

Uganda

1 – 31 October 2021

Uganda is currently hosting **1,549,181** refugees and asylum seekers. The borders have remained closed for asylum since March 2020 due to COVID-19.

However, spontaneous movements to and 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.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Cumulatively, as of 31 October 2021, there were **126,272 confirmed cases** of COVID-19. Of these, **3,324 were refugees** and **783 humanitarian workers**.

Deaths reported were **3,217** since March 2020, including **52 refugees** and **3 humanitarian workers**.

A total of **3,189,173 doses** of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered by 31 October, including **22,098** in the refugee settlements.

1,549,181

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

1,505,964*

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

43,217

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

*Increase in number is attributed to the registration of the backlog of asylum seekers and new-born babies.

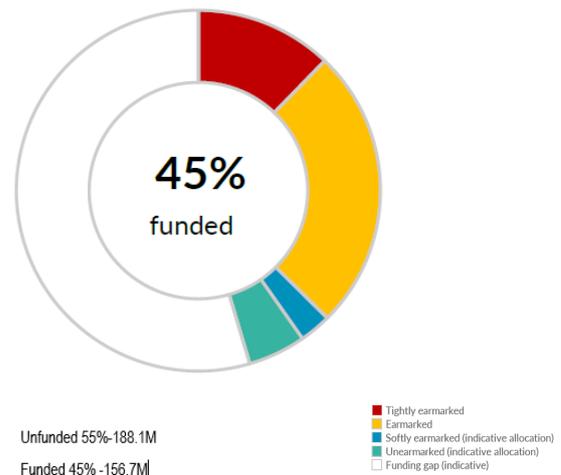


A mural painting, by refugee artists, shows distribution of food and non-food items during the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda. © UNHCR/Ezekiel Wendy

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2021:

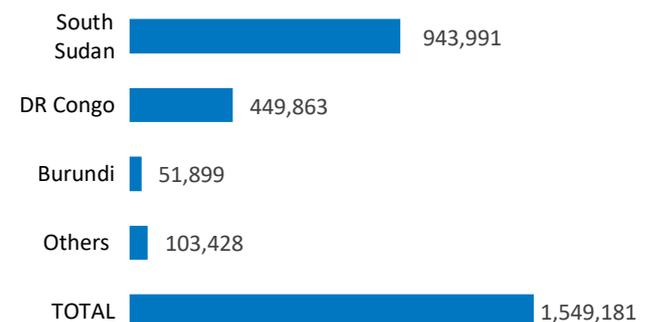
USD 344.8 million

UNHCR Funding (as of 31 October 2021)



POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality





The Mirror Group, comprising urban refugees from the Burundi community, entertains guests at the 2021 United Nations Day celebrations in Uganda's capital Kampala. © UNHCR/ Duncan Mato

Contextual and operational highlights

COVID-19: Since March 2020, a total of 3,324 refugees have tested positive for COVID-19, with 2,771 recoveries and 52 reported deaths. The cumulative countrywide figure for COVID-19 positive cases stood at 126,272 cases, with 96,727 recoveries and 3,217 reported deaths. In total, 783 humanitarian workers tested positive for COVID-19 across the country. The Ministry of Health continued to carry out COVID-19 vaccination across the country for both citizens and refugees. As of 31 October 2021, a total of 3,189,173 vaccine doses had been administered in Uganda, including 22,098 in refugee settlements. Those vaccinated in refugee settlements included 2,862 health workers, 4,087 teachers and 5,430 humanitarian workers.

Ugandan Government and UNHCR launch verification and profiling of asylum seekers and refugees: On 21 October, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR officially launched a joint Verification and Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE) for all refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda. The exercise began in Oruchinga settlement, Isingiro district, and will be carried out in a phased approach across all settlements. Uganda's Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Esther Anyakun and UNHCR Representative to Uganda, Joel Boutroué presided over the official launch in the presence district and local authorities, and the media. The exercise is expected to continue until July 2022. A press statement is available here: <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/press/2021/10/617264574/ugandan-government-and-unhcr-announce-verification-and-profiling-of-asylum.html>

Burundian voluntary repatriation - Since the resumption of voluntary repatriation to Burundi on 4 October 2021, a total of 1,877 Burundian refugees have been facilitated to return to Burundi in safety and

with dignity. Five convoys have been organized to date and another three of 600 people each are planned until the end of the year. The total number of returnees may slightly exceed the initial target of 2,300, which may require additional resources.

