

Uganda

1 - 30 June, 2020

There were no new arrivals during the month of June 2020, after Uganda closed its international borders on 22 March 2020, as a preventive measure against the spread of COVID-19 into the country. Between 1 January to 31 March 2020, there were **21,796** new arrivals. The humanitarian situation remains unpredictable in South Sudan and the DRC.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Uganda received its first case of COVID-19 on 21 March 2020. There were 945 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 30 June 2020, with 837 recoveries Of these, 52 are refugees, 47 of whom have recovered and been discharged from hospital. So far, no deaths have been reported.

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Number of **new arrivals** during June 2020, based on border monitoring.

1,396,780*

Total refugees in Uganda as of 30 June 2020.

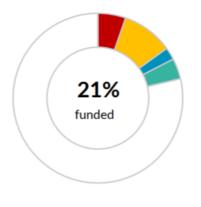
28,260

Total asylum-seekers in Uganda as of 30 June 2020.

*Increase in number is due to registration backlog and new-borns

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2020:

UNHCR Funding (as of 30 June 2020)



Unfunded 79% - **281 M** Funded 21% - **76.1 M**

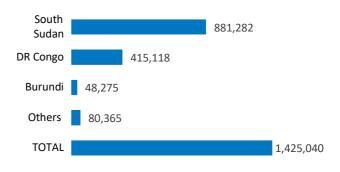




Community members holding a mask to protect their community and empower others on its usage. Photo © Gabriel Dibwe / Nakivale Refugee Settlement / Uganda.

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality







A canvas painting illustrating COVID-19 preventative measures. Photo ©Esero Nalyong / Bidibid Refugee Settlement / Uganda.

Operational Context

Since Uganda confirmed its first COVID-19 case on 21 March 2020, the number of positive cases increased to 945 as of 30 June 2020, including 893 Ugandans and 52 refugees. Fifty-one refugees tested positive while quarantined in Adjumani's Nyumanzi reception centre (42 South Sudanese), Yumbe's Lokopio Technical Institute (5 South Sudanese), Rakai's Mutukula quarantine facility (2 Burundians), Amuru's Elegu collection point (1 Eritrean) and Obongi's Belemeling quarantine centre (1 South Sudanese). The sample of another Burundian refugee, taken at Isingiro's Bugango entry point, returned positive while he was already in Nakivale settlement Forty-seven refugees have recovered to date, while 5 remain under treatment, including 2 in Arua Regional Referral Hospital, 1 in Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, 1 in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital and 1 in Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital. Across Uganda, a total of 819 people has recovered from COVID-19 to date. No deaths have been registered so far. Following a new presidential directive dated 19 May 2020, Uganda's total confirmed case count does no longer include the number of foreign truck drivers who tested positive for COVID-19 and were handed over to their country of origin – which stood at 1,043 as of 28 June 2020. A total of 190,643 samples were tested by the Uganda Virus Research Institute as of 30 June 2020.

In his 16th address to the nation on 22 June, President Yoweri Museveni said that restrictions on boda-bodas, schools, religious gatherings and curfew would continue until further notice. Public transport (buses, mini-buses and taxis) continued to operate at half capacity, including in the border districts of Isingiro, Moyo and Yumbe. Movement restrictions continue in 39 other border districts. The reopening of schools has been delayed until further notice.



Operational Highlights

World Refugee Day

UNHCR in coordination with OPM and partners organized several virtual events to celebrate World Refugee Day (WRD) in Uganda under the theme "Everyone can make a difference, Every action counts", paying tribute to over 1.4 million refugees and the communities that generously host them.

On 20 June, NTV journalist Raymond Munjuni moderated a Facebook live dialogue on the impact of COVID-19 on refugees with a panel of refugee entrepreneurs and representatives, including Ntakamaze Nziyonvira (founder of CYOTA), Faridah Luanda (Uganda Youth and Adolescent Health Forum Champion), Noela Kabale (Refugee Entrepreneurship Association Limited) and Victor Ocheng (Founder and Executive Director for African Youth Initiative Network).

In an op-ed published on New Vision on 20 June, UNHCR Representative, Joel Boutroue shared his reflection on new opportunities provided by the COVID-19 crisis to better protect refugees and asylum seekers.

On 19 June, NTV hosted a discussion on the impact of the pandemic on women and girls, bringing together representatives from OPM, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, Women's International Peace Centre and Yumbe District Local Government.

Artolution organized a live chat between refugee artists from Bidibidi settlement and fellow refugee artists in Jordan and Bangladesh. Many other initiatives were organized out the settlements.

On 16 June 2020, UNHCR commemorated the Day of the African Child under the national theme "Comprehensive Child Protection Services During COVID-19". Radio shows, awareness campaigns and focus group discussions among other activities, were undertaken across the operation as part of the commemoration.

UNHCR and CAFOMI, an implementing partner, are looking to establish a foster family bank to ensure that children are protected. This is part of the effort to address challenges of accessing community-based alternative care in urban areas. The biggest challenge in establishing a foster care network has been the socio-economic constraints faced by urban families, who shared concerns over their ability to support additional children.

In response to COVID-19, UNHCR capacitated community structures working at the frontline to deliver critical services and conduct awareness-raising in the COVID-19 response. UNHCR dispatched 348 bicycles to field locations and an additional 360 are being procured. Other items being procured are hand sanitizers, airtime, mobile phones, SIM cards, and megaphones. The items will facilitate the community structures in outreach, monitoring, referrals, and providing first response. However, there is still a need for about 3,200 bicycles for the community structure.

UNHCR completed cash disbursement to the urban Persons of Concern (PoCs) with valid telephone numbers, reaching 13,618 individuals in 4,950 households. Airtel, which is the service provider, has now embarked on a pilot project on the issuance of SIM cards to PoCs without phone numbers. The SIM cards will be activated by Airtel after biometrics verification in the proGres database by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and approval by the Uganda Communications Commission, prior to cash disbursement via Airtel Mobile money.

UNHCR reached out to the leaders of the Benet, Maragoli, Bakingwe and Bagabo, who are minority groups, to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on their communities. It was determined that, information on COVID-19 prevention and transmission is available, however, the communities lack personal protective equipment. Access to basic services such as health particularly, anti-retroviral drugs for HIV patients, immunization and antenatal services



for pregnant mothers, has been a challenge. Access to food, education materials and livelihood also remain a challenge for most minority groups. The Benet experienced compounded challenges arising from landslides and incidences of domestic violence have also been prevalent. However, the increase in domestic violence is not specific to these groups, noting that most parts of the country faced similar challenges. It is noted that the minority communities faced heighted risk resulting from their limited recognition.



EDUCATION

UNHCR handed over materials to Ministry of Education and Sports to support coordination of the Education Response Plan in all refugee-hosting districts. Worth about US \$58,000, the donation included motorbikes, furniture, laptops and computers.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR and partners helped the Ministry of Health (MoