

AT A GLANCE

Main Objectives and Activities

Through the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS), promote the local settlement and long-term self-reliance of Sudanese refugees in the three northern districts of Arua, Adjumani and Moyo by integrating services for refugees into existing national structures; ensure international protection and assistance to refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, and, security permitting, facilitate their voluntary repatriation; extend the SRS to Congolese and Rwandan refugees, and to Sudanese refugees in Kitgum and Masindi districts; help urban refugees to become self-reliant.

Impact

- As a result of the SRS, 20 per cent of the Sudanese refugees were fully self-sufficient in food at the end of 2000; 62 per cent received some food assistance, depending on their time of first arrival and access to productive farmland; and 18 per cent continued to receive full food rations, including 26,000 Sudanese in Achol-Pii, where arable land is unavailable.
- In line with SRS objectives, specific activities in the sectors of health, education, road infrastructure and the environment were incorporated into the respective Government District Development Plans.
- UNHCR agreed with the Government to extend the SRS to Congolese and Rwandan refugees in south-west Uganda,

Persons of Concern				
Main Refugee Origin/Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (Refugees)	212,200	192,200	49	56
Rwandan (Refugees)	13,700	13,700	49	57
DRC (Refugees)	9,000	9,000	49	58
DRC (Asylum-seekers)	1,300	-	44	51
Somalia (Refugees)	1,200	1,200	50	44
Sudan (Asylum-seekers)	640	-	32	40

Income and Expenditure (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
17,963,590	12,348,621	3,715,541	16,064,162	15,070,578

¹Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

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

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters

yet land allocation has been limited to a few refugee families due to unresolved land issues.

- The advocacy of gender awareness lay at the heart of programme activities, as well as specific women's and adolescents' issues. This led to the active participation of women in refugee committees, food distribution and grinding mill business associations. Reproductive health activities empowered adolescents to speak out about cultural habits, including early marriage.
- More cases were submitted for resettlement to third countries in accordance with resettlement criteria. Relevant information was shared with refugees, and resettlement training was conducted for stakeholders. Thus, 620 cases were resettled in 2000, and 220 processed for departure in 2001.
- UNHCR assisted the Government in dealing with cases awaiting refugee status determination since 1998 and 1999, as well as new cases referred to the refugee eligibility committee for determination in 2000.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Context

UNHCR has long been present in Uganda, which has been hosting large refugee populations since the 1960s, and continued to receive sizeable inflows throughout

the 1990s. The vast majority of those of concern to UNHCR (89 per cent) were refugees from southern Sudan, mostly living in settlements in northern Uganda. Many of them arrived in 1993, fleeing hostilities between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Refugees from Rwanda and the DRC constituted another ten per cent of the target population, with the remainder coming from Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. To the extent possible, refugees in Uganda were provided with arable land for crop production. This was only feasible as a result of favourable local political circumstances and the hospitality derived mainly from the cultural affinity between refugees and host communities.

For want of opportunities for voluntary repatriation, especially to Sudan, UNHCR and the Government of Uganda continued to implement the four-year SRS (1999-2003) for Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda. The SRS aims at integrating services for refugees into existing district structures, so as to enable refugees to receive the same services as nationals. By decreasing refugees' dependence on humanitarian assistance and increasing their self-sufficiency the quality of asylum is improved. In 2000, activities in the sectors of health, education, road infrastructure and the environment were incorporated into the respective District Development Plans.

The physical safety of refugees in Uganda was a matter of great concern. The number of attacks in and around the refugee settlements was higher than in previous years. Out of 35 security incidents in the Moyo and Adjumani districts, 30 were attacks on refugee settlements, while five were directed against local Ugandan villages. Attacks also occurred in settlements in the south-west, where none had been previously reported. The resulting insecurity had a negative effect on food production levels. UNHCR continued to negotiate with the Government to move the refugees in Kitgum to a safer location.

