

UGANDA

| Operational highlights |

- UNHCR concluded its protection and assistance operations for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Uganda. By the end of 2011, most of the estimated 1.84 million Ugandans who were displaced by fighting between the Ugandan military and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had returned to their areas of origin.
- Uganda received another 4,588 refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- To support voluntary repatriation, tripartite meetings were held in 2011 by the Government of Uganda and UNHCR with the Governments of Kenya, Rwanda and the DRC.
- UNHCR helped the Ugandan authorities to prepare for the implementation of the comprehensive strategy on durable solutions for Rwandan refugees in 2012.

| Working environment |

Uganda received new refugees and asylum-seekers during the year, mainly citizens of the DRC fleeing violence in that country's eastern provinces of Orientale and North and South Kivu. Uganda has a generous policy of providing agricultural land and housing plots to non-urban refugees, or those living in settlements. Asylum-seekers from the eastern DRC are recognized as *prima facie* refugees. Other asylum-seekers have their refugee status determined by Uganda's Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC).

There were 162,900 refugees and asylum-seekers in the country in 2011, up from 156,600 in 2010. Congolese (DRC) refugees make up the largest group (88,400). The number of urban refugees increased from some 37,800 in 2010 to 42,500 in 2011 as new arrivals were joined by refugees moving out of settlements and into urban centres. UNHCR has observed a trend of refugees settling in Kampala in search of either better services and living conditions, or resettlement opportunities.

Refugees in government-allocated settlements engaged in farming, which contributed to their food and income security and improved their self-reliance and resilience.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives and targets

In 2011, UNHCR aimed to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees in Uganda, in addition to working to improve services in the areas of education, sanitation, water supply, health and accommodation.



Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR embarked on a plan to build capacity and expertise in Uganda to aid the identification of people in need of international protection. The plan placed emphasis on improving knowledge to manage mixed migration; expediting the processing of asylum cases; and reinforcing the appeals process.
- A joint UNHCR-Yumbe district government project resulted in nearly 60 acres being planted with more than 51,000 seedlings of fruit-bearing and commercially useful trees. Firewood is the primary source of energy for cooking in 98 per cent of dwellings in the region. However, the use of energy-efficient stoves remains at a low 37 per cent. It is estimated that the majority of refugees consume between 13-15 kg of firewood daily because of inefficient cooking methods.

Fair protection processes

- UNHCR supported its Government counterpart the Department of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister to improve its ability to register and assist asylum-seekers by increasing the number of its interview rooms and sharing its *ProGres* database with them
- The Refugee Eligibility Committee doubled its field missions to the refugee settlements in the south-west,

which host the bulk of refugees and new arrivals. In a related development, the Government established an Appeals Board for rejected asylum applications.

- Newly registered refugees were provided with attestations and ration cards. However, Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean asylum-seekers who register with the Refugee Eligibility Committee in Uganda face difficulties in gaining recognition as refugees as they are considered to have transited other safe countries of asylum to reach Uganda.
- No progress was made on the issuance of refugee ID cards and birth certificates.
- Verification and profiling exercises of mostly South Sudanese refugees in the West Nile province confirmed moderate drops in the registered refugee population of 14 per cent (from 3,360 to 2,880 individuals) in Imvepi and Rhino (Arua district), and 8.5 per cent (from 9,110 to 8,350 individuals) in Adjumani and Moyo districts. The findings informed the camp consolidation planning process which will lead to a halving of refugee camps in the West Nile in 2012, and the progressive handover and integration of essential services in camps within the host district or local government public services.

Security from violence and exploitation

- The number of urban refugees and asylum-seekers provided with legal services almost doubled, from 425 in 2010 to 806 in 2011. In total, 985 individual legal counselling sessions were conducted, against an initial projection of 250. Of some 800 individuals assisted, 300 were survivors of SGBV. Forty-two cases involved minors, and 20 people were referred for specialist counselling and support. Sixty cases, of which 20 reached court, received legal assistance. UNHCR and its partners also facilitated court access and adjudication in 35 legal cases involving extremely vulnerable IDPs with specific needs.

- Over 5,000 members of the Somali community were made aware of the laws banning female genital mutilation (FGM) and the dangers and risks involved in the practice.
- In child protection, the best interest determination (BID) backlog was cut from 106 to 37 cases, and 10 child-protection and education committees were established. Only 11 out of 76 children with disabilities could be helped to enrol in schools for children with special needs. UNHCR helped more than 300 extremely vulnerable IDPs to obtain mobility devices, such as wheelchairs and crutches, and offered them training in their use and maintenance.
- Following UNHCR's intervention, 10 persons of concern who had been detained on various grounds were released and given help to avail themselves of asylum procedures to regularize their status.

