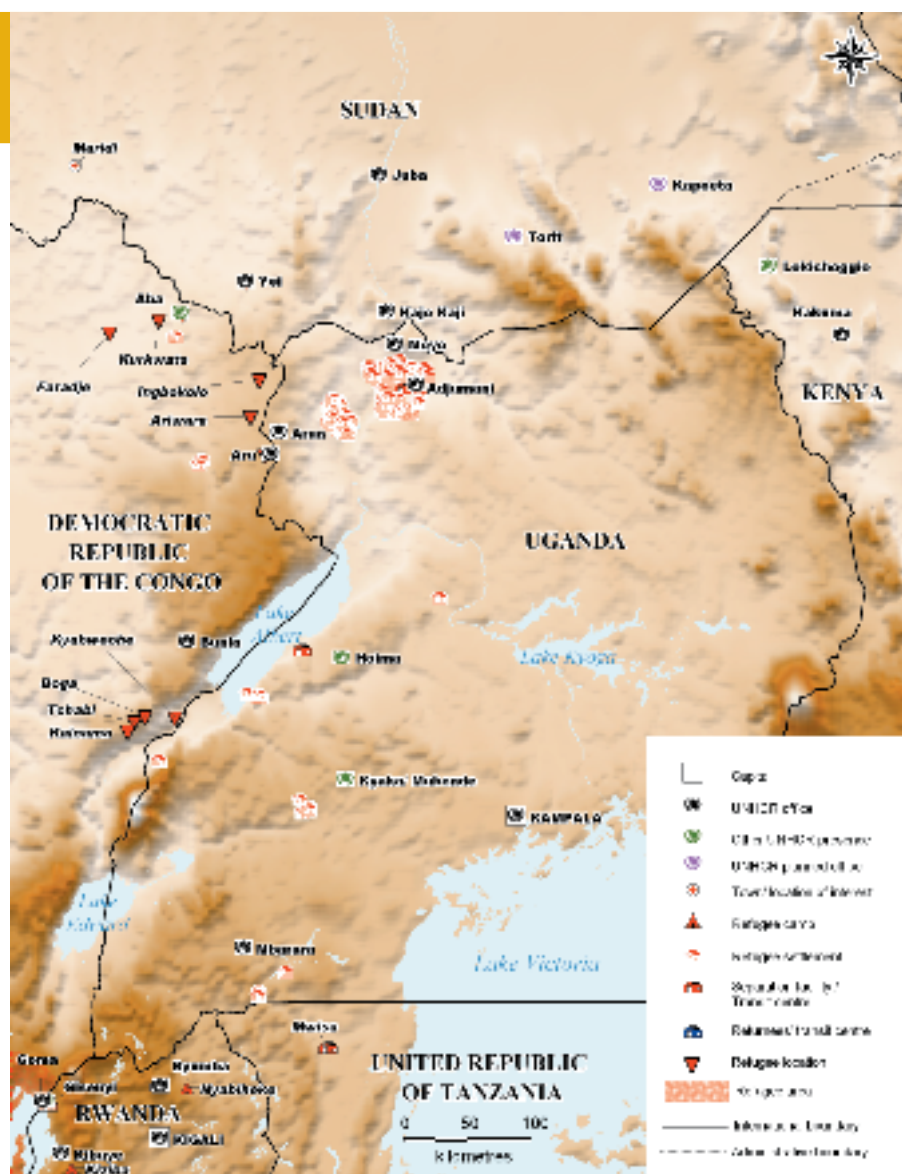


Uganda

Main objectives

- Provide international protection and assistance to refugees whilst pursuing durable solutions for them.
- Continue to promote increased self-reliance and the integration of refugee services into national structures.
- Expand the *Development Assistance to Refugee Hosting Areas Programme* (DAR) and ensure its full ownership by the Ugandan Government.
- Put into effect the new domestic Refugee Bill and institutionalize Government protection and management structures.
- Monitor the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) located in refugee hosting areas/districts and intervene when necessary.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Sudan (refugees)	228,700	218,700
DRC (refugees)	25,000	25,000
Rwanda (refugees)	16,000	16,000
Returnees	100	100
Total	269,800	259,800

Total requirements: USD 16,956,248

Working environment

Recent developments

Uganda hosts refugees from three of its five immediate neighbours, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and the Sudan, as well as smaller groups from Somalia, Burundi, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Nearly all of these countries continue to experience conflicts, which have caused further outflows into Uganda. In addition, Uganda is facing its own displacement crisis in the north, caused by the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). As a result of this geopolitical environment, the refugee programme in Uganda is in a state of flux, with refugees and returnees moving



UNHCR officers discussing voluntary repatriation with Sudanese refugees. *UNHCR / T. Muftic*

in and out of Uganda almost daily. Some of the asylum-seekers, particularly from DRC, seek temporary refuge and return to their places of origin when hostilities subside. They are reluctant to be moved to designated refugee settlements.