Uganda participates in the 72nd session of UNHCR Executive Committee - Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hillary Onek and Assistant Refugee Commissioner Douglas Asimwe represented Uganda at the 72nd session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, which took place from 4 to 8 October. During the general debate on day one, Minister Onek delivered the following messages: (a) Uganda has demonstrated that border management can be carried out without infringing on human rights and refugee law; (b) Refugees are included in the national vaccination campaigns; (c) Uganda has expressed support for the IGAD solutions initiative for Sudan and South Sudan; (d) Uganda warned that chronic underfunding to refugee programmes in Uganda was very dire and if left unattended, could lead to a reversal in the open-door asylum policy; and (e) UNHCR was called to support reintegration in countries of origin. During the side event on climate, Uganda pointed out that environmental protection remains a key priority in the refugee settlements and additional funding is needed to tackle this issue.



PROTECTION

Achievements and impact

Cash assistance for urban refugees: UNHCR provided cash assistance via mobile money to 21,124 urban refugees in Kampala (6,785 households) as part of one-off intervention to help them overcome the economic hardship caused by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. This activity will continue through to the end of November, as community sensitization, verification and validation of SIM cards are ongoing.

Refugee Status Determination: The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held a session in Rwamwanja settlement during the reporting period, adjudicating 748 asylum applications (1,691 individuals), with a recognition rate of 72 per cent. Since January 2021, REC held a total of nine sessions including Kampala (4), Kyangwali (2), Kyaka (1), Nakivale (1) and Rwamwanja (1). UNHCR participated as an observer, providing logistical and technical support.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: UNHCR submitted 1,702 refugees for resettlement as of 31 October, with 1,154 departures so far this year. Since January, 240 refugees have been supported to access educational opportunities and another 132 have received family reunification support to join relatives in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK and the USA. UNHCR estimates that 125,403 refugees in Uganda are in need of resettlement in 2021

Eradication of statelessness: UNHCR and the statelessness focal person from Ministry of Internal Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship undertook field work and assessment of at-risk communities in Kasese, Kiryandongo and Kapchorwa districts to inform policy discussions. An advocacy documentary on the challenges faced by stateless communities in Uganda is underway.



EDUCATION

Achievements and impact

School reopening preparations: As co-chair of the Education in Emergency Working Group, UNHCR convened an ad hoc sector meeting focusing on approaches, gaps and available resources for safe school reopening in January 2022. Given length of the full or partial school closure in Uganda, the meeting agreed the reopening efforts should address infrastructure, human resources and complementary activities necessary to recover learning loss. On infrastructure, one option is expansion of learning spaces through temporary, semi-permanent and permanent structures. This will help address increased Primary 1 (P1) intake for three cohorts expected to join school in 2022. Another option is making better use of existing infrastructure through a double shift system which will help reduce overcrowding and allow facilities to observe COVID-19 safety measures. There is need to recruit additional teachers needed for the projected increased P1 intake accompanied by scale up of teacher training (on abridged curriculum, double shift and teaching at the right level) and enhancement of approaches that complement formal education, including remedial learning, cooperative learning groups and accelerated education.

Education Response Plan (ERP) documentation: The Education Response Plan (ERP) Secretariat conducted audiovisual documentation of ERP I activities from 18 to 25 October, including infrastructure development, school feeding initiatives and learning activities. Success stories were collected from Bidibidi and Rwamwanja settlements as well as Kamwenge district to document the success of ERP I, key challenges and lessons learnt to inform development of ERP II, and to support advocacy and resource mobilization. The ERP Secretariat also supported the printing of district ERPs for Obongi and Koboko districts.

Challenges

- Significant learning time has been lost due to prolonged closure of schools.
- Deepened inequalities in access to education.
- Some of the education infrastructure has been dilapidated by weather and pests.
- Insufficient infrastructure and teachers to accommodate the learners in line with COVID-19 SOPs. The need for construction of learning spaces and recruitment of additional teachers, remains a key priority to ensure safe reopening of schools.



HEALTH

Achievements and impact

Health statistics: During the month of October, 190,180 consultations were registered across the refugee response, with 25 per cent nationals and 75 per cent refugees. On average, each clinician provided 44 consultations per day. Overall, the major disease burdens were malaria (42.1 per cent), Upper Respiratory Tract Infection-(URTI) at 8 per cent, skin diseases (6 per cent), and Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) at 6.2 per cent in the general population. Among children under five years, malaria was leading at

40.5 per cent, followed by URTI (13 per cent), skin diseases (7.6 per cent), LRTI (10.8 per cent) and diarrhea (7.2 per cent) and skin infection (7.6 per cent).