Constraints

Drought hampered food production by both refugee and local farmers. A joint food assessment mission by WFP, UNHCR and the



Government recommended that the phase-down of food for refugees scheduled for July 2000 be deferred, and that the worst affected settlements receive one-off food assistance to sustain them until the subsequent harvest (September/October).

Although district authorities have been given wide-ranging autonomy, including control of their development plans, refugee matters continue to be administered by the central Government through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Despite this dual structure, UNHCR made significant progress in engaging district authorities in the drive towards integrated services for refugees and nationals, but the capacity of refugee-hosting districts must be substantially upgraded. Pilot projects in the areas of health and education have shown encouraging results, but the initiative will require greater funds and resources than those furnished by UNHCR. The Office therefore urged the Government and development agencies to include Sudanese refugees (almost 50 per cent of the population in some areas) in their regional development plans.

The allocation of land to refugees became an issue of growing complexity. In the past two years, UNHCR has been trying to negotiate with the Government to allow refugees in Achol-Pii to cultivate land on a nearby farm. This and other similar efforts to obtain more land for cultivation by refugees have yet to succeed, partly because the new Land Act passed in 2000 places land matters under the authority of districts, leaving no room for decisions at the central level. Furthermore, nationals have been encroaching on land designated for refugees in Arua district, as well as in the south-west, where the Rwandan and Congolese refugees live.

Lack of protection staff constrained the identification and assessment of refugees with protection needs qualifying them for resettlement to third countries.

Funding

Only 74 per cent of the total approved budget had been made available by the end of the year. As a result of the irregular release of funds (mostly due to the timing of donor contributions), a number of activities had to be postponed until some of them could no longer be implemented. The worst hit activities were construction projects, including new schools. Urgently needed supplies could not be procured, as the limited resources available had to be devoted to sustaining the most essential activities. The lack of funding also created a sense of job insecurity among implementing partners, leading to high staff turnover and recruitment difficul-

ties for them. Protection workshops and local capacity-building measures could not be carried out, leaving local authorities without the necessary support to implement the SRS.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Protection and Solutions

Uganda maintained liberal policies towards refugees, and no cases of *refoulement* were reported. Rejected asylum-seekers were allowed to remain in the country despite their unclear status. Sudanese and Congolese were recognised as refugees on a *prima facie* basis, while the status of others was determined on an individual basis. Although a proposed new refugee law was not passed, significant steps were taken, including constructive consultations between UNHCR and the Government. With regard to refugee status determination, UNHCR assisted authorities in clearing the backlog of cases referred to the refugee eligibility committee between 1998 and 2000. The Office had to invoke its statute to ensure international protection of a group of students from Rwanda, whose refugee claims had been rejected by the Government. UNHCR also dealt with a number of complex cases related to the war in the DRC, and with 80 refugees in urgent need of resettlement (compared to two such cases in 1999).

Although the SRS was the cornerstone of efforts to improve the quality of asylum for Sudanese refugees, their naturalisation as Ugandan citizens remained a remote possibility due to unresolved legal questions. The Constitution allows for the naturalisation of refugees who have been married to nationals for at least three years, as well as the children of such unions. However, the Immigration Board, which ought to be deciding on issues of citizenship, has not yet been established. UNHCR intensified efforts to find durable solutions through resettlement to third countries in accordance with resettlement criteria. Relevant information was shared with refugees, and resettlement training was offered country-wide to NGOs, government officials and refugees. The number of refugees resettled to third countries increased by 300 per cent in 2000, with 620 individuals leaving Uganda in the course of the year, and another 220 processed cases awaiting resettlement in 2001. Individual refugees and their families were helped to voluntarily repatriate to Rwanda, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and the DRC.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: Training sessions, aiming at greater involvement of communities, included nine workshops on gender equality in Adjumani and Moyo, in which 790 persons (52 per cent women) were trained. Greater participation of women in programme activities improved their access to and control of resources. A larger number of women assumed leading positions in the settlements, particularly in refugee welfare councils, church groups, adult literacy activities, food management and health management committees. In Adjumani, the number of reported cases of domestic violence fell to 16 (from 42 in 1999), indicating an improvement in gender relations. Over 370 children who discontinued their education (47 per cent of them girls) were trained in various skills including income-generating activities. Between February and March 2000, UNHCR, the OPM and the police in Adjumani facilitated sensitisation and awareness meetings, in which legal sentences for rape, defilement, assault, murder, harmful traditional practices and domestic violence were defined and emphasised to the refugee communities. In Arua district, refugee welfare councils and sectoral committees were established in refugee settlements, with women constituting 30 per cent of the leadership. Women heads of families benefited from agricultural and other inputs to increase household income. The girls' education campaign tried to reduce high drop-out rates among female pupils in the later years of primary school; gender balance was also sought in higher education and vocational training. Activities for refugee children and adolescents included increased sports, cultural, recreational and life skills training activities in the settlements.