Despite the generous promotion by the Government of Uganda of the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS), under which refugees have been provided with both residential and agricultural plots, the programme has been affected by the recurrent conflict with the LRA.

Constraints

Refugees in Uganda are settled in 68 communities, dispersed over 600 kilometres of territory. As families have grown in numbers, however, available fertile arable land has become insufficient.

Encroachment on land by nationals, particularly in Nakivale and Oruchinga, has created tensions and reduced the land available to refugees.

A number of factors not only hinder the repatriation process but have become reasons for influxes to Uganda, such as increased attacks by the LRA in Northern Uganda and South Sudan, food shortages in South Sudan, the unpredictable security situation in eastern DRC, fear of the *Gacaca* process (a new form of the traditional justice system which is being used to try alleged Rwandan genocide perpetrators) as well as land disputes in Rwanda. The great challenge for UNHCR is how to address the protection needs and assistance requirements of the existing refugee population and also meet the emerging needs of newly arriving refugees.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

The Government of Uganda continues to maintain a generous refugee regime. The Refugee Bill, which incorporates fundamental human rights principles, was approved by the Ugandan cabinet and Treasury and is scheduled for parliamentary debate.

UNHCR will continue to apprise all stakeholders, including refugees, of the provisions of the Refugee Bill, and will support drafting of the implementing regulations necessitated by those provisions. UNHCR will also support training of immigration, police and security officials, and upgrading of refugee management structures, such as the Refugee Eligibility Committee, to bring them into conformity with the new legislation.

In 2004, the Government of Uganda and UNHCR launched *the Development Assistance to Refugee Hosting Areas* (DAR) programme to ensure better food security, access to social services and improved income generating opportunities for refugees and host communities. DAR empowers refugees and locals to participate in the planning and implementation of their own development agenda. It ensures that refugees play a key role in their own socio-economic development and contribute to the development of their host communities. The 2004 review of DAR's predecessor, the Self-Reliance Strategy, revealed significant improvements in food crop production, greater access to social services, better provision of training and increased consultations between refugees and host communities.

Resettlement has been considered as a protection tool and durable solution for some refugees in Uganda. The main countries of resettlement are the United States, Canada and Australia. By the end of 2005, 1,500 refugees are expected to have been resettled, with a further 1,500 over the course of 2006, most of them from Rwanda, Sudan and DRC.

Sudanese refugees

There are 228,700 Sudanese refugees living in 68 settlements in six districts in Uganda and 40,000 of them are considered to be satisfactorily self-reliant and are not assisted. Following the signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), it was anticipated that some 35,000 Sudanese refugees from different locations in Uganda would have repatriated to Sudan in 2005. However, in view of the lack of infrastructure and basic services in southern Sudan, the projected number of returnees in 2005 has been reduced to 6,000. In 2006, up to 10,000 are expected to return. Since 2004, 18,000 new arrivals from Sudan have reached Uganda, citing LRA fighting, inter-ethnic tensions and lack of food as reasons for leaving Sudan.

Rwandan refugees

Rwandan refugees have been encouraged to repatriate. However, in 2004, of the some 2,400 who returned home, 500 made their way back to Uganda citing lack of land, fear of the *Gacaca* process, arbitrary arrest and lack of infrastructure as the reasons for their return. In 2005, an additional 500 have sought asylum in Uganda.

Some 5,000 Rwandan asylum-seekers previously living in the United Republic of Tanzania now live alongside recognized refugees in Nakivale settlement. They have access to community-based assistance such as health and water services.

