

# Uganda

## Main objectives

Provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and pursue voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement; promote the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS) for Sudanese, Congolese and Rwandan refugees through food production and integration of services into national structures; play a catalytic role in encouraging development agencies and NGOs to incorporate the SRS into their programmes to benefit Ugandan nationals and refugees.

## Impact

- UNHCR provided international protection to some 230,000 refugees.
- A total of 369 cases were submitted to resettlement countries for consideration.
- UNHCR helped some 2,500 Rwandan, 59 Sudanese and 24 Congolese refugees to repatriate.
- Seventy three Ugandan refugees returned home.
- The programme of assistance and protection to urban refugees underwent a thorough review by all stakeholders.
- A review of the SRS, and subsequent recommendations, heralded its forthcoming transformation into the Development Assistance for Refugee Hosting Areas (DAR) programme, which will serve as the mainstay of the refugee assistance policy in Uganda.
- An SRS/DAR Secretariat was established and the first project implemented (construction of a bridge to link refugee and local communities).



## Working environment

### The context

During 2004, the Uganda People's Defence Force and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army pursued the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) into Southern Sudan, causing internal displacement in Sudan and resulting in inflows of more than 900 Sudanese per month. Fighting continued in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Congolese refugees crossed into Uganda and were eventually settled in Kyaka II (Kyenjojo district). The population there increased by 72 per cent during 2004, putting a severe strain on education and health facilities and access to clean water and sanitation.

Repeated incursions by the LRA into Adjumani district led to the displacement of 25,000 refugees and some 10,000 Ugandans. As a result of the displacement, the level of food dependency increased, schools in safer areas became overcrowded and there were increased demands on remaining health providers. The self-reliance strategy of the Government in Adjumani stagnated.

## Constraints

As there is no encampment policy in Uganda, refugees are settled in 65 communities, dispersed over 600 kms of territory. Unfavorable climatic conditions in certain settlements affected agricultural

production and unfortunately reversed the gains made in earlier years in terms of food self-sufficiency. WFP had to revise its food policy in order to provide additional food to particularly disadvantaged refugees. As families grew in numbers, the availability of fertile arable land to sustain refugees' agricultural requirements in settlements became insufficient. Encroachment on land by nationals, particularly in Nakivale and Oruchinga, created tensions and reduced the amount of land available to refugees. Agriculture production in Kyaka II, Ikafe and Nakivale settlements was constrained by a shortage of water.

Early pregnancy caused many girls to abandon their education. Malaria continued to be a chronic

### Persons of concern

Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (refugees)	214,700	194,700	49	60
Rwanda (refugees)	18,900	18,900	48	68
DRC (refugees)	15,000	14,800	49	62
Somalia (refugees)	1,100	1,100	49	49
Burundi (refugees)	700	700	46	59
Somalia (asylum-seekers)	600	-	46	52
Rwanda (asylum-seekers)	300	-	45	45
DRC (asylum-seekers)	300	-	44	53
Ethiopia (asylum-seekers)	200	-	32	15
Burundi (asylum-seekers)	100	-	47	42
Eritrea (asylum-seekers)	100	-	45	29
Sudan (asylum-seekers)	100	-	39	47

### Income and expenditure (USD) Annual and Supplementary programme budgets

	Revised budget	Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	Total funds available	Total expenditure
<b>AB</b>	16,300,170	6,443,376	9,810,549	16,253,925	16,253,925
<b>SB<sup>3</sup></b>	3,138,971	0	723,929	723,929	723,928
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,439,141</b>	<b>6,443,376</b>	<b>10,534,478</b>	<b>16,977,854</b>	<b>16,977,853</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

<sup>2</sup> Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

<sup>3</sup> The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese refugees in Southern Sudan.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.





Uganda: A Sudanese refugee woman from a women's sewing cooperative in Adjumani - an example of working towards self-sufficiency. *UNHCR/K. McKinsey*

problem, especially among children. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including domestic violence and forced early marriages, were common problems for refugees and nationals alike.