Crop Production: Seeds, tools and agricultural extension services were provided in Adjumani district. This enabled 12,400 hectares of land to be prepared for crop production in the second and major cropping season of the year. This represented 82 per cent of total allocated agricultural land. In Moyo, 3,200 hectares were prepared (55 per cent of allocated land). However, low rainfall and other adverse climatic conditions resulted in a disappointing harvest, able to cover only 60 per cent of household needs in Adjumani and 73 per cent in Moyo. The latter was nonetheless a significant improvement on 37 per cent coverage of needs in 1999, and the result was a fall in malnutrition to less than five per cent. Furthermore, after the harvest, the proportion of the refugee population being phased out of food aid could be increased to 60 per cent.

Education: The education of refugees was further harmonised with the national education system, especially in primary education. In secondary education,

UNHCR focused on capacity-building of national schools to absorb refugees, and the provision of scholarships. Income-generating activities led to an increased number of refugee parents being able to contribute meaningfully to the education of their children. A cost-sharing strategy was introduced in the scholarship schemes whereby students' families contributed towards certain allowances. Beneficiaries of the formal education system were between five and 25 years of age. A total of 18,607 children were enrolled in nursery/pre-school education (49 per cent girls) and 57,564 attended primary education (43 per cent girls). Some 12,720 children were enrolled in secondary education (16 per cent girls) and 378 received vocational or university education (28 per cent females). By the end of the year, the recommended teacher to pupil ratio of one to 55 had been attained in the 37 primary schools and three secondary schools in Adjumani, and in the 14 primary schools and one secondary school in Moyo. In addition, 15 primary and four secondary schools were registered, and 25 primary schools were licensed. This was possible thanks to the construction of sanitation facilities in several schools. However, the quality of tuition still needed improvement in most of the schools. To this end, teacher training was offered: 186 refugees were trained (or re-trained) as primary school teachers and 34 as secondary school teachers.

Health/Nutrition: The aim was to integrate refugee health services with the national health care system in order to establish sustainable health standards for everybody living in areas hosting refugees. UNHCR worked closely with directors of district health services to ensure that health issues of importance to refugees were included in annual district health plans. Health and nutrition services for Impevi camp were successfully transferred to Arua District and plans are underway to hand over the remaining health services for the adjacent Rhino camp to the district before the end of 2002. A comprehensive essential health care package was delivered to some 215,000 refugees and 144,000 nationals living in and around refugee-impacted areas. Necessary drugs and basic hospital and clinical equipment were made available. Over 14,000 refugees and nationals were referred to district hospitals and the national hospital in Kampala. Biannual nutrition surveys revealed a stabilised nutritional status of refugee children with an overall malnutrition rate of less than ten per cent. As a result, supplementary feeding programmes were stopped but monitoring of child growth was intensified at both the community and health unit levels. At the same time, in-patient feeding was revised requiring UNHCR and WFP to provide food for selected categories of

