

# Uganda in short

## Main Objectives

- Incorporate services for Sudanese refugees into existing national structures and continue to promote their self-reliance.
- Ensure that refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda continue to receive basic assistance and services, and encourage their self-sufficiency.
- Continue to provide effective protection, assistance and counselling for urban refugees in Kampala.
- Encourage development agencies to incorporate the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS), jointly developed by the Government of Uganda and UNHCR, into their programmes for refugees and Ugandan nationals.

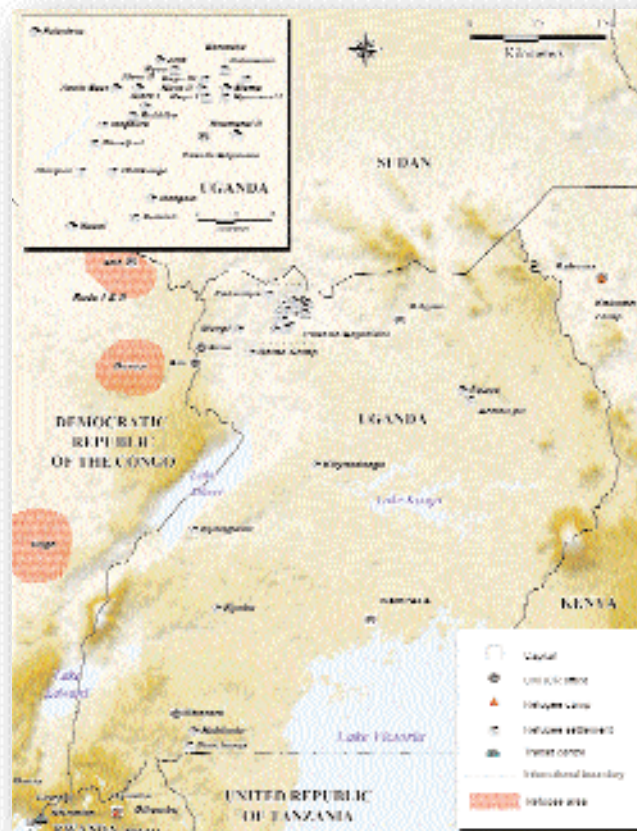
## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

UNHCR has a long-standing presence in Uganda, which has hosted several large refugee populations since the 1960s. More recently, the conflicts in neighbouring Sudan and the DRC have resulted in refugees fleeing into the northern and western parts of the country.

In 2000, about 6,000 new refugees arrived in Adjumani and Arua districts (northern Uganda) as a result of the conflict in southern Sudan between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). As prospects for repatriation to Sudan remained remote, UNHCR continued to implement the four-year SRS for the Sudanese refugees in Arua, Adjumani and Moyo districts. The SRS was adopted in 1999 and aims to help Sudanese refugees achieve self-sufficiency through the integration of services for refugees into existing district structures.

Fighting also continued in the DRC, despite the signing in 1999 of the Lusaka Peace Agreement. As a result, an estimated 1,800 Congolese refugees arrived in 2000. UNHCR, meanwhile, has updated its contingency plans for potential refugee influxes from the DRC into south-western Uganda.



### PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Sudanese Refugees	183,300	183,300
Congolese (DRC) Refugees	9,800	9,800
Rwandan Refugees	9,900	9,900
Other Refugees	1,800	1,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,800</b>	<b>204,800</b>

**TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 18,783,506**

### Constraints

Security in and around refugee camps and settlements continues to be a source of concern. Border areas, particularly in the north – where most refugee settlements are located – are economically marginalised and suffer from occasional incursions and attacks by armed rebel forces. Inadequate resources

and infrastructure in northern Uganda, particularly health facilities, complicate assistance for Sudanese refugees. The limited number of local NGOs in the north has reduced the ability of the local authorities to provide services for the refugees. The shortage of adequate farming land in the refugee settlement areas of south-western Uganda is a major obstacle to the attainment of self-sufficiency by Congolese and Rwandan refugees.

## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

The Government of Uganda has maintained a liberal refugee policy. Refugee laws are normally applied generously and Sudanese and Congolese refugees continue to be recognised as refugees on a *prima facie* basis. In 2001, the Government and UNHCR will continue to collaborate closely on issues relevant to the international protection of refugees. UNHCR will continue to advocate passage of the national refugee bill, which is presently at the Council of Ministers. This will strengthen the national system for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, spelling out their rights and obligations as well as procedures for the review of asylum claims. Resettlement will be facilitated for a limited number of refugees with specific protection problems. UNHCR will also continue to work closely with the national Eligibility Committee on issues affecting the determination of refugee status.

