to have the highest rates of COVID-19 cases among refugees (112 cases), followed by settlements located in Nakivale/Oruchinga (91), Adjumani (54), Kiryandongo (50), Kyangwali (43), Kyaka II (13), Bidibidi (5), Palorinya (5), Rhino Camp/Imvepi (2), Palabek (4), and Rwamwanja (2).

UNHCR supported the Ministry of Health to investigate 28,921 COVID-19 alerts and test 7,028 refugees for as of 31 January 2021. A total of 135 individuals remained in quarantine, across 11 centres in refugee-hosting districts by the end of January 2021, including 127 Ugandans and 8 refugees.

PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Legal Mapping Exercise: A second legal mapping validation exercise was held on 20 January 2021 to identify and analyse the legal framework in the country, assessing the extent to which available legislation protects the enjoyment of rights of persons of concern. During the validation exercise, health insurance, E-Justice, Statelessness and legislation on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), were identified as knowledge gaps and areas which require further research.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, Mitigation and Response: 889 GBV incidents were reported from October-December 2020. This marks a decline from Quarter two and three that had recorded 1,134 and 1,035 respectively. The reduction could be attributed to the fact that, over time, refugees have adjusted and found ways of coping with the challenges that contributed to a spike in incidents reported from April to September 2020. Nonetheless, Palabek and Rhino Camp settlements still experience a continued increase in cases, with the GBV Working Group due to undertake an analysis to better understand the contributing factors. Most of the settlements recorded domestic violence as the most reported incident, except for Kyaka II, Rhino Camp and Kampala. All the reported cases received at least one form of multi-sectoral intervention, the most common of which remained psychosocial support. Health, legal, safety and security interventions were determined by the nature of the case and the wishes of the survivor to avail themselves for these services.

Community-Based Protection: UNHCR received support for connectivity from Avanti Communications, a satellite technology firm based in the United Kingdom. Avanti Communications is fulfilling its pledge made at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 of providing internet connectivity for seven community centres and protection desks in settlements within the West Nile region. Following the signing of an agreement between Avanti Communications and UNHCR in August 2020, satellite equipment for internet connectivity was installed in the identified sites in late 2020.

Child Protection: 150 children and youth (57 male and 93 female) in Kampala were supported with assorted UNIQLO clothes distributed by UNHCR's partners Care and assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), including children with disabilities, Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), children at risk, and youth of diverse nationalities.

EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

Education Response Plan (ERP) District Support: UNHCR and UNICEF signed a Letter of Understanding whereas UNHCR is to receive complementary technical support from UNICEF to achieve system strengthening. This is in order to effectively deliver on the outcomes of the Education Response Plan (ERP), including improved data and information management – which is key in facilitating eventual inclusion of refugee children in the national Education Management Information System (EMIS), to the extent possible. While the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) contract is taken care of by UNICEF, UNHCR is providing hosting arrangements in terms of office space and movement to

districts. Five District Data Analysts were recruited, and each of them assigned either two or three districts, ensuring coverage and support to all 12 refugee hosting districts.

Candidate Students: Following the reopening of schools in October 2020 for candidate classes of Primary Seven, Senior Four and Senior Six, UNHCR analyzed attendance data and found that 89 per cent of Primary Seven learners who had enrolled in February 2020 returned to school in October 2020. At secondary level, 81 Senior Four students and 96 per cent of Senior Six students returned to school. The number of girls that returned to school at secondary level is almost equal to that of the boys.

Challenges

School closure: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Uganda's school calendar ran from February to December. Following the lockdown period, candidate classes of Primary Seven, Senior Four and Senior Six returned to school in October 2020. Their new term started on 18 January 2021, following the Christmas break. However, the lack of clarity about the remaining approximately 15 million learners in Uganda, of whom 600,000 are refugees, remains a significant challenge. This is made worse by the limited investment in special needs education; growing evidence of protection challenges, particularly for girls; and reduced funding for the provision of home learning materials.

HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

During the month of January, 267,181 consultations were registered with 22 per cent nationals and 78 percent refugees. On average, each clinician attended to 54 consultations per day. The major disease burdens were malaria (43.6 per cent); Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) at 8.7 per cent, skin diseases (7.5 percent), Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) at 4.1 per cent and watery diarrhea (2.3 per cent) on the general population. Among children under five years, malaria was leading at 45.2 per cent, followed by URTI (12.1 per cent), skin diseases (9.3 per cent), LRTI (7.7 per cent), and watery diarrhea (6.4 per cent).