patients, e.g. tuberculosis patients and children on therapeutic feeding programmes. Communities were encouraged to improve their own health through training of community-based workers and empowerment of Health Unit Management Committees. The fees levied on patients by health units covered incentives for at least 80 per cent of the support staff, including cleaners and guards. The scope of reproductive health services was expanded, with particular attention given to safe motherhood, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS, family planning and sexual and gender-based violence. New projects targeted adolescents in five of the eight districts. STD/HIV/AIDS needs assessments were conducted in three districts and six HIV testing kits were provided to Adjumani hospital. Sixteen people living with AIDS were trained in health education and counselling techniques and 50 traditional healers were trained in universal precautions. Preliminary meetings were held in Adjumani and Hoima districts on ways of providing community-based psycho-social counselling for AIDS patients and their families and improving home-based nursing care for AIDS patients. An outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in October affected the districts of Gulu, Mbarara and Masindi. By year's end, 428 cases had been reported (173 people died; the remainder recovered). Although no cases were identified among the refugee population, UNHCR was concerned about the proximity of the refugee-hosting areas to the affected districts, the mobility of refugees and unrestricted mixing with Ugandan nationals. Preventive measures were taken in refugee settlements in collaboration with the Government, and towards the end of the year the epidemic was nearly under control. Surveillance teams in the refugee settlements nonetheless continued with community public information programmes.

Income Generation: Refugees benefited from participatory activities related to production and marketing (including improved production for commercial farming) and skills training for income generation. The 98,941 refugee and 50,000 national participants included women, adolescents, children and disabled people. In addition, both refugees and nationals benefited from Quick Impact Projects for the construction of classrooms, health facilities and boreholes. This generated a positive attitude on the part of nationals towards refugees, while skills training generated better employment opportunities and improved standards of living. In Adjumani and Moyo, 560 persons (91 per cent women) were trained in handicrafts, enabling them to provide for their families. Five business educators and 238 beneficiaries were trained in business skills. Over 80 savings and credit groups were formed,

and 1,966 persons (93 per cent women) were supported with start-up funds.

Legal Assistance: While increasingly promoting resettlement to third countries in justified cases, UNHCR continued to support the adoption of national refugee legislation. Considerable progress was made in ensuring timely determination of refugee status for asylum-seekers.

Operational Support (to Agencies): UNHCR covered some of its implementing partners' administrative costs, and organised training sessions to ensure effective implementation and foster capacity-building.

Sanitation: Latrine coverage in most refugee settlements ranged between 20 and 30 per cent. A sanitation awareness campaign was undertaken. In some areas like Arua, the low rate of latrine coverage was partly due to soft soil, which shortens the life span of latrines.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Twenty km of road were constructed and more than 210 km rehabilitated in Adjumani and Moyo districts. Out of the three bridges planned, only one was constructed due to shortage of funds. In Arua, one bridge was repaired.

Transport/Logistics: Most relief items were stored at a central warehouse in Kampala before being despatched to the field. A fleet of four ten-ton trucks ensured shipment of relief items to field offices. In Adjumani, a mechanical workshop maintained and serviced the project vehicles and motorcycles, which included 28 trucks, 54 light vehicles and 69 motorcycles (plus 19 generators and four plants for road construction and maintenance in Adjumani and Moyo). Implementing partners required 29 new vehicles to replace ageing ones, but only ten were procured, because of reduced funding. This resulted in reduced mobility for UNHCR's partners.

Water: Eight boreholes were drilled in Adjumani and Moyo, providing an additional 60,000 litres for local consumption. Three rainwater-collection units were constructed. The water supply situation in Adjumani and Moyo districts was generally good, with water availability for the refugee population increasing slightly over the course of the year from 24.3 to 24.5 litres per person per day. By contrast, the water available for Ugandan nationals residing in the same area remained steady at 15.5 litres per person per day. In Arua district, eight boreholes were drilled, three of them in the settlements and five in refugee-affected areas. In addition, 20 existing boreholes in refugee-affected areas were rehabilitated. As a result, 68 boreholes in Rhino camp and 33 in Imvepi delivered the standard requirement of 20 litres per person per day.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

UNHCR maintained its main office in Kampala, supported by five offices in Adjumani, Arua, Hoima, Kitgum and Mbarara. These offices were operated by 25 international staff (including six UNVs) and 84 national staff.