Mortality rate: In October, the Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) stood at 0.05 against the standard of 0.75 deaths per 1,000 population per month. Leading causes of death were malaria (19.1 per cent), LRTI (6 per cent), tuberculosis (5.9 per cent), and neonatal death (7.4 per cent). The under-five mortality rate stood at 0.09, which is within the public health standard of below 1.5 deaths per 1,000 population per month. The major causes were malaria (26.1 per cent), LRTI (17.4 per cent), neonatal death (21.73 per cent).

Live births and child immunization: Of the 3,953 live births registered in October, 97 per cent were conducted at health facilities by skilled health workers. Sixty-four per cent of the deliveries were by refugees and 36 per cent nationals. A total of 5,386 children were immunized against measles and 15,859 received the diphtheria and polio vaccine.

HIV prevention, care, and treatment: A total of 9,334 individuals were tested for HIV across all settlements, of whom 136 tested positive and were enrolled into HIV care and treatment. The mothers that attended antenatal care clinics were 243,009, with 5,580 attending for the first time and getting tested for HIV to prevent mother-to-child transmission. A total of 18,465 patients are currently receiving HIV treatment in the settlements. Of these, 37 per cent are refugees while 63 per cent are nationals.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and impact

Water supply: During the reporting period, water supplied to refugees in the settlements was at an average of 16.6 litres per person per day. A total of 23 million litres of water was supplied daily through 200 motorized water schemes and 1,090 handpumps. The slight increase is attributed to reduction in water trucking in Nakivale, following a pipeline extension. Water supply is particularly maintained in all health centers through a piped network and water trucking.

Infection prevention and control, and risk communication: These routine activities continued to be implemented during the reporting period across the response through sensitization at household level, water points and during radio talk shows. Similarly, Village Health Teams (VHTs) continued to promote the use of tippy taps for household level handwashing. Soap distribution was sustained at 250g per person per month to support hand hygiene in response to COVID-19. The use of solar technology for water treatment is being embraced by the refugee community.

Latrine coverage: Household latrine coverage stood at 73 per cent in the month of October, with commissioning of additional household latrines in some settlements. Nevertheless, there is still disparity between populations (Congolese 65 per cent, South Sudanese 76 per cent and Burundians 69 per cent). With the ongoing COVID-19 response, handwashing practices have significantly improved with more facilities and soap distribution by partners.

Challenges

- Palorinya's major water system breakdown increased water trucking needs in the area to 36 per cent, with significant financial implications.

- Constant disruption of water supply in Bubukwanga transit centres due to illegal connections along the transmission pipeline forced the transit centre to resort to the expensive water trucking option. UNHCR’s plan is drill a borehole nearby the transit centre to mitigate this challenge.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Tree seedlings: In October, partners in the settlements received 144,426 assorted tree seedlings from National Forestry Authority (NFA) nurseries and distributed them to beneficiaries for planting. A total of 2,044 seedlings were distributed in Palorinya settlement and the remainder in the South West to support environmental restoration activities. In addition, 62.58 hectares of woodlots were established in West Nile while 5.11 hectares were maintained in Kiryandongo settlement. Tree survival assessments in Lobule and Palorinya settlements found that 50 per cent and 77 per cent of trees planted by households have survived in these locations. This implies that households in Lobule settlement require additional training on how to plant and maintain trees. In Kiryandongo settlement, 136 individuals were trained in natural resource, forest management and sustainable fuel wood utilization.

Clean and sustainable energy: To enhance access to clean and sustainable energy, a total of 1,931 fixed Lorena stoves were constructed for households (1,260 in South West and 671 in Palorinya settlement), helping reduce the amount of fuel wood consumed by households. In West Nile, 1,731 kg of briquettes were produced by trained briquette making groups and used as alternative fuel to firewood and charcoal. In addition, 276 individuals were sensitized on energy saving practices as part of the activities to commemorate the energy week in Lobule settlement.

Challenges

Prolonged drought has hindered extensive household tree planting within the settlements and host communities.



SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NFIS

Achievements and impact

Construction: Construction of Koboko district maternity ward has been completed while the phase of furniture and fittings is at approximately 45 per cent. Construction of two semi-permanent overnight shelter and registration shades at Imvepi reception center in Terego is at 80 per cent. In Adjumani, construction of the undergarment production site (one block of five-stance VIP latrine) at Pagirinya is at 80 per cent. In Moyo, construction of registration shelters in Palorinya’s Zones 1 and 3 is complete, awaiting final inspection.

