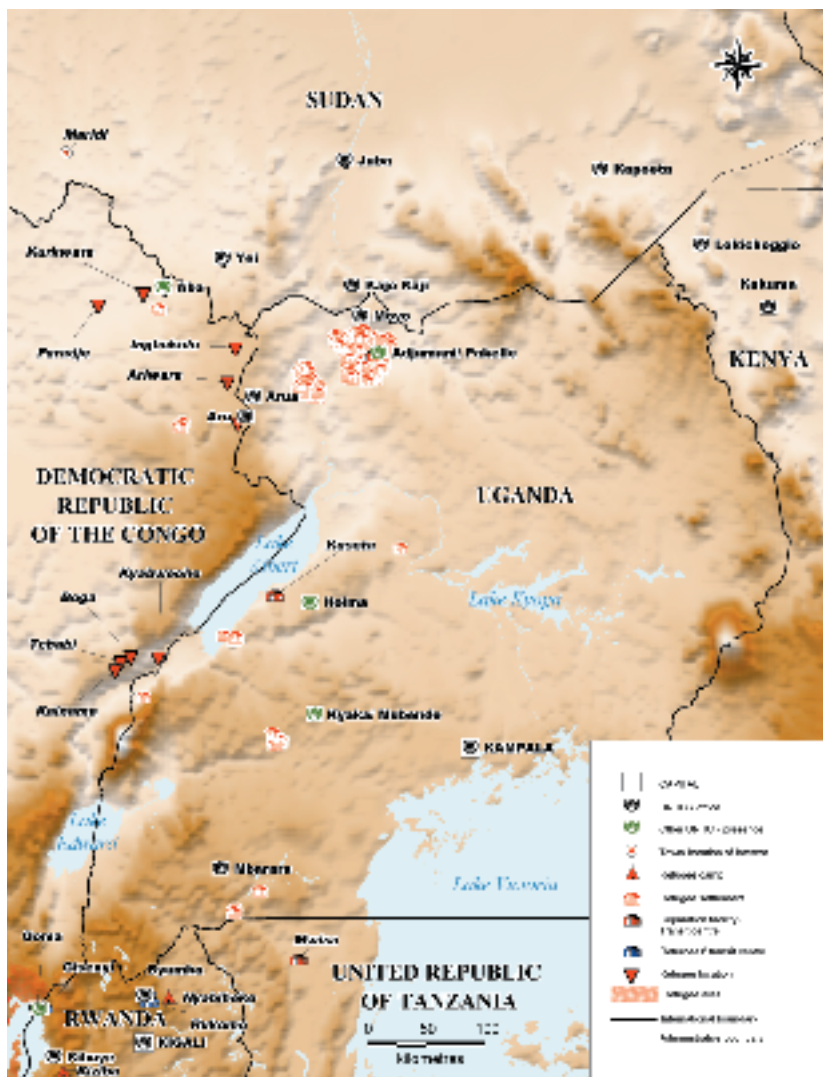


Uganda



parts of the country. Over 600 refugees were resettled, and a similar number had their cases submitted for future resettlement.

The overall acute malnutrition rate remained below 10 per cent. However, new arrivals from Sudan and DRC had higher levels of moderate malnutrition.

UNHCR coordinated the drafting of a national strategy to combat sexual and gender-based violence, with inputs from the Government, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society. The draft strategy will be finalized by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and presented to Parliament in 2006. The Office also assisted over 1,300 victims, offering medical care, psychosocial counselling and legal assistance.

During the introduction of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy and sensitization of the refugee community, it was confirmed that nearly 50 per cent female participation had been achieved in the various refugee committees.

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Uganda were to provide international protection and assistance and pursue durable solutions for refugees; assist Sudanese and Congolese refugees to attain increased self-reliance and continue working towards the integration of refugee services into the national service structure; and intensify collaboration with other UN development agencies through the UN Country Team (UNCT) in order to increase funding for the implementation of the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS) for refugees and host communities.

Impact

By the end of 2005, UNHCR was providing international protection and basic assistance to some 208,600 refugees in 11 settlements across the western and northern

Working environment

The context

In 2005 the Refugee Bill, presented to Parliament in 2004, was scrutinized by the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee. The Bill seeks to reform refugee management through the integration of refugee matters into local and national development plans and emphasizes refugees' free movement and access to social and legal services and employment. By the end of 2005, the Bill awaited its third reading in Parliament and is expected to be passed in 2006.

In January there was an influx of some 20,000 people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Most of them returned to DRC shortly afterwards. Some chose to remain in areas close to the border so as to be able to

return home as soon as conditions in DRC improve. However, some 7,700 were relocated to a refugee settlement.