## Funding

In general, the increased influxes and reduced repatriation put additional strains on an already tight





budget and forced UNHCR to prioritize life-saving and protection activities. As a result only 75 per cent of the sanitary needs of women and girls were met, and UNHCR could not assist all SGBV survivors with

timely medical examinations and certificates (mandatory for prosecution purposes). The use of old vehicles, repeatedly in need of repair, curtailed outreach activities. Only half the refugee teachers got additional professional guidance. As construction was severely constrained, many lessons (with very large class sizes) had to be conducted in the open air under the shade of a tree, weather permitting. Additional funds were raised to meet emergency needs which arose in Adjumani district.

## Achievements and impact

### Protection and solutions

The Government of Uganda continued to apply liberal asylum policies towards refugees, who enjoy the right to primary education (which is free of charge for refugees and Ugandans) and have the right to work.

An unknown number of refugees continued to reside in Kampala and other urban centres. As long as refugees were self-sufficient, they could remain in urban centres; otherwise they were required to seek assistance in settlements. All refugees are entitled to international protection and they have the right to request asylum. All such claims are decided by the Refugee Eligibility Committee which has an 80 per cent acceptance rate.

Despite considerable efforts to promote voluntary repatriation to Rwanda, only some 2,500 refugees registered to return. Of these, 500 subsequently made their way back to Uganda, citing several reasons: lack of land and infrastructure, fear of traditional justice by the traditional *Gacaca* courts, and arbitrary arrest. While no organized repatriation to South Sudan was possible, yet, the Office assisted refugees who opted to return to Khartoum instead.

The new refugee law was tabled before Parliament and UNHCR introduced Project PROFILE in the Nakivale, Oruchinga and Kyaka settlements.

### Activities and assistance

**Community services:** The focus was on a variety of cross-cutting themes to enhance social protection, particularly for "at-risk" groups such as refugee

women, children, adolescents, elderly and disabled persons. UNHCR mobilized young people to join sports activities and communicated messages of empowerment for adolescent boys and girls, as well as HIV-AIDS prevention messages. Distribution of sanitary materials was undertaken in all settlements though at a reduced level. UNHCR provided targeted assistance to 15,000 of the most vulnerable persons and also supported foster families hosting some 2,300 unaccompanied minors. UNHCR also provided assistance with tracing and fostering of Congolese refugee children. To address SGBV, UNHCR facilitated 344 sensitization meetings (attended by over 3,800 refugee women and 2,700 men) and used drama to raise community awareness of this continuing problem. Training sessions were conducted on SGBV, involving refugees and local community leaders, government agencies and implementing partners. An interim taskforce in Kampala comprising UN agencies, civic and professional organizations and Government agencies met three times during the latter half of 2004 with the aim of developing a national strategy on SGBV and formalizing the task force structure.

**Crop production:** Some 34.5 tons of seeds were distributed to refugees in the north west to help improve their food-sufficiency. In addition, vanilla and sweet potato vines, casava, as well as banana shoots were distributed in different settlements in the country. Two crop yield assessments were carried out in the settlements and the findings were circulated to stakeholders.

**Domestic needs/Household support:** UNHCR provided limited assistance to an average of 100 urban refugees per month.

**Education:** UNHCR supported refugee students in 13 self-help secondary schools (schools run by refugees) and in 99 refugee primary schools. Over 12,600 pre-schoolers attended community-based nursery schools in different settlements. The DAFI scholarship programme benefited 89 students, and more than 1,200 persons participated in adult literacy training. Peace education acquired greater importance and showed remarkable achievements despite financial shortfalls: 54 previously trained peace education facilitators were hired to carry out 230 community workshops (benefiting some 8,400 persons). In addition, 356 sensitization meetings were held for more than 15,000 persons.

**Fisheries:** Activities benefited refugees and the local population in the Moyo District along the Nile River. Twenty-five women received training in fishing methods, and in food processing. UNHCR also trained 40 fish landing site attendants, and constructed four pit latrines at the landing sites. Finally, a 12 month facilitation allowance was paid to the Head of the District Fishery Department.

