

Uganda

Main objectives

Ensure that international protection is provided to over 200,000 refugees; assist more than 178,300 Sudanese refugees to achieve self-sufficiency and to integrate in keeping with the principles of the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS); facilitate voluntary repatriation for Rwandan refugees whenever possible; provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to 2,000 urban refugees in Kampala and ensure that they achieve a degree of self-reliance; strengthen the implementation of the SRS in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and implementing partners; and facilitate the relocation of about 14,741 ex-Achol-Pii refugees to Arua and Yumbe districts in northern Uganda.

Impact

- UNHCR provided international protection to some 210,000 refugees.
- The district authorities in Arua and Yumbe provided land for settlements to 14,741 refugees who were staying temporarily in Kiryandongo because they had been displaced from Achol-Pii.
- Food aid was provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) in some refugee locations, when erratic weather resulted in disappointing harvests. During 2003, about 56 per cent of refugees attained self-sufficiency in food.
- Under the SRS initiatives, community services activities were handed over to governmental departments in the respective districts for implementation.
- 143 refugees were assisted to repatriate and 273 refugees were resettled in third countries.



Working environment

The context

The Government of Uganda provided physical protection for refugees and local populations, relocating those living in the rebel-affected areas in Kitgum to safer locations in Hoima and Arua, where the Government, UNHCR and WFP provided them with humanitarian assistance. Refugees and local populations continued to live harmoniously in close proximity. In 2003 the Government pursued liberal asylum policies towards refugees, and no cases of *refoulement* were reported to UNHCR.

During the year, there were 7,418 new arrivals (roughly half the 2002 figure): 88 per cent were Sudanese and 10 per cent DRC Congolese. There were over 210,000 registered refugees, of whom roughly 85 per cent were from Southern Sudan, with the remainder from Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Somalia.

UNHCR organized training and workshops to promote awareness of refugees' rights and to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). These were components of awareness campaigns aimed at the refugee community, district and local authorities, as well as implementing partners. Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) were established in the settlements, primarily to support survivors, but also

Persons of concern				
Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (refugees)	198,300	178,300	48	55
Rwanda (refugees)	19,600	19,600	48	-
DRC (refugees)	11,700	11,500	49	75
Returnees (from DRC)	4,100	-	-	-
Somalia (refugees)	900	900	50	46
Rwanda (asylum-seekers)	200	-	47	42
DRC (asylum-seekers)	100	-	42	43
Ethiopia (asylum-seekers)	100	-	30	42
Somalia (asylum-seekers)	100	-	35	37

Income and expenditure (USD)					
Annual programme and Supplementary programme budgets					
	Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	15,813,523	7,236,570	7,719,755	14,956,325	14,834,082
SB	1,693,643	540,000	164,976	704,976	704,976
Total	17,507,166	7,776,570	7,884,731	15,661,301	15,539,058

1 Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

2 Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments. The above figures do not include costs at headquarters.

Note: The Supplementary programme budgets do not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

to disseminate information on SGBV and encourage refugees to report any incidents of SGBV. Meetings were organized with refugees in the settlements to discuss their return to countries of origin, once peace and/or security is restored in those countries.

Constraints

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels continued to operate around settlements near the Zoka forest in Adjumani district (Northern Uganda). The attacks were less frequent than in 2002, but many refugees did not dare to return to the settlements that they had fled in 2002. The refugees who fled Maaji were relocated to other settlements in Adjumani and Arua districts.

As a result of the continued state of insecurity in Adjumani district, implementing partners experienced high staff turnover (as staff members opted for posts in safer locations).

Funding

UNHCR participated in the 2003 *inter-agency consolidated appeals process for Uganda*. The total original budget for the Uganda CAP was USD 88,538,479 of which UNHCR appealed for a revised requirement of USD 15,813,523 and received USD 7,236,570 in earmarked contributions. The balance of available funds were covered from broadly earmarked or unearmarked contributions.

Delays in the remittance of funds for the first quarter of 2003 led to the postponement of some activities to the second quarter. As a consequence of some implementing partners only having received final instalments in December 2003, several construction activities had to be extended into the first quarter of 2004.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

The ex-Achol-Pii refugees relocated from Kiryandongo to Arua and Yumbe districts were given residential

and agricultural plots of land and basic non-food items. The 1,800 displaced Maaji refugees temporarily settled in the Rhino Camp in Arua were returned to Adjumani at the decision of the Government.