Crude mortality rate stood at 0.1 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month in January 2021, with leading causes of death being malaria (18.5 per cent), LRTI (6 percent), and Neonatal death (8.7 per cent). Under five mortality rate was at 0.12, which is within the public health standards of less than 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month. The major causes of death were malaria (31.5 per cent), LRTI at (8.2 per cent), neonatal death (28.5 per cent) and acute malnutrition (4.1 per cent). Children vaccinated against measles were 6,821, and 5,531 received diphtheria and polio vaccine. Of the 4,382 live births registered, 96 per cent were conducted at health facilities by skilled health workers. Sixty-eight per cent of the deliveries were refugees and 32 per cent nationals.

A total of 10,292 were tested for HIV across all settlements, of which 154 tested positive and enrolled into HIV care and treatment. The mothers that attended the antenatal care clinics were 22,182, of whom 4,219 attended for the first time. They were tested for HIV, in bid to prevent mother to child transmission. A total of 17,726 patients are currently receiving HIV treatment in the settlements, 35 per cent of whom are refugees and 65 per cent nationals.

WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

Water supplied to refugees in the settlements stood at an average of 16.3 litres per person per day. Water provided by pumping through solar energy was 36.6 per cent, while 23 per cent was through diesel generators. The sector continued to utilize water attendants and engaged them to support in ensuring and enforcing social distancing at water collections points. Handwashing stations and soap was provided at all communal meeting points, water collection points and health facilities, together with increased risk communication on COVID-19.

Hygiene promoters and Village Health Teams (VHTs) worked together to pass messages door-to-door, whilst mass media methods such as radio, *bodaboda* talks and billboards were introduced in all settlements. Soap distribution was sustained at 250g per person per month to support hand hygiene in response to COVID-19.

ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

In preparation for the first planting season of 2021 (March – June), nursery activities in the 12 Central Tree Nurseries (CTN) under the National Forestry Authority (NFA) are already underway, which will enable the supply of quality planting materials. The various CTNs are between 45 to 72 per cent prepared.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

There are continuous threats of wildfire in the settlements since the grass in the woodlots is dry. This presents a serious fire hazard, which may result in significant loss of trees.

During the dry season, there is scarcity of fresh pasture and many people have left their domestic animals to roam freely, ending up in the woodlots and threatening their survival.

COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

Information management team completed infrastructure and service center mapping in Palorinya settlement. This was done to establish gaps, analyze the impact of interventions and inform advocacy as well as resource allocation.

Working in partnership with:

Government - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Government (DLG), Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC).

Refugee Hosting Districts – Adjumani, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe.

UN - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Migration Agency (IOM), United Nations Officer for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations World Health Organization (WHO).

NGOs - Action Africa Help (AAH), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Andre Foods International (AFI), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ), Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), Associazione Centro Aiuti Voluntari (ACAV), A-Z Children's Charity, Baylor, Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC), Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), CARE, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Caritas Uganda (CU), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Child Voices International, Communication and Education (PACE), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN), Concern World Wide (CWW), Cooperazionee Sviluppo (CESVI), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), Drop in the Basket (DiB), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), Friends of Kisoro, German International Cooperation (GiZ), Give Directly, Global Aim, Global Refugee International (GRI), Healing Kadi Foundation, Help Age International, Humane Africa Mission (HAM), Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Humanitarian Open Street Map Team (HOT), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), IMPACT, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), InterAid, Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO Cooperation), International Aid Services (IAS), International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IsraAid, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Johanniter, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Malteser International (MI), Medical Teams International (MTI), Mercy Corps (MC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (NSAMIZI), OXFAM, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF), Plan International (PI), Programme for Accessible Health, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Right to Play (RtP), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile (RICE-WN), Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children International (SCI), Self Help Africa (SHA), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (Tunado), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Trocaire, Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR), Uganda Law Society (ULS), Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDMC), War Child Canada (WCC), War Child Holland (WCH), Water Mission Uganda (WMU), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Windle International Uganda (WIU), World Vision International (WVI), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), ZOA – Uganda (ZOA).

External Relations

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
Denmark 9.6 million | **European Union** 4.8 million | **Germany** 3.2 million | **Qatar** 1.8 million | **Republic of Korea** 1.7 million | **Remon L Vos** 1.3 million | **Ireland** 1.2 million Netherlands | IGAD | BOREALIS AG | Education Cannot Wait | Unilever (UK) | USA for UNHCR | Fast Retailing Co. Ltd (UNIQLO)
OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
Germany 10.9 million
UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS
Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 22.1 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million Algeria | Armenia | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | 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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Links:
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UNHCR Uganda Twitter account
UNHCR Uganda Instagram account
South Sudan Regional Portal