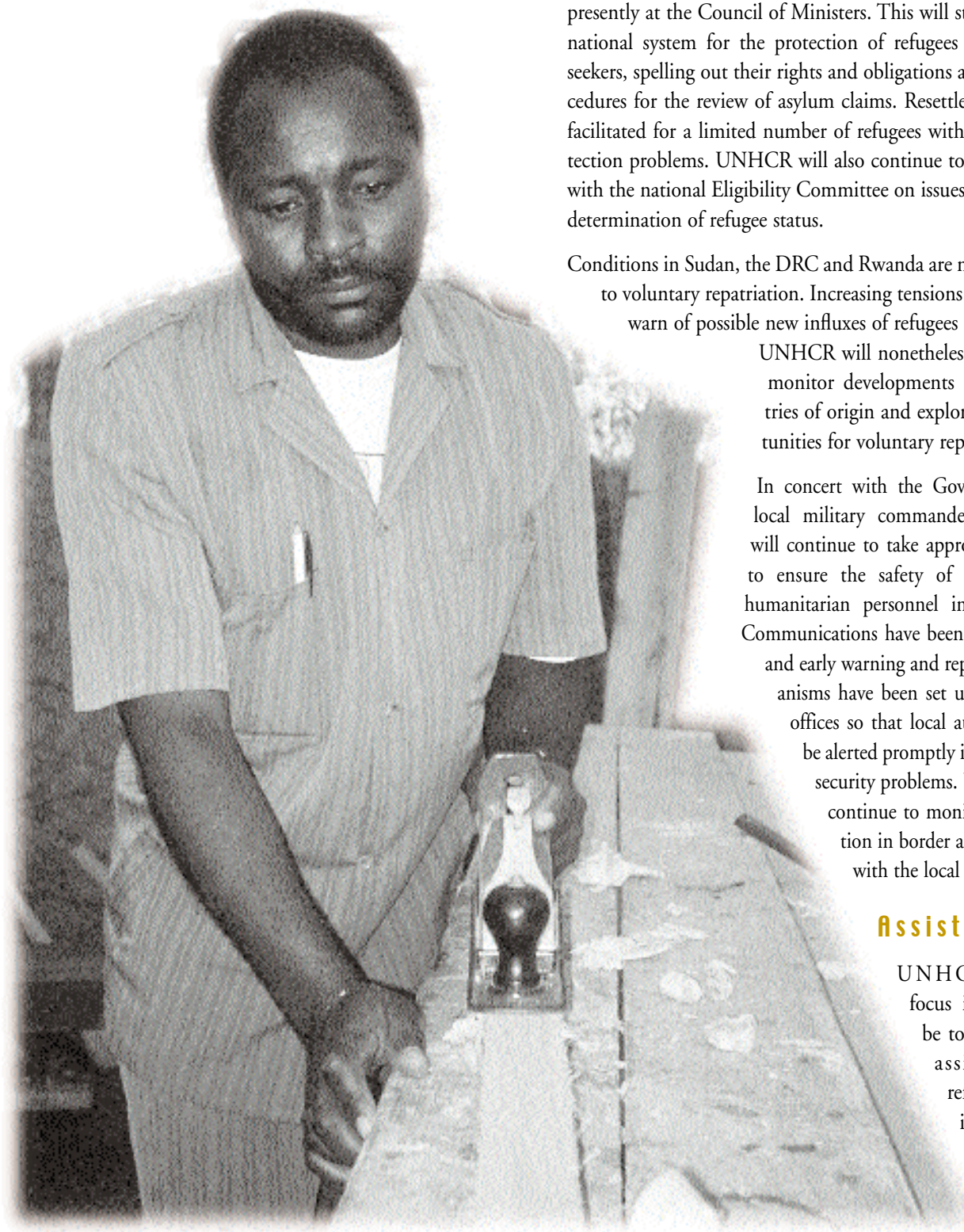
Conditions in Sudan, the DRC and Rwanda are not conducive to voluntary repatriation. Increasing tensions in the region warn of possible new influxes of refugees into Uganda.

UNHCR will nonetheless continue to monitor developments in the countries of origin and explore any opportunities for voluntary repatriation.

In concert with the Government and local military commanders, UNHCR will continue to take appropriate action to ensure the safety of refugees and humanitarian personnel in the camps. Communications have been strengthened and early warning and reporting mechanisms have been set up at the field offices so that local authorities can be alerted promptly in the event of security problems. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation in border areas and liaise with the local authorities.