Working with Others

UNHCR worked directly with three Government counterparts, 12 international and three national NGOs. Activities were implemented in close co-operation with other humanitarian agencies as well as development-oriented organisations. Efforts were made to encourage operational partners to use their own funds to implement programmes that benefit both nationals and refugees, with a view to the eventual phasing-out of UNHCR's assistance. In line with this, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Finnish Refugee Council, which implemented adult literacy and income generation programmes, and with the Danish Assistance for Self-Reliance, which engaged in income-generating activities, agriculture support, skills training and capacity-building for both refugees and nationals.

WFP introduced a food-for-work programme, which included infrastructural development, benefiting both refugees and nationals. Other agencies like UNFPA, UNICEF, the EU-European Development Fund, USAID and the World Bank are involved in projects in northern Uganda as part of the Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set for 2000 proved to be appropriate and progress was made towards food self-sufficiency and greater integration of services for refugees into existing structures. This impacted positively on the quality of life of refugees and nationals alike. The Ugandan Government developed a keen understanding of the SRS, at central and district levels, but further efforts are needed to address issues such as access to farmland, security in the refugee-hosting districts and capacity of district authorities. Given the heightened expectations among local communities that UNHCR will support the development of their respective regions (a task clearly far beyond either the capacity or mandated remit of the Office), it is imperative that other development-oriented agencies complement UNHCR's efforts. Progress made in Adjumani and

Moyo proves that refugees can move from total dependency on humanitarian assistance to self-sufficiency. However, the process needs to occur gradually, with adequate arable land available, and within a framework of integrated services. It is expected that by 2003 some activities related to water and sanitation will be out-sourced to other agencies. As SRS becomes an integral part of the District Development Plans for refugee-hosting districts, UNHCR should increasingly focus on its international protection mandate, leaving development needs in refugee-hosting areas in the hands of developmental actors.

Offices

Kampala

Adjumani
Arua
Hoima
Kitgum
Mbarara

Partners

Government Agencies

District Directorate of Health Services
District Forestry Office
Office of the Prime Minister

NGOs

Action Contre la Faim
Africa Humanitarian Action
African Development and Emergency Organisation
Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development
Aktion Afrikahilfe
Equatoria Civic Fund
German Development Services
Inter-Aid Uganda
International Aid Sweden
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Transcultural Psycho-social Organisation
Uganda Red Cross Society

Other

Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects		Prior Years' Projects	
	AB/TF	notes		notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,268,816		0	
Community Services	337,372		134,893	
Crop Production	374,739		77,594	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	146,939		19,172	
Education	1,484,118		895,403	
Fisheries	3,801		4,494	
Food	0		0	
Forestry	248,642		79,833	
Health / Nutrition	1,211,155		443,233	
Income Generation	118,569		42,465	
Legal Assistance	98,553		27,531	
Livestock	60,761		22,868	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,899,379		454,655	
Sanitation	45,593		24,917	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	515,691		194,676	
Transport / Logistics	2,211,119		424,129	
Water	275,573		206,576	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,097,057		(2,545,254)	
Sub-total Operational	12,397,877		507,185	
Programme Support	1,911,858		155,864	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	14,309,735	(3)	663,049	(6)
Unliquidated Obligations	760,843	(3)	0	
Total	15,070,578	(1) (3)	663,049	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	8,759,427		130,991	
Reporting Received	7,662,370		2,676,245	
Balance	1,097,057		(2,545,254)	
Outstanding 1 January	0		2,995,299	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		139,683	
Currency Adjustment	387		(3,543)	
Outstanding 31 December	1,097,444		306,819	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1 January	0		1,339,492	(6)
New Obligations	15,070,578	(1)	0	
Disbursements	14,309,735	(3)	663,049	(6)
Cancellations	0		658,243	(6)
Outstanding 31 December	760,843	(3)	18,200	(6)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(6) Schedule 6