**Forestry:** In Adjumani and Moyo, approximately 357,000 seedlings of various species of trees were distributed to communities in refugee hosting areas. In Nakivale, Oruchinga and Kyaka II settlements, 312,000 tree seedlings were distributed.

**Health/Nutrition:** The health status of refugees was within acceptable levels with a crude mortality rate lower than one/1000/month and an under-five mortality rate lower than three/1,000/month. Nutrition status was within acceptable levels. Global acute malnutrition affected less than 10 per cent of the population in the northern refugee settlements and less than five per cent in the south-western settlements. The prevalence of severe malnutrition and low birth-weight was less than two per cent in all refugee settlements. The most common causes of morbidity and mortality continued to be malaria, respiratory tract infection, diarrhoea, intestinal worms, sexually transmitted infections and AIDS. All settlements had voluntary counselling centres (with the exception of Kyaka II).

**Income generation:** The vocational scholarship programme comprised two categories; post-primary training for 120 beneficiaries and post-secondary training for 150 beneficiaries in areas such as nursing, teacher training, secretarial, agricultural extension, social work, motor vehicle mechanics and plumbing.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR organized six protection workshops for police officers, implementing partners and its own staff, including sessions on the rights of the child and the documentation and registration of unaccompanied minors. UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local NGO to provide legal aid services to refugees charged with criminal offences. To promote voluntary repatriation to Rwanda, the Tripartite Commission on the Return of Rwandan Refugees met formally on two occasions, a "go-and-see" visit to Rwanda and two "come-and-inform" missions from Rwanda to

refugees in Uganda were arranged. Videos were shown regularly and sensitization meetings held.

**Livestock:** More than 320 goats were purchased and distributed to mainly female farmers in the settlements in the south western part of the country. Selected veterinary drugs and supplies were also procured and provided to the refugee farmers. In some of the settlements, 4,500 animals were treated against various diseases and over 2,000 animals were vaccinated. A livestock census conducted in Rhino Camp indicated the presence of some 600 cattle and 28,000 goats.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR assisted national and international implementing partners by covering their administrative costs, and carried out a number of protection and programme training workshops for partners of the Office.

**Sanitation:** In Arua, UNHCR constructed several pit latrines and garbage pits. A workshop on domestic hygiene was attended by 80 refugee women, and 60 households were awarded prizes for good sanitation practices. Sensitization sessions on sanitation were held for 50 community leaders. In Adjumani and Moyo, a number of latrines were constructed.

**Shelter/Other infrastructure:** While the Government provided plots to newly arrived refugees in the settlements in the north western parts of the country, UNHCR provided tools and plastic sheetings for the new arrivals to construct their shelters. A seventy-five km access road was maintained in the settlements in Moyo, and 18 km of access road leading to the Kyaka II settlement for the newly arrived Congolese refugees was maintained. A multiple culvert bridge was constructed across Olijji River in Adjumani. To reinforce the availability of educational facilities for the self-help secondary schools, two classrooms (including offices and staff rooms) were constructed in Kyaka II and in a settlement in Mongula/Adjumani.

**Transport/Logistics:** Registration for return to Rwanda was continuous and groups of as few as 18 persons were assisted with transportation to return. The central warehouse for relief items in Kampala continued to be responsible for the maintenance of the existing truck fleet and was managed by one of UNHCR's partners. Two other partners maintained mechanical workshops for the repair and maintenance of project vehicles.

**Water:** Several hundred boreholes in Arua and in Adjumani/Moyo settlements were repaired to improve the water supply and to reduce the walking distance from home to water points. In Kyungwali, UNHCR maintained boreholes and shallow wells, and dug several new shallow wells and production wells.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

UNHCR relocated its main office in Kampala to larger and more secure premises at a reduced rent. The office in Mbarara was maintained as were the field units in Moyo and Hoima. The programme was implemented by 19 international and 93 national staff. Both an ad hoc inspection and an internal audit were conducted, and all the recommendations which required action by UNHCR in Uganda were implemented.

