

Uganda

Working environment

The context

More than 20 years of civil war have cost tens of thousands of lives and displaced some 1.6 million people in Uganda. Desperate conditions in the north of the country, where IDP camps lack potable water, have led the United Nations to call the situation there one of the world's worst humanitarian catastrophes. But a cessation of hostilities has raised hopes of an end to the suffering. Meanwhile, peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army have made progress, with agreement reached on three of the five items on the agenda.

Uganda's new Refugee Act, which came into force in 2006, includes gender-based persecution as grounds for granting refugee status. The Act takes a progressive approach to freedom of movement, the right to work, land rights, and the treatment of refugees in mass-influx situations.

While assisting Sudanese, Congolese and Rwandan refugees who wish to repatriate voluntarily, UNHCR will also submit eligible cases for resettlement in third countries.

The needs

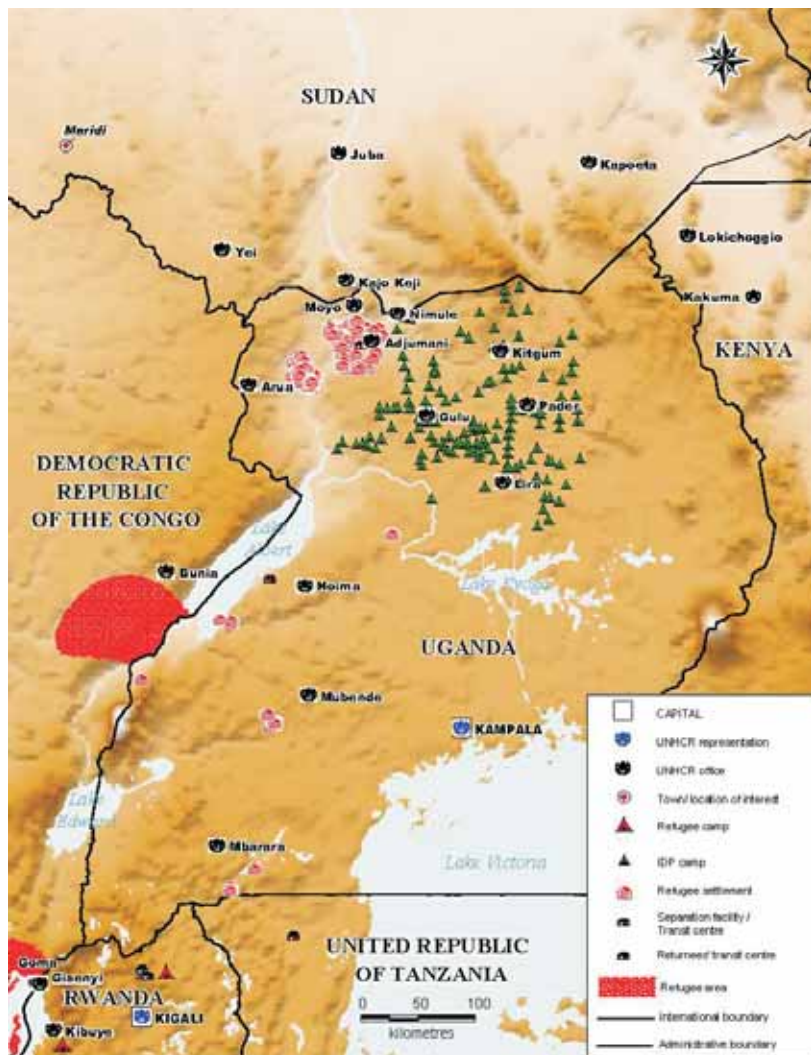
UNHCR aims to build the capacity of government agencies and train their staff to implement the new Refugee Act, and to conduct public awareness campaigns on refugee rights and asylum procedures. The Office will refurbish schools, community halls and health centres for Sudanese refugees, which will be handed over to local communities after the refugees repatriate, also requires support.

Total requirements

2008: USD 16,851,084

2009: USD 16,147,083

(Annual programme only. The financial requirements for the supplementary programmes are being finalized.)



Main objectives

- Protect and assist refugees and asylum-seekers: help them gain access to asylum procedures; prevent *refoulement*, abuse and sexual and gender-based violence; and maintain the civilian character of refugee settlements.
- Under the framework of the cluster approach, protect internally displaced persons (IDPs) against abuse, exploitation and sexual gender-based violence.
- Facilitate and promote, where feasible, the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the sustainable return of IDPs to their areas of origin.
- Help all people of concern enjoy their social and economic rights by focusing on self-reliance programmes; primary health care; prevention and treatment of malnutrition, HIV and AIDS and malaria; primary education; water and sanitation; and the empowerment of women.
- Assist government authorities to implement the new Refugee Act.