Rwandan refugees were expected to repatriate in 2005, and plans had been made to discontinue support for them in July. However, only some 1,500 repatriated, and many of these were reported to have returned to Uganda shortly thereafter. Over 1,400 new arrivals from Rwanda were registered in 2005.

UNHCR was increasingly requested to assist in collaborative efforts to help the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Uganda. By May, an agreement was reached on limited involvement with IDPs in refugee-hosting areas and a commitment to assess other populations within the UN Country Team framework. A small IDP unit was established in Kampala. In August, following the introduction of the cluster approach, UNHCR began to assume its cluster lead responsibilities (see *Providing international protection* and *Working with partners* chapters).

Constraints

The Government of Uganda remained supportive of the refugee programme, but UNHCR's budget cuts placed a strain on the relationship. For the first time, the Government considered replacing its settlements policy by encampment. The authorities expressed their disappointment when non-life-sustaining activities were suspended, such as crop production, environmental work, animal husbandry and income generation, as these activities had also benefited the local population under the Self-Reliance Strategy/Development Assistance for Refugees (SRS/DAR) framework. The temporary suspension of refugee registration in the North and the considered introduction of encampment policies must be seen against this background.

With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9 January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the repatriation of Sudanese refugees appeared highly likely, if not imminent. However, the prospect of an early return soon faded for several reasons: the untimely death of the leader, John Garang, which caused uncertainty for some time; inter-tribal clashes; drought; and incursions by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Sudan and Uganda.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Sudan	213,000	169,000	50	58
	DRC	20,600	20,300	50	58
	Rwanda	20,200	15,800	49	58
	Somalia	1,800	1,800	49	45
	Burundi	1,700	1,700	50	59
Asylum-Seekers ¹	Various	1,800	-	-	-

¹ Includes asylum-seekers from Somalia, DRC, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Burundi.

Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets					
	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual programme	16,435,708	9,006,167	7,128,768	16,134,936	16,134,936
Supplementary programme ³	5,903,293	0	2,120,424	2,120,424	2,120,424
Total	22,339,001	9,006,167	9,249,193	18,255,360	18,255,360

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

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

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to South Sudan.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.



Sudanese refugees who have arrived on a UNHCR truck at Madi-Okollo receive non-food items and shelter to start a new life in the camp. Most of the new arrivals had fled the IDP camps in Eastern Equatoria after attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army.
UNHCR / M. Pearson

These factors also caused a new influx into Uganda of over 13,000 Sudanese. Nevertheless, a small number did return spontaneously to South Sudan, hoping to gain employment in reconstruction activities.

Climatic factors, mostly drought, also hampered the achievement of programme objectives. In the North, particularly in Adjumani, deteriorating security, marked by LRA incursions, prompted the displacement of refugees and nationals and severely affected UNHCR's ability to deliver protection and assistance.

In the absence of crop production and income generation activities, self-reliance remained elusive. By December, practically all activities had been suspended due to lack of funds. Fortunately, several international NGOs were able to continue activities with their own funding, especially for water, health and community services.

For lack of funding, refugee-hosting areas were not rehabilitated. The Government agreed to continue with the

gradual takeover of health and education services in some districts. However, continued UNHCR support was required for the services to remain functional.

Funding

Insufficient funding was the main constraint faced by the operation. The temporary suspension of registration resulted in a lessening of protection standards.

UNHCR made every effort to mitigate the impact of budget cuts. This included the selection of a partner who agreed to provide 25 per cent of the project budget; developing links with donors and potential donors at the country level, and heightened visibility in the international and national media. Activities were prioritized and systems and procedures were streamlined in order to render the operation more efficient. Refugees and partners were kept informed about the financial situation and were asked to collaborate to minimize the impact of the budget reductions.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda, irrespective of their country of origin, were adequately protected in the sense that there was no *refoulement*, and asylum-seekers were granted access to the country. There were no arbitrary arrests. Both Sudanese and Congolese from eastern DRC were granted *prima facie* refugee status. The majority of the Rwandan refugees refused to repatriate, claiming fear of the *Gacaca* courts and a lack of access to land. There was no repatriation to South Sudan, although 80 per cent of the refugees stated in a survey that they wanted to repatriate when they could be assured of peace, access to basic services and income generation opportunities. *De facto* local integration took place, but the Government showed no readiness to facilitate the naturalization of refugees.