Basic needs and services

- The supply of water in the four settlements located in south-west Uganda which were hosting a combined total of over 104,000 people, more than 60 per cent of Uganda's overall refugee and asylum-seeker populations, ranged from 10 to 15 litres per person per day, which was below the standard 20 litres. For 24 villages in the vast Nakivale settlement, which covers an area of more than 70 square miles, only 9-11 litres of water per person per day could be provided because of the distance of the villages from water sources.
- Local communities contributed their skills, labour and time to help UNHCR construct homes and latrines for more than 3,000 extremely vulnerable IDPs with specific needs. UNHCR also constructed or rehabilitated 80 water sources in return areas with the support of local water committees trained in maintenance.

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	81,500	81,500	50	59
	Sudan	18,300	18,300	51	56
	Somalia	14,000	14,000	45	45
	Rwanda	13,000	13,000	50	60
	Burundi	6,700	6,700	50	59
	Eritrea	3,500	3,500	43	33
	Kenya	1,300	1,300	50	52
	Ethiopia	1,100	1,100	37	32
	Various	50	50	46	41
Asylum-seekers	Somalia	7,000	7,000	43	62
	DRC	6,900	6,900	47	68
	Eritrea	2,900	2,900	43	55
	Rwanda	2,800	2,800	46	58
	Burundi	1,500	1,500	44	55
	Sudan	1,100	1,100	37	66
	Ethiopia	1,000	1,000	38	39
	Kenya	260	260	44	48
	Various	80	80	22	53
IDPs	Uganda	29,800	29,800	-	-
Returnees (IDPs)	Uganda	95,800	95,800	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	20	20	-	-
Total		288,610	288,610		

- A nutrition survey in the south-west found that the rate of stunted growth amongst the population of concern was above 34 per cent (WHO standards define less than 20 per cent as acceptable). In the West Nile region and Kiryandongo district, the prevalence of anaemia among children between 6 and 59 months of age remained high, at more than 60 per cent. The emergency threshold is less than 40 per cent. Among women of reproductive age (15-45 years) anaemia had stabilized at just under 21 per cent, with 20 per cent being the acceptable level. In a bid to bring down these percentages, 64 peer educators were trained in the prevention and management of anaemia, infant and young child feeding, and hygiene.
- Mosquito nets were distributed to expectant mothers and families with infants and young children of less than five years of age. Malaria and respiratory diseases remain the leading causes of illness and death among people of concern.
- A Community Technology Access Centre was opened in Nakivale refugee settlement to provide computer training and internet facilities to refugees and host communities.

Community participation and self-management

- In the Kyaka II (population: 16,000) and Nakivale (population: 57,500) refugee settlements, community members participated in the planning, delivery and monitoring of community services (such as clothes distribution); education (the construction of two classrooms, for instance); and anti-SGBV and self-reliance projects. They also helped maintain communal resources, such as the environment, water sources, access roads and community centres. In Nakivale, women occupied 30-42 per cent of the community leadership positions. In food management and child welfare committees, female representation rose to 50 per cent. Forty peer educators were trained to strengthen and manage community anti-SGBV structures.
- The verification and profiling results for Adjumani and Moyo showed that over 1,200, or nearly two-thirds of households had achieved self-sufficiency in food and income.
- In the IDP programme, UNHCR supported more than 3,000 extremely vulnerable individuals with community-based livelihood assistance in their area of return. IDP returnees were supported with livestock and farm production inputs. Another 1,600 IDP returnees were able to benefit from a UNHCR-supported microcredit scheme.

Durable solutions

- After five years of assisting and protecting Ugandans displaced by fighting between the LRA and the Ugandan army, UNHCR closed its office in Gulu, northern Uganda, at the end of 2011. At the peak of the conflict in 2005, an estimated 1.8 million displaced Ugandans were living in 251 camps across 11 districts. By December 2011, some 247 camps had been closed and the land returned to its owners following clean-up and rehabilitation. However, some 30,000 Ugandans remained in one of four active camps or in transit centres near their chosen destinations.
- UNHCR participated in separate tripartite meetings between the Government of Uganda and the Governments of Kenya, Rwanda and the DRC.



Waiting at the clinic: Congolese mothers and children in the Kyaka Settlement are particularly vulnerable to malaria.