- Respond to new influxes of Congolese asylum-seekers in an effective manner.
- Cooperate with the early recovery cluster to implement the Peace Recovery and Development Plan and District Development Plans.

Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- No cases of *refoulement* or arbitrary arrest.
- Some 50,000 Sudanese refugees repatriate voluntarily in 2008 with UNHCR help, and another 50,000 do so in 2009.
- The time required to determine refugee status is reduced in 2008, with further improvements in 2009.
- All victims of sexual and gender-based violence in refugee and IDP areas receive assistance and counselling.
- Living conditions in refugee settlements are equal to those in neighbouring local communities.
- By 2009, all IDP camps are transformed into viable facilities for the local population.
- Primary school enrolment of refugee children rises in 2008 from 63 per cent to 80 per cent of school-age children.
- The distribution rates for treated mosquito nets in refugee settlements rises from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the population in 2008, and is higher in 2009.
- The percentage of women of reproductive age who receive sanitary materials rises from 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the population in 2008, and to 100 per cent in 2009.
- The water supply in camps is increased from the current 12 litres/person/day to 15 litres /person/day in 2008.
- The age, gender and diversity mainstreaming approach is incorporated into all refugee and IDP programmes.
- The protection capability of Government and local authorities is strengthened with UNHCR's help.
- All refugees have access to information on voluntary repatriation and registration procedures.
- All IDPs have information on assisted voluntary return.
- UNHCR develops and implements an exit strategy for IDP areas.

Strategy and activities

Sudanese refugees

UNHCR will continue to facilitate and, when feasible, promote the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Uganda to Southern Sudan. A Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation between UNHCR and the Governments of Sudan and Uganda is expected to result in some 50,000 Sudanese refugees returning home in 2008.

As part of this process, UNHCR will organize repatriation-related registration in the settlements, enabling those wishing to return home to do so in safety and dignity. Information campaigns will help refugees to make informed decisions about repatriation. In this regard, in 2008 UNHCR's priorities include increasing logistical capacity to assist voluntary repatriation; establishing a new repatriation corridor to Nimule and Torit in Sudan's Eastern Equatoria State; and informing refugees about conditions in return areas.

Congolese refugees (DRC)

There are currently some 30,000 Congolese refugees in south-western Uganda, most living in settlements. UNHCR will protect and assist these refugees while facilitating their voluntary repatriation. Eligible cases will be submitted for third-country resettlement. Deteriorating conditions in eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) pose the risk of a major influx into Uganda. UNHCR will work with the Government and other actors to make contingency plans for such an eventuality.

Rwandan refugees

Uganda hosts nearly 20,000 registered refugees of Rwandan origin. Most live in the Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Kiryandongo and Kyaka settlements in western and south-western Uganda. A Tripartite Commission on Repatriation comprising UNHCR and the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda met in Kigali in July 2007. The Commission agreed to support campaigns to provide country-of-origin information and promote voluntary repatriation as the best durable solution.



UNHCR/M. Zamardi

Refugees arriving from the DRC in Kisoro District.

Urban refugees

Up to 20,000 refugees from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Somalia live in Kampala. UNHCR will help the Refugee Eligibility Committee to build its capacity to conduct refugee status determination and ensure that urban refugees have access to asylum procedures.

Constraints

Inadequate security in Southern Sudan and the region's low returnee-absorption capacity are deterring many refugees from repatriating. The dispersal of IDP populations over vast areas makes access difficult. Government institutions need to increase capacity, and public information campaigns need to be conducted, before the new Refugee Act can be fully implemented.

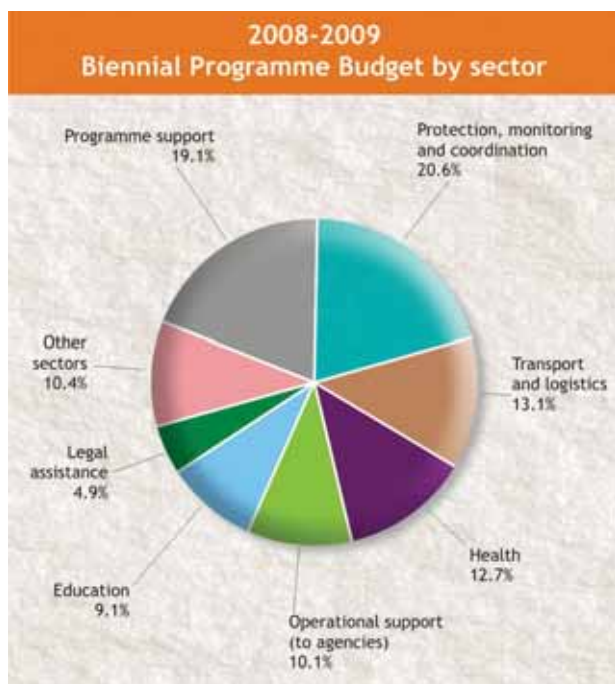
Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 - Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Sudan	205,220	164,570	162,410	150,330	118,090	115,590
	DRC	28,770	28,770	25,770	25,770	18,680	18,680
	Rwanda	21,870	17,000	21,630	16,060	21,390	15,120
	Various	4,900	4,170	4,070	3,320	3,210	2,440
Asylum-seekers	Rwanda	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-
	Somalia	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
	Burundi	900	-	900	-	900	-
	Various	800	-	800	-	800	-
IDPs		1,600,000	1,600,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	800,000	800,000
Total		1,867,460	1,814,510	1,420,580	1,395,480	968,070	951,820