Resettlement was used as both a protection tool and a durable solution, and over 600 refugees left for resettlement in other countries. The Office processed the cases of another 680 refugees, many of whom had either been victims of torture and violence in their country; had suffered medical conditions which could not be treated in Uganda; or were in need of protection. Most were intellectuals, human rights activists, teachers and other professionals.

In all the settlements, as well as throughout the country, sexual and gender-based violence was a major concern. UNHCR provided medical attention, psychosocial counselling and legal assistance for those affected in 73 per cent of the reported 1,800 incidents, of which 568 related to children.

The total number of urban refugees remained an estimate, but the introduction of the *ProGres* database in September resulted in the registration of almost 1,200 individuals.

Activities and assistance

Assistance provided in the settlements was limited to basic services and, overall, it fell short of established standards.

Community services: Social surveillance work led to the registration of over 7,300 refugees with special needs. They received full food rations, help with the construction of their homes, non-food items, clothes, school and health kits and/or other services according to their needs. Blind and deaf refugee children attended appropriate educational facilities and 141 disabled refugees received wheelchairs. UNHCR-trained community

facilitators and community development workers carried out home visits and sensitized the community on the protection of the rights of women, children and the elderly, environmental issues, HIV/AIDS, health and sanitation.

Domestic needs and household support: New arrivals from DRC and refugees with special needs received non-food items. Due to a lack of funds, new arrivals from Sudan only received a limited number of items. Operational partners later provided the missing elements. Sanitary materials were provided, but only 25 per cent of women's needs and six per cent of girls' needs were covered.

Education: Some 65,300 children (43 per cent girls) attended 91 primary schools. Although 55 of these schools were handed over to the Government, UNHCR continued to pay the teachers' salaries. It also covered student needs in 76 schools. Gender parity was achieved in grades 1 and 2. However, in the higher primary grades there was one girl to every three boys. The student-teacher ratio varied by location, from 33 to one to 74 to one. Limited support was provided to self-help secondary schools, and two were handed over to the refugee community after UNHCR support was phased out in June. Some 770 refugees received scholarships to attend secondary school and vocational training. In addition, 85 girls pursued their secondary education with Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize scholarships and 80 students received DAFI scholarships to attend university. Adult literacy programmes and nursery schools were also maintained in the settlements.

Food: Refugees were expected to produce their own food on land allocated by the Government. However, refugees who had arrived less than two years earlier and those with special needs received full rations from WFP. The food situation was continuously assessed in relation to the refugees' agricultural production, other means of livelihood and nutritional status so as to ensure that all had a daily intake of 2,100 calories.

Health and nutrition: All settlements offered access to preventive, curative and reproductive health services. The health status of refugees was within acceptable levels, with crude mortality rates of less than 1/1000/month and under-five mortality rate of less than 3/1000/month. The global acute malnutrition rate was below five per cent everywhere except in Kyangwali settlement, where it was 6.7 per cent. Emergency health services were provided to the new arrivals, as well as medical screening and immunization. A 2005 UNHCR/Government of Uganda antenatal HIV sentinel surveillance survey among refugees reported an HIV prevalence of 2.2 per cent in Palorinya refugee settlement and one per cent in Kyangwali refugee settlement;

this was lower than the nearest government sentinel site for nationals (Moyo 4.3 per cent and Hoima 4.6 per cent in 2002, respectively). Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services were available in all the settlements. Some 800 refugees sought VCT during 2005. Eight refugees were trained as VCT counsellors and 30 health workers received training in the clinical management of rape. Refugees had the same access to antiretroviral therapy as Ugandan nationals. Some 60 refugees received antiretroviral treatment and over 30 received prophylaxis against opportunistic infections. A pilot project to integrate nutrition and HIV/AIDS care was initiated in Kyaka II.

Legal assistance: Refugees in need of legal assistance were referred to national institutions, such as Public Defenders for criminal cases, a female lawyer organization for custody issues and the Ugandan Human Rights Commission for abuses allegedly committed by civil or military authorities.

Operational support (to agencies): To ensure the efficient management of the operations, support was given to the Government and NGOs implementing the different activities. Three of the NGOs made significant contributions to the programme using resources from other donors.

Sanitation: Households were given tools and expected to dig their own latrines and garbage pits. Communal VIP latrines were constructed/repared at various health centres and schools.

Shelter and infrastructure: Some 450 km of roads were maintained to facilitate access to the settlements. Access was particularly difficult in the rainy season. Over 750 plots were demarcated for the new arrivals.

Transport and logistics: The vast distances between (and even within) settlements posed a challenge in the delivery of services and goods, as the ageing fleet of trucks and light vehicles continued to deteriorate on mostly non-tarmac roads. The price of fuel continued to rise. As a result, movements to the settlements were reduced and fuel consumption was closely monitored.