In Bubukwanga transit centre, construction of two accommodation shelters and four blocks of five-stance pit latrines is complete. Construction of two units of police accommodation and a police post with cells for men and women, an armory and a latrine at Sweswe reception centre have been completed. Construction of seven blocks of two-stance VIP latrines at Kyaka II and Rwamwanja health centres (Bwiriza, Bujjubuli, Itambabiniga and Ntenungi health outpost) has been completed.

Construction works for child friendly spaces in Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements are at 95 per cent, with fencing and plastering completed. Defects correction for accommodation shelters at Kabazana reception centre is complete. Expansion works at the Oruchinga police station are at approximately 95 per cent. In Kanungu, defects correction for latrines and accommodation shelters at Matanda transit centre is complete, pending handover.

Road works: In Yumbe, the progress of rehabilitating selected roads in Zones 1, 2, 4 and 5 is at 90 per cent. Road works in Lamwo are complete, while in Adjumani progress is at 90 per cent. Construction progress on 53.1km of roads in Rwamwanja settlement is at approximately 80 per cent. In Moyo, road rehabilitation and maintenance work on 18.25 km of roads is estimated at 85 per cent. Once completed, the roads will ease movement of goods and services in the settlements.

Settlement mapping: Mapping and spatial data updating has been completed in Lamwo, while it is still on going in Adjumani. This will help in updating the settlement maps to enable identification of spatial gaps in provision and distribution of infrastructure.

Challenges

- Road rehabilitation remains a major challenge throughout the settlements. Most of the roads are in a bad state.
- The rainy season led to low progress on all construction projects especially the upgrading of roads in Moyo.
- There is still a need for physical planning to guide developments within settlements.



COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

Uganda holds 14th Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group meeting - On 6 October, Hon. Esther Anyakun, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees and Hon. Victoria Rusoke Busingye, Minister of State for Local Government (MoLG) co-chaired the 14th CRRF Steering Group meeting. Several CRRF Steering Group members raised alarm over significant gaps in the refugee response, including environmental degradation, livelihoods and food ration cuts. The Refugee Engagement Forum asked that attention be put on self-reliance and developing a common understanding of what that could look like moving forward. A recommendation was made for a Government of Uganda-led dialogue with development partners to understand the issues behind transitional planning, so that clear decisions on the way forward can be chartered out. UNHCR suggested to review the future role and structure of the CRRF Secretariat as to enable it to better support the realization of the Global Compact on Refugees in Uganda.

Refugee Response Plan (RRP) sector log frame development: An inter-sector coordination group meeting was organized on 21 October to present the draft sector log frames and discuss interlinkages among different sectors. It was agreed that a common plan for data collection and management will be articulated within the RRP. Based on consultations in their respective working groups and the situation analysis completed earlier, sectors submitted their draft strategies on 29 October for review.

Working in partnership with:

Government - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Governments (DLGs), 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 Local Government (MoLG), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE).

District authorities in refugee-hosting/receiving districts – Adjumani, Arua, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kisoro, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Ntoroko, 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 Volontari (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 Organization 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), Cooperazione 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).

Funding

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 73.1 million | **European Union** 14.1 million | **Denmark** 10 million | **Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex)** 6.4 million | **Germany** 6.1 million | **Japan** 3.1 million | **Unilever (UK)** 2.4 million | **Netherlands** 2.2 million | **Qatar** 1.7 million | **Republic of Korea** 1.7 million | **Remon L Vos** 1.3 million | **Sweden** 1.2 million | **Ireland** 1.2 million | **Espana con ACNUR** 1 million |

Canada | Education Cannot Wait | France | Switzerland | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe | UN Children Fund | IGAD | Australia for UNHCR | UNHCR Insamlingsstiftelse | Solvatten | BOREALIS AG | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Toyota Tsusho Corporation | Agility Logistics | Fast Retailing Co. Ltd (UNIQLO) | USA for UNHCR | Transsion Holdings | Other private donors

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 50.1 million | **United States of America** 33 million | **Private donors Australia** 9.8million | **Private donors Germany** 7.2 million | **Canada** 5.6 million | **Japan** 2.7 million | **Finland** 2.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.1 million

France | Luxembourg | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 75.4 million | **Private donors Spain** 62.6 million | **United Kingdom** 40.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 31.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 27.7 million | **Germany** 26 million million | **France** 20.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 15.7 million | **Private donors Sweden** 14.4 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | 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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