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	11	11
Total staff	136	136
International	17	17
National	83	83
JPOs	5	5
UNVs	30	30
Deployees	1	1



Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Office of the Prime Minister, District Director of Health Services (Districts of Arua, Yumbe, Masindi and Adjumani), District Education Offices (Districts of Arua, Moyo and Yumbe), Directorate of Community Services (Districts of Arua and Yumbe), Ministry of Works and Transport, Moyo District Local Government.

NGOs: Africa Humanitarian Action, *Aktion African Hilfe*, African Development and Emergency Organization, African Initiative for Relief and Development, African Development Initiative, American Refugee Committee, *Arbeiter Samariter Bund*, Association of Volunteers in International Service, Christian Children's Fund, Danish Refugee Council, German Development Services, GOAL (Ireland), InterAid Uganda, International Rescue Committee, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, Jesuit Refugee Services, Madi AIDS Control Initiative, Norwegian Refugee Council, Samaritan's Purse, War Child Canada, Windle Trust Uganda, Youth Anti Aids Service Association.

Operational partners

Government agencies: Office of the Prime Minister, District Disaster Management Committees, District Directorate for Health Services (Kyenjojo, Hoima, Isingiro), District Education office (Adjumani, Kyenjojo, Hoima, Isingiro).

NGOs: Right to Play, Finnish Refugee Council, International Medical Corps.

Others: OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNHCHR, UNICEF, WFP.

Coordination

UNHCR will implement its refugee and IDP programmes in close coordination with the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian and development partners. The Office will work with UNDP on early recovery schemes to ensure a smooth transition from relief to development activities in areas of return.

Internally displaced persons

To enhance the international response to the humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda, UNHCR will lead the IDP protection, and camp coordination and camp management clusters. It will also seek durable solutions for IDPs by facilitating their voluntary return to their areas of origin, local integration in current areas of settlement or relocation to other parts of the country. As peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army progress, UNHCR and its partners will expand protection monitoring. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee mechanism will help improve conditions in areas of return and transform former camps into viable communities. UNHCR will remain

in Gulu, Lira, Kitgum and Pader in northern Uganda for the next two years to ensure effective field monitoring.

The objectives for 2008 and 2009 include:

- Monitoring and protecting IDPs in camps and in return areas.
- Establishing an IDP return monitoring and reporting framework.
- Helping build the capacity of government institutions in protection; monitoring; camp management; counselling and support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; dealing with individuals with specific needs; and return programmes.
- Work with UNDP and the Government to enhance community-based support programmes in areas of return.

Budget (USD)					
Activities and services	2007			2008	2009
	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,600,790	4,347,049	7,947,839	3,401,300	3,401,300
Community services	1,324,380	70,000	1,394,380	882,421	732,854
Crop production	67,724	0	67,724	8,896	8,896
Domestic needs	162,480	2,498,797	2,661,277	136,714	133,966
Education	2,002,924	40,000	2,042,924	1,594,325	1,407,324
Forestry	169,682	0	169,682	278,996	171,344
Health	2,075,398	145,000	2,220,398	2,157,505	2,030,329
Legal assistance	470,238	4,080,000	4,550,238	896,538	719,071
Livestock	18,795	0	18,795	0	0
Operational support (to agencies)	1,389,019	523,782	1,912,801	1,705,537	1,632,526
Sanitation	312,152	9,000	321,152	173,322	161,506
Shelter and other infrastructure	551,744	667,224	1,218,968	165,714	157,675
Transport and logistics	2,002,397	850,000	2,852,397	2,089,392	2,241,974
Water	743,970	166,800	910,770	210,641	198,535
Total operations	14,891,692	13,397,652	28,289,344	13,701,301	12,997,300
Programme support	3,057,322	122,310	3,179,632	3,149,783	3,149,783
Total	17,949,014	13,519,962	31,468,976	16,851,084	16,147,083

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget excludes a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.