UNHCR continued to facilitate the resettlement of refugees whose physical safety was under threat. In 2003, 273 refugees were resettled, 143 were repatriated and at the same time, some 300 Ugandan returnees were received home.

Activities and assistance

Community services: In Adjumani and Moyo districts, 715 refugees benefited from training in various skills, including carpentry and tailoring. To promote awareness on SGBV, a number of coordination and consultative meetings were held with implementing, operational and local government partners. In Arua district, training workshops and awareness campaigns on SGBV were organized and 42 CITs (Crisis Intervention Teams) were formed to provide support to survivors and raise the level of reporting of incidents. Training workshops and sensitization meetings on Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) were conducted for refugees and local communities alike, especially adolescents. In Arua, 282 unaccompanied minors were registered and placed with foster families. Teenage mothers who dropped out of school were provided with financial and other support to enable them to resume their education. Sanitary materials, soap and water basins were distributed to adolescent girls and women in all settlements. HIV/AIDS sensitization on prevention and control was carried out in primary schools, secondary schools and in the communities. The Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programme continued in 2003 for 877 beneficiaries, 725 of them women. In Arua, 40 per cent of refugee management committee members were women, and 37 per cent of refugee women benefited from leadership skills training.

Crop production: In Arua, 4,282 hectares (47 per cent of available arable land) was given over to crop production. Agricultural tools and special varieties of seeds were distributed to farmers. In Adjumani/Moyo, 5,363 refugee families received maize, cassava and cowpea seeds. In order to irrigate crops during the dry season, seven foot pumps were procured and used. Assorted seeds and agricultural tools were provided to former Achol-Pii refugee groups in Kyangwali.



A Sudanese refugee woman preparing dinner for her family in front of a temporary shelter on her new plot of land in Ikafe settlement in northern Uganda. *UNHCR/K. McKinsey*



Domestic needs/Household support: Basic household non-food items were provided to 3,984 new arrivals in Imvepi settlement. Similar items were supplied to refugees relocating from Kiryandongo refugee settlement to Ikafe (7,818 refugees) and Madi-Okollo (6,923 refugees) in Yumbe and Arua districts respectively.

Education: Some 430 desks were supplied to schools in the new settlements in Ikafe and Madi-Okollo. Examination papers were supplied to all primary schools. Ten teachers in self-help secondary schools received monthly incentives. Sixty-nine students benefitted from DAFI scholarships and undertook tertiary education. In Adjumani and Moyo districts, 25,450 pupils were enrolled, 11,824 of them female. The enrollment of female students has increased by 13.2 per cent since 2002, mainly as a result of the school feeding programme and the promotion of education for girls. In secondary education, 2,790 children were enrolled, a 3.2 per cent increase on the previous year. At three secondary boarding schools, 188 girls were supported by UNHCR. Sanitary materials were distributed to schoolgirls.

Fisheries: In Moyo district, one landing site was constructed and another renovated on the banks of the Nile river for refugees and persons in the local community engaged in fishing. Tools were distributed to clear grass around the landing sites. Training on fish processing and preservation was carried out in three sites which benefitted 62 persons. A system to monitor and record fish caught per month was also set up.

Forestry: In Arua, more than 13,000 fruit-tree seedlings (cassia, moringa and olifera) were raised and given to 1,000 households and 25 schools for planting. Two environmental workshops were organized for 231 participants and six community meetings focused on environmental protection and management. Environmental mapping was carried out in major settlements to determine bio-mass concentration (the concentration of trees), ground cover and land use with a view to the implementation of appropriate conservation measures. In Adjumani, 313,023 seedlings were raised, of which 234,211 were distributed to individuals and institutions for planting. The remainder will be distributed in 2004. Private tree nurseries continued to meet additional popular demand. In south-western Uganda, environmental activities were amalgamated with district forest activities.

Health/Nutrition: Health services were made accessible to refugees and local communities throughout the year. The health and nutritional status of refugees remained within acceptable levels. Drugs and other medical supplies were provided in time and in sufficient quantities throughout the year. Immunisation against measles was conducted for all children below five years and vaccination coverage of 86 per cent was achieved. The most common causes of morbidity and mortality among the refugee population were, in descending order of magnitude: malaria, respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea, worm infestations, sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs) and HIV/AIDS-related infections. Sensitization campaigns on STIs and HIV/AIDS were conducted in refugee settlements using Ted Turner funds received in the latter half of the year. A Regional Workshop on Refugees and HIV/AIDS was organized in December 2003. Voluntary counselling and testing services were established in Kyangwali, Adjumani and through a mobile service in Mbarara and Arua refugee settlements. In Arua, refugee health services in Imvepi settlement and three health centres in Adjumani/Moyo were handed over to the District Director of Health Services to kick-start the SRS implementation process.