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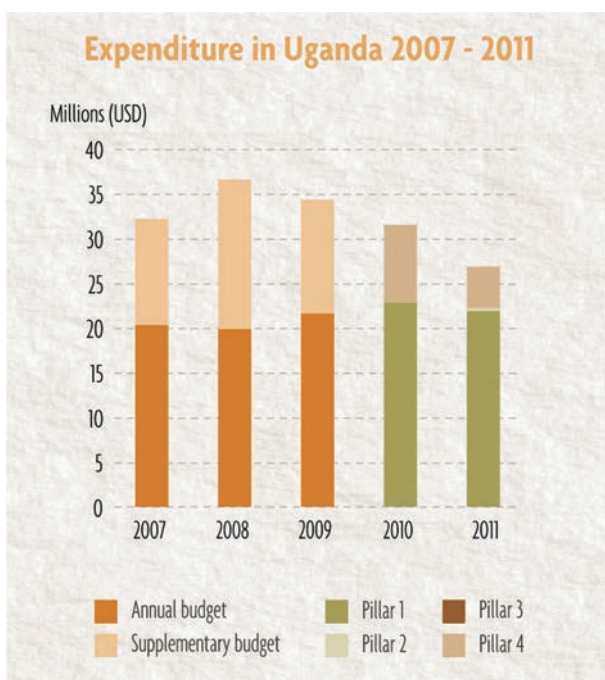
- In 2011, nearly 7,000 DRC refugees opted to return home spontaneously. Voluntary repatriation was also the preferred durable solution for 875 South Sudanese and 69 Kenyans. The results of the 2011 verification and profiling exercise indicate some 1,306 South Sudanese intend to repatriate in 2012.
- Of the 1,585 refugees submitted to various resettlement countries, some 402 were resettled.
- Following discussions with UNHCR on local integration, the Government has said it would look into the possibility of permitting this durable solution.

Constraints

The rising inflation and loss in value of the Ugandan shilling adversely affected programme implementation. The worst affected were food and fuel prices, with power cuts implemented across the country to reduce the costs of importing oil. The increased costs of goods and services priced in shillings reduced the purchasing power of the budget and necessitated compromises in the scope, scale and quality of programmes. For example, refugee verification and profiling could not be completed in the south-west region, where the Nakivale settlement is located. The region hosts an estimated 64 per cent of the total asylum-seeker and refugee population in Uganda.

Financial information

UNHCR's 2011 budget for the Uganda operation stood at just over USD 76 million, including USD 66 million for refugees and USD 9 million for IDP projects. Just over a fifth of the budget was funded by earmarked contributions. Expenditure stood at USD 27 million at the end of 2011, compared to USD 31.7 million in 2010.



Organization and implementation

The principal Government body responsible for refugee affairs is the Department of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees (in the Office of the Prime Minister), which leads the coordination of activities with local government structures in refugee-hosting districts.

The Ugandan authorities, UNHCR and partners coordinate their efforts in monthly inter-agency coordination and information meetings. UNHCR also works closely with a network of 23 partners, including implementing partners and operational partners in both refugee and IDP operations.

To respond to a request from the Government that Oruchinga, in the south-west of Uganda, be the receiving settlement for new refugee arrivals from the DRC, a field unit including protection, community services and programme staff was opened in Isingiro district.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	13
□ Total staff	194
International	22
National	141
JPO	1
UNVs	18
Others	12

Working with others

Collaboration with WFP remained excellent. WFP continued to provide food rations for new arrivals and those refugees unable to produce sufficient food themselves, including people with specific needs. UNHCR's cooperation with other UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS and WHO) was primarily in the contexts of UN Joint Programming, Common Country Assessment (CCA), UNDAF and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNHCR participated in the UNDAF annual review, UN Programme Management Team meetings, the Local Development Partners Group (LDPG) and UN Common Services through the Operational Management Team. UNHCR was also involved in the implementation of a number of UN Joint programmes, such as the Joint UN Programme of Support on Aids (JUPSA), UN Joint Programme on Population (UNJPP) and UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality.

Overall assessment

New refugee arrivals benefited from Uganda's positive asylum policy. Difficulties arose in the programme owing to inflation, and not all needs could be met within the envelope of funding that the Uganda operation received, including important activities in the area of registration, verification, child protection and SGBV. The highlight of the year was the conclusion of UNHCR's protection and assistance operation for IDPs in northern Uganda, seeing most of the estimated 1.84 million Ugandans who had been displaced by fighting between Uganda and the LRA returning home.