### Working with others

UNHCR, through its participation in the UN Country Team and donor forums, and in consultation with central and district government authorities, managed to integrate the Self-Reliance Strategy for refugees into the local and national development plan (the Poverty Eradication Action Plan). Furthermore, refugee issues were incorporated into the Common Country Assessment and the UN Development Assistance Framework. The Office carried out its programme of activities through twelve implementing partners and five operational partners. The Directorate for Refugees (Office of the Prime Minister) and the district governments remained the main counterparts. WFP was directly involved in the delivery of services to refugees, while UNICEF provided services to refugee hosting communities. New areas of cooperation were discussed with FAO, while ILO seconded an expert to assist with activities for livelihood creation. The Office continued to participate in the Consolidated Appeals Process.

## Overall assessment

The expansion of the SRS into a DAR programme paves the way for UNHCR's exit from sectors in which it has been involved for more than 15 years. It also helps prepare for an eventual withdrawal of UNHCR, when refugees successfully repatriate. Through a thorough review of the urban programme, UNHCR managed to clear a new path for both UNHCR and the Government in 2005. The Office was unable to implement repatriation activities for the Sudan but established some baseline plans that will help launch programmes in 2005. As for the return to Rwanda, new efforts will need to be made in 2005 to bring refugees to an understanding of the benefits of sustained return.

### Offices

#### Kampala

Adjumani/Pakelle  
Arua  
Hoima  
Mbarara  
Moyo

### Partners

#### Government agencies

Local District Governments  
Office of the Prime Minister

#### NGOs

African Development and Emergency Organization  
African Humanitarian Action  
Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development  
*Aktion Afrika Hilfe*  
Finnish Refugee Council  
German Development Services  
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust  
Integrated Rural Development Initiatives  
Inter Aid  
International Aid Sweden  
International Rescue Committee  
Jesuits Refugee Services  
Lutheran World Federation  
Ockenden International  
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization

#### Others

Uganda Red Cross Society



## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,588,933	0	<b>2,588,933</b>	0
Community services	249,498	71,927	<b>321,425</b>	99,619
Crop production	279,823	0	<b>279,823</b>	104,032
Domestic needs / household support	180,244	188,724	<b>368,968</b>	74,862
Education	1,551,490	0	<b>1,551,490</b>	547,224
Fisheries	1,447	0	<b>1,447</b>	884
Forestry	272,240	0	<b>272,240</b>	177,436
Health and nutrition	1,102,920	0	<b>1,102,920</b>	663,557
Income generation	39,466	1,770	<b>41,236</b>	30,798
Legal assistance	271,406	0	<b>271,406</b>	73,724
Livestock	28,759	0	<b>28,759</b>	21,900
Operational support (to agencies)	1,556,075	1,362	<b>1,557,437</b>	580,028
Sanitation	34,315	0	<b>34,315</b>	45,298
Shelter and infrastructure	315,065	0	<b>315,065</b>	397,371
Transport and logistics	2,215,747	230,945	<b>2,446,692</b>	631,040
Water	165,833	59,773	<b>225,607</b>	111,764
Instalments with implementing partners	2,988,045	0	<b>2,988,045</b>	(3,559,536)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>13,841,305</b>	<b>554,502</b>	<b>14,395,807</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	2,412,620	169,426	<b>2,582,046</b>	0
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>16,253,925</b>	<b>723,928</b>	<b>16,977,853</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	8,247,021	0	<b>8,247,021</b>	
Reporting received	(5,258,976)	0	<b>(5,258,976)</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,988,045</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,988,045</b>	
<b>Prior years' report</b>				
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Outstanding 1 January				3,731,301
Payments made				12,970
Reporting received				(3,559,536)
Refunded to UNHCR				(184,735)
<b>Balance</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Unliquidated obligations</b>				
Outstanding 1 January				998,707
Disbursements				(774,123)
Cancellations				(224,584)
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>				<b>0</b>