Income generation: Refugees learned more about improved crop production, with the result that households were often able to generate and sell larger surpluses (over and above their subsistence needs). In Arua, 160 refugees, of whom 64 were women, benefited from life skills training courses. In addition, 26 refugees were trained by the Uganda Change Agency on business skills, banking, marketing and leadership (funded by a revolving loan scheme). Some 47 income generation groups (200 persons) and 14 individuals received loans. In Adjumani/Moyo, five training workshops on rural micro-finance and management were conducted for the benefit of 166 persons (47 women). Training of Trainers on micro-enterprise management and project planning was conducted for the benefit of 34 persons (19 women).

Legal assistance: No cases of *refoulement* were brought to the attention of UNHCR during the period under review. UNHCR continued to promote the rights of refugees, and organized training workshops for the media on the implications of the refugee law awaiting parliamentary assent. In Arua, UNHCR and the district authorities officially

launched SGBV-awareness campaigns. Some 21 refugees were given financial assistance to help them attend interviews for resettlement. In Adjumani/Moyo, a workshop was held on SGBV. It was attended by 77 participants drawn from implementing partners, operational partners, district departments and the office of the Prime Minister. In 2003, the Refugee Eligibility Committee held four sessions to undertake status determination.

Livestock: In Arua district, veterinary drugs and other supplies were procured for farmers. Most animals in the settlements were treated for common diseases. Some 1,409 cattle were vaccinated against black quarter disease. Training was provided for 272 farmers, including 89 women, on improved animal management practices, and 15 pairs of oxen were procured for ploughing. In Adjumani/Moyo, cows and bulls were purchased for 40 farmers who were also trained in animal management practices.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR supported implementing partners by covering their administrative costs. Protection and programme training workshops organized for implementing partners and operational partners reinforced their programme implementation capacity.

Sanitation: In Arua district, approximately 49 per cent of homes in refugee settlements met basic standards of sanitation. Six-stance ventilated and improved pit (VIP) latrines were constructed and six-stance crest tank latrines were procured and installed in Madi Okollo. Tools were provided to the relocated refugees in Ikafe and Madi-Okollo for the installation of sanitary facilities. In Adjumani, 59 per cent of the refugee community and 48 per cent in Moyo received basic instruction on the maintenance of latrines. Better latrine coverage was difficult to achieve in rocky areas or areas with porous soil. Some 145 sets of tools were distributed to refugees and 13 improved latrines were constructed to improve sanitation at various schools and health centres benefiting 3,860 persons in Moyo.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: In Arua district, all roads were maintained. The refugee hosting areas were assisted with construction materials (through Quick Impact Projects). In Adjumani/Moyo, 177 kilometres of road were maintained and rehabilitated. A culvert bridge was constructed across river Nyawa in Moyo.

Transport/Logistics: An implementing partner managed the central warehouse in Kampala, where most of the relief items were stored before dispatch to the settlements. The same partner ran a fleet of five ten-ton trucks that delivered relief items. Two NGOs maintained mechanical workshops for the repair and maintenance of project vehicles and motorcycles in Adjumani/Moyo and Arua.

Water: In Arua, maintenance and repairs were carried out on water sources. Of 102 boreholes, 24 were refitted with PVC pipes to eliminate the problem of corrosion. Women accounted for 40 per cent of water committee members. Each refugee household paid 100 Ugandan shillings per month for borehole maintenance. Water caretakers and committees organized workshops for the refugee and local communities on resource mobilization, management and water-borne diseases.

In Adjumani/Moyo, four boreholes were drilled, benefiting an additional 5,000 persons as compared to 2002. Eight capacity-building training sessions were conducted for 640 participants; 24 pump mechanics benefited from refresher courses. In Moyo/Adjumani 193 boreholes were repaired/maintained, supplying water to 150,000 beneficiaries (refugees and nationals). In Hoima, although five boreholes were constructed for the relocated refugees from Achol-Pii, two ten-ton tankers still had to be deployed for the distribution of water. Despite strenuous efforts to meet minimum drinking water standards, problems were encountered in some sections of settlements in Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Madi-Okollo, and Ikafe.

Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR maintained its main office in Kampala, supported by offices in Adjumani, Arua, Hoima, Mbarara, Moyo and Pakelle. These offices were operated by 24 international staff (including five UNVs) and 80 national staff.