### Assistance

UNHCR's main focus in 2001 will be to ensure basic assistance for refugees and to incorporate services for them into national





structures, in line with the SRS. In some cases, services for refugees have already been incorporated into District Development Plans. The SRS aims to prepare refugees for their eventual return and successful reintegration by giving them skills and greater self-confidence. Evaluation of the impact of the SRS at central and district levels will help UNHCR and its partners to improve or adapt the strategy as necessary.

The SRS's objectives include improving the standard of living of the refugees' host communities. Refugees will be treated on a par with nationals and will share responsibilities with their local communities. The success of this strategy will depend on the district authorities directly involved in its implementation. In 2001 there will be a greater emphasis on strengthening the capacity of district authorities. Improvements to the local infrastructure in areas hosting refugee camps and settlements will facilitate the delivery of services to the refugees and promote good relations with the district authorities and the local populations.

Refugee women will be encouraged to participate in agricultural production and women's associations. They will also be offered training in various disciplines, including basic management. UNHCR will continue to support the promotion of refugee women to positions of leadership and their participation in management committees. Information campaigns on the rights of women will also continue, targeting both the refugees and the local community.

Education will be a priority. Schools will be constructed and improved to enable more refugee children, especially girls, to gain access to education. A concerted effort will be made to improve the enrolment and attendance of boys and girls. Teacher training programmes are being tailored to reflect concerns about girls' education. In addition to secondary education, vocational training will continue. UNHCR will also support informal education and social and recreational activities for refugee children and adolescents, as well as community-based nursery and pre-school programmes. Children who have experienced psychological trauma will receive specialist counselling. As part of the SRS, a comprehensive programme of training for young adults, older children and adolescents will take place in 2001, including training in income-generating activities, community leadership, counselling, etc. The Peace Education programme will continue, as well as the promotion of ARC activities (Action for the Rights of Children).

Primary health care programmes will be implemented for the refugees and local residents in refugee-hosting areas. An intensive sensitisation campaign will continue to explain the importance of integrating refugee health services into the national health system. Reproductive health will also remain a priority.

Environmental education and awareness campaigns will be intensified and refugees encouraged to use improved, fuel-efficient stoves. Tree nurseries are being established in order to

prevent environmental degradation in areas affected by the presence of large numbers of refugees.

## Desired Impact

Through the SRS, the Government of Uganda will provide refugees in many settlements with enough land to achieve a substantial level of self-sufficiency in food. The nutritional status of the refugees in all settlements will continue to be maintained at an acceptable level in accordance with international standards. Refugees will be in a position to pay for their health care and education, take care of the vulnerable members of their family, and generally take part in social and economic activities in the same way as Ugandan nationals. The continued promotion of gender awareness should result in women participating fully in economic and social activities. More women will participate in refugee committees and become involved in decision making. Refugee children will have increased access to education. The dropout rate among girls in the higher classes of primary schools will be reduced through specific education campaigns. Positive changes in attitudes towards the environment will be achieved through environmental education and awareness campaigns for all refugee populations. Urban refugees will receive basic humanitarian assistance while solutions to their situation are being sought. Knowledge and understanding about refugees should improve as a consequence of UNHCR's workshops for government and NGO staff on the protection of refugees.

# ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

## Management

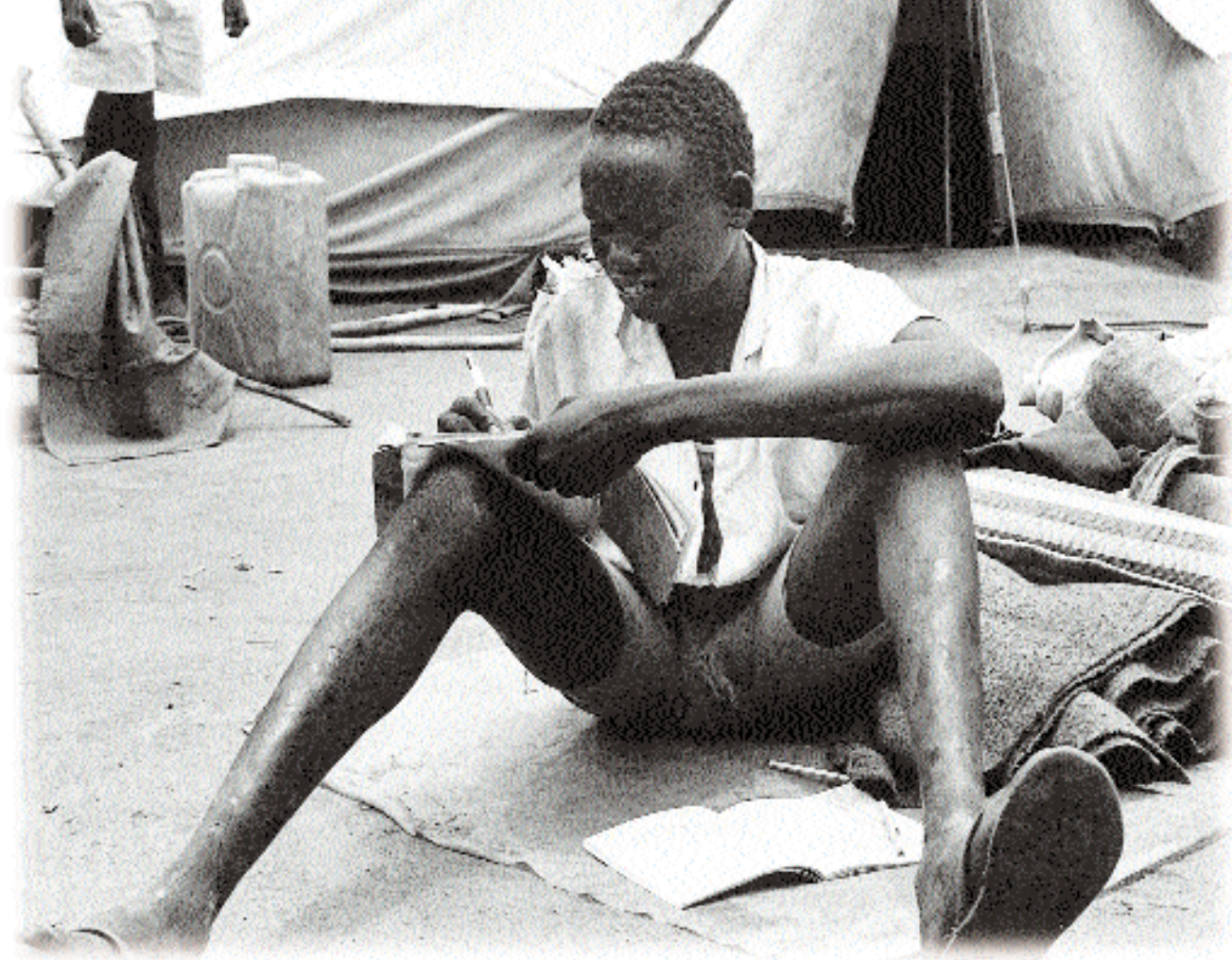
UNHCR's programme in Uganda is managed from the office in Kampala, which is supported by four field-based offices. In 2001, UNHCR will operate with 110 (19 international and 91 national) staff.

### OFFICES

Kampala
Arua
Kitgum
Mbarara
Pakelle/Adjumani

## Co-ordination

UNHCR will work with three government and 15 NGO partners. The agency will continue to participate actively in the UN Disaster Management Team comprising UNICEF, WFP, UNESCO, FAO, OCHA and UNDP, and in the Contingency Planning Forum co-ordinated by OCHA. Close co-operation



will continue with UNFPA, WHO and the World Bank. Monthly inter-agency meetings will be held with implementing partners.

### PARTNERS

#### Government Agencies

Director of District Health Service, Arua  
District Forestry Office, Arua  
Office of the Prime Minister

#### NGOs

Agency for Co-operation and Research for Development  
*Action contre la Faim*  
Africa Humanitarian Action  
African Development and Emergency Organisation  
*Aktion Afrika Hilfe*  
CARE  
German Development Service  
*Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*  
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust  
Inter-Aid Uganda  
International Aid Sweden  
Jesuit Refugee Service  
Lutheran World Federation  
Transcultural Psycho-Social Organisation  
Uganda Red Cross/International Federation of the Red Cross

### BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,690,085
Community Services	485,579
Crop Production	576,846
Domestic Needs/Household Support	126,949
Education	2,687,645
Fisheries	36,237
Forestry	752,074
Health/Nutrition	2,329,986
Income Generation	236,501
Legal Assistance	135,178
Livestock	50,671
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,382,338
Sanitation	86,478
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	1,141,984
Transport/Logistics	2,382,747
Water (non-agricultural)	446,087
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>16,547,385</b>
Programme Support	2,236,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,783,506</b>