Congolese (DRC) refugees

With continued instability in DRC, new refugees continue to arrive in Uganda. The magnitude of the influx depends on protection and assistance delivered inside DRC and on whether the asylum-seekers are allowed by the different Congolese militia groups to leave the country. The main protection concerns continue to be the suspected presence of militia, sexual and gender-based violence, and inter-ethnic tensions among the refugees. A special emergency allocation of USD 1.25 million was provided in April 2005 for the more than 8,000 newly-arrived Congolese

refugees who have been relocated to Kyaka II, effectively doubling the size of that settlement.

Other refugees

There are refugees from Somalia, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and other neighbouring countries who are living in Kampala and the settlements. Refugees in urban areas receive occasional, needs-based, limited assistance.

Internally displaced people

Eighteen years of conflict in 19 northern districts in Uganda led to the massive displacement of up to 1.6 million Ugandans and the establishment of 218 IDP camps. The quality of life in the IDP camps is sub-standard, marked by poor housing, poor hygiene and sanitation and food supply problems. Many IDPs have limited access to education and health care. A *Draft Framework for the Return, Resettlement and Reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Uganda* has been prepared under the auspices of OCHA with the assistance of the Internal Displacement Division. UNHCR has been an active participant in 2005 in the numerous working groups and planning processes concerning IDPs.

Assistance

The Ugandan Government continues to provide free access to land, thereby enabling the refugees to achieve varying degrees of self-sufficiency. UNHCR will continue to ensure that basic assistance and international protection are provided to the refugees. Repatriation will continue to be encouraged for the Sudanese, Congolese and Rwandan refugee populations despite the challenges being faced in their countries of origin.

Desired impact

Through DAR, the operation in Uganda aims to facilitate the most appropriate durable solutions

for refugees and host communities alike. Increased participation by refugee women and opportunities for education and training will help the communities to sustain themselves, as well as ensure better food security, access to social services and improved income generating opportunities. Economic recovery and self-reliance will be further enhanced through an effective transition from humanitarian aid to development activities. Monitoring of the situation of IDPs in northern Uganda will result in interventions that will improve their protection. The training of government officials and the introduction of new refugee legislation will ensure that the Government has a better capacity to deal with protection issues.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

UNHCR's operations in Uganda are coordinated by a country office in Kampala, supported by two sub-offices in Arua and Moyo, three field offices in Adjunani/Pakelle, Hoima and Mbarara, and a field office in Kyaka/Mubende. The Uganda programme will be managed by a total of 110 staff members: 21 internationals, 78 nationals and 11 UNVs.

Coordination

The UNHCR Representation in Uganda will continue to coordinate with the United Nations Country Team, the Regional Technical Support Services (RTSS) as well as UN sister agencies (particularly WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, FAO and WHO), and other national and international NGOs. The office will continue to take part in the preparation of the Common Country Assessment (CCA), the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal (CAP) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes.

Offices

Kampala
Adjumani/Pakelle
Arua
Hoima
Kyaka/Mubende
Mbarara
Moyo

Partners

Government agencies
Directorate of District Community Development Department (Arua)
District Directorate of Health Services (Adjumani, Moyo and Arua districts)
District Education Office (Adjumani, Moyo and Arua districts)
District Forestry Office (Adjumani, Moyo and Arua districts)
Office of the Prime Minister

NGOs

African Development and Emergency Organization
African Humanitarian Action
Aktion Afrika Hilfe
Danish Assistance to the Self-Reliance Strategy
Finish Refugee Council
German Development Services
German Technical Cooperation
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust (UK)
Inter-Aid Uganda
International Medical Corps (USA)
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugees Services
Right to Play
Save the Children Fund
Uganda Red Cross Society

Others

UNV

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget ¹	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,750,360	258,390	4,008,750
Community services	309,076	15,000	324,076
Crop production	86,226	0	86,226
Domestic needs	179,013	0	179,013
Education	2,216,355	40,000	2,256,355
Health	1,620,922	5,000	1,625,922
Legal assistance	355,255	40,000	395,255
Operational support (to agencies)	2,143,117	40,000	2,183,117
Sanitation	112,859	2,500	115,359
Shelter / other infrastructure	205,214	5,000	210,214
Transport / logistics	2,530,464	300,000	2,830,464
Water	241,502	0	241,502
Total operations	13,750,363	705,890	14,456,253
Programme support	2,499,995	0	2,499,995
Total	16,250,358	705,890	16,956,248

¹ The figures refer to the supplementary programme for the repatriation and reintegration of Congolese (DRC) refugees.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7% support cost (USD 49,412) that is recovered from each contribution received to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).