The main security concern was LRA activity in northern Uganda, especially in Adjumani district. In December 2003, areas close to the UNHCR office

were attacked by LRA which led to the temporary displacement of refugees.

Working with others

In 2003, UNHCR worked with humanitarian and development agencies. UNHCR coordinated and monitored assistance programmes implemented by 16 NGOs and several government departments. The funds provided to the Uganda Micro-Finance Union in 2001 continued to revolve under micro-finance loan schemes benefiting both nationals and refugees. UNHCR encouraged operational partners (i.e. NGOs with their own funds) to implement programmes of benefit to both nationals and refugees to enable the phasing out of UNHCR's assistance, and eventually allow the integration of services in the districts. Other agencies, including UNFPA, UNICEF, EU-European Development Fund, USAID, and the World Bank, were involved in projects in northern Uganda as part of the Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme (NURP). SNV (Dutch Cooperation) was also involved in capacity-building in the districts of Arua, Moyo and Adjumani.

Overall assessment

In 2003, a gradual positive change was observed in the attitude of the district authorities towards SRS. Effective achievement of the SRS objectives involved capacity building and additional funding for refugee-hosting districts for specific activities not covered under their own development budgets. UNHCR continues to work towards making SRS an integral part of the District Development Plans for refugee hosting districts through the active participation of all parties, especially the refugee population and the Government. The integration can only be achieved if the Government and development agencies, with the support of donors, embrace refugee issues in their development plans, hence paving the way for UNHCR to gradually phase out its assistance to refugees - limiting it to emergency responses and providing international protection. A mid-term assessment of the SRS is planned for 2004.

Offices

Kampala

Arua
Hoima
Mbarara
Moyo
Pakelle / Adjumani

Partners

Government agencies

Office of the Prime Minister
Directorate for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees
District Directorate of Health Services
District Forest Office
District Education Office

NGOs

Africa Humanitarian Action
African Development and Emergency Organization
Agency for Cooperation and Research and Development
Aktion Afrika Hilfe
Danish Assistance for Self-Reliance Strategy
Equatoria Civic Fund
Finnish Refugee Council
German Development Services
Inter-Aid Uganda
International Aid Sweden
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Ockenden International
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
Uganda Red Cross Society

Others

UNICEF
WFP

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects	
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	notes	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	2,345,722	0	2,345,722		9,636
Community Services	154,238	0	154,238		82,702
Crop Production	158,868	0	158,868		81,134
Domestic Needs/Household Support	109,660	125,235	234,895		15,738
Education	1,075,481	0	1,075,481		645,926
Fisheries	3,285	0	3,285		4,842
Forestry	194,233	0	194,233		145,629
Health/Nutrition	961,299	0	961,299		548,193
Income Generation	26,698	0	26,698		35,723
Legal Assistance	188,789	0	188,789		24,799
Livestock	13,112	0	13,112		19,056
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,212,077	8,393	1,220,470		342,632
Sanitation	44,225	0	44,225		58,722
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	216,930	0	216,930		196,595
Transport/Logistics	1,693,501	107,126	1,800,627		456,666
Water (non-agricultural)	110,839	0	110,839		127,448
Transit Accounts	1,956	0	1,956		0
Instalments with Implementing Partners	3,513,719	217,582	3,731,301		(2,407,138)
Sub - total Operational	12,024,632	458,336	12,482,969		388,306
Programme Support	2,057,383	0	2,057,383		5,272
Sub - total Disbursements / Deliveries	14,082,015	458,336	14,540,352	⁽³⁾	393,578
Unliquidated Obligations	752,067	246,640	998,707	⁽³⁾	0
Total	14,834,082	704,976	15,539,058	^{(1) (3)}	393,578
Instalments with Implementing Partners					
Payments Made	8,166,291	217,582	8,383,873		1,463,109
Reporting Received	4,652,572	0	4,652,572		3,870,247
Balance	3,513,719	217,582	3,731,301		(2,407,138)
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		2,513,311
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0	0		176,392
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		70,218
Outstanding 31 December	3,513,719	217,582	3,731,301		0
Unliquidated Obligations					
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		823,647
New Obligations	14,834,082	704,976	15,539,058	⁽¹⁾	0
Disbursements	14,082,015	458,336	14,540,351	⁽³⁾	393,578
Cancellations	0	0	0		430,069
Outstanding 31 December	752,067	246,640	998,707	⁽³⁾	0

Figures which are cross-referenced to the Accounts

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5