Water: Access to water varied greatly among the settlements, ranging from ten to 12 litres per person per day in Ikafe and Madi Okollo (an increase of two to four litres compared to 2004) to 25 in Adjumani and Moyo. However, in Kyangwali water remained an acute problem, with only nine litres per person per day.

Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR operated from seven offices in Uganda. Staffing was streamlined in accordance with operational needs. In anticipation of the Sudan repatriation programme and because of the precarious security situation in Adjumani, the Sub-Office in Pakelle was moved to Moyo. Staff in eastern DRC continued to be administered from Kampala and the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed to regard Kampala, due to its proximity to South Sudan, as the administrative station of staff based in that area.

The Office in Hoima was strengthened by redeploying four staff members from Mbarara and establishing a presence in Mubende, which provided better coverage of the Kyaka II, Kyangwali and Kiryandongo settlements.

Working with others

UNHCR's main counterpart was the Government of Uganda. Programmes were implemented through agreements with the Office of the Prime Minister, district authorities and with national and international NGOs. In the Field, the Office of the Prime Minister was represented by a Refugee Desk Officer who worked in close collaboration with UNHCR and a Camp Commandant for each settlement.

UNHCR also coordinated its activities with the district authorities. In Arua, the health and education departments implemented the refugee programme, and in Moyo, water and education projects were implemented by the district authorities. In Kyenjojo, the Public Works Department assisted with road construction.

Relations with partners and sister agencies were positive. However, they suffered from the continuous reduction of programme resources. Key to UNHCR's programme was its collaboration with WFP. Close relations were also maintained with other agencies such as UNICEF, FAO and UNFPA and it is hoped that joint projects can be developed in the future.

Overall assessment

UNHCR met some, but not all, of its objectives for Uganda. Refugees and asylum-seekers received international protection and those who wished to repatriate were able to do so. Refugees in need of resettlement departed for third countries. These accomplishments must be seen against a background of diminishing resources, and they are all the more remarkable for that.

At the same time, the lack of funding prevented progress towards objectives such as increasing self-reliance or rehabilitation of refugee-hosting areas.

Two objectives were not met: integrating the refugee services into the national service structure and identifying outside funding for SRS activities. Given the constraints faced by the Government of Uganda and the focus of most UN agencies and donors on IDPs, there is a risk that these objectives may remain out of reach in the short or medium-term.

The lack of resources dictated a severe prioritization of activities, and the data show that the adjustments were well chosen and made a difference to the lives and well-being of the refugees. Efforts were made to maximize efficiency and these will be continued in the future.

Offices

Kampala
Arua
Hoima
Mbarara
Moyo
Mubende
Pakelle

Partners

Government agencies

Local District Governments
Office of the Prime Minister

NGOs

Africa Humanitarian Action
African Development and Emergency Organization
Aktion Africa Hilfe
Feed the Children Uganda
Finnish Refugee Council
German Development Services
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust
InterAid Uganda
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Right to Play
Save the Children

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
Ugandan Red Cross

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	4,079,750	434,072	4,513,822	0
Community services	310,209	2,409	312,618	63,204
Crop production	0	0	0	81,603
Domestic needs and household support	149,167	0	149,167	42,280
Education	1,710,937	0	1,710,937	608,475
Fisheries	0	0	0	2,547
Forestry	0	0	0	150,359
Health and nutrition	1,464,251	0	1,464,251	582,012
Income generation	0	0	0	33,658
Legal assistance	278,096	235,153	513,249	25,347
Livestock	0	0	0	16,581
Operational support (to agencies)	2,149,456	64,154	2,213,610	513,887
Sanitation	83,773	0	83,773	62,896
Shelter and infrastructure	271,551	45,750	317,301	87,570
Transport and logistics	2,312,609	846,984	3,159,593	365,061
Water	148,876	0	148,876	33,678
Instalments with implementing partners	884,925	305,492	1,190,417	(2,669,158)
Sub-total operational activities	13,843,600	1,934,014	15,777,614	0
Programme support	2,291,336	186,410	2,477,746	0
Total expenditure	16,134,936	2,120,424	18,255,360	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(200,216)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	7,247,021	375,069	7,622,090	
Reporting received	(6,362,096)	(69,577)	(6,431,673)	
Balance	884,925	305,492	1,190,417	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				2,988,045
Reporting received				(2,669,158)
Refunded to UNHCR				(133,650)
Adjustments				731
Balance				185,968