Unmet needs

- There was not enough funding to cover the educational needs of more than 4,000 children who are not in primary school, while only 5 per cent of youth are in the national secondary and tertiary institutions.
- Full coverage was not possible in the areas of health, especially mental health; livelihoods; logistics; special assistance for persons living with disabilities; and professional surveys to identify, document and assist unaccompanied and separated minors.
- It was not possible to train government registration staff on how to identify, flag and refer persons with specific needs, particularly unaccompanied and separated minors, during initial registration.
- The relevant authorities could not be trained to identify and manage cases of trafficking, create risk profiles and assist cases.
- Anti-SGBV preventive measures lagged significantly behind needs.
- Verification and profiling of the populations living in the south-western settlements and Kampala, which together host 90 per cent of the refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda, could not be done.

- The quantity of sanitary pads provided was enough for only two months of the year.

Partners
Implementing partners
Government agencies: Adjumani District Local Government, Arua District Local Government, Department of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees (Office of the Prime Minister), Kiryandongo District Local Government, Moyo District Local Government, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Yumbe District Local Government
NGOs: African Humanitarian Action, African Initiative for Relief Development, Aktion Afrika Hilfe, International, Arbeiter Samariter Bund - Germany, Association of Volunteers in International Service, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee - Uganda, Caritas Gulu Archdiocese, Danish Refugee Council, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Inter-Aid Uganda, Medical Teams International, Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development, Windle Trust Uganda
Operational partners
Government agencies: Kampala City Council Health Department, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Others: African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, American Refugee Council, FIDA, Finnish Refugee Council, Human Rights Coalition in Uganda, Jesuit Refugee Services, Missionaries of the Poor, Norwegian Refugee Council, Public Defender Association of Uganda, Real Medicine Foundation, Right to Play, The Refugee Law Project (Makerere University), Uganda Red Cross, WAKISA Ministries, Youth for Christ
Others: ICRC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCHR, WFP

Budget, income and expenditure in Uganda | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	66,658,305	378,000	9,542,675	76,578,980
Income from contributions	12,490,701	0	5,947,650	18,438,351
Other funds available	9,502,992	371,653	2,199,867	12,074,512
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	21,993,693	371,653	8,147,517	30,512,863
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN				
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>				
Prevention of statelessness	0	371,653	0	371,653
Cooperation with partners	98,974	0	0	98,974
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	98,974	0	0	98,974
Access to territory	53,304	0	0	53,304
Environmental protection	510,199	0	0	510,199
Emergency management strengthened	125,371	0	0	125,371
Subtotal	886,822	371,653	0	1,258,475
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>				
Reception conditions	91,883	0	0	91,883
Registration and profiling	765,501	0	0	765,501
Access to asylum procedures	683,581	0	0	683,581
Fair and efficient status determination	151,771	0	0	151,771
Family reunification	91,883	0	0	91,883
Civil status documentation	160,766	0	0	160,766
Subtotal	1,945,385	0	0	1,945,385

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>				
Impact on host communities	274,423	0	0	274,423
Law enforcement	365,326	0	0	365,326
Community security management	69,166	0	0	69,166
Gender-based violence	186,006	0	0	186,006
Protection of children	183,106	0	0	183,106
Freedom of movement	30,280	0	0	30,280
Access to legal remedies	164,446	0	0	164,446
Subtotal	1,272,753	0	0	1,272,753
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>				
Food security	43,488	0	0	43,488
Nutrition	295,560	0	0	295,560
Water	952,649	0	294,615	1,247,264
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,175,005	0	445,989	1,620,994
Basic domestic and hygiene items	498,690	0	0	498,690
Primary health care	1,990,094	0	0	1,990,094
HIV and AIDS	401,388	0	0	401,388
Education	784,286	0	0	784,286
Sanitation services	384,340	0	0	384,340
Services for groups with specific needs	203,603	0	296,884	500,487
Subtotal	6,729,103	0	1,037,488	7,766,591
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>				
Participatory assessment	218,285	0	0	218,285
Community self-management	747,350	0	0	747,350
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,035,094	0	610,629	1,645,723
Subtotal	2,000,729	0	610,629	2,611,358
<i>Durable solutions</i>				
Durable solutions strategy	148,073	0	0	148,073
Voluntary return	388,575	0	397,087	785,662
Resettlement	528,794	0	0	528,794
Local integration	0	0	351,952	351,952
Subtotal	1,065,442	0	749,039	1,814,481
<i>External relations</i>				
Resource mobilisation	15,232	0	0	15,232
Public information	15,232	0	0	15,232
Subtotal	30,464	0	0	30,464
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>				
Supply chain and logistics	2,332,886	0	687,708	3,020,594
Programme management and coordination	2,640,971	0	331,134	2,972,105
Subtotal	4,973,857	0	1,018,842	5,992,699
Other objectives	475	0	0	475
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	3,088,664	0	1,235,778	4,324,442
Total	21,993,694	371,653	4,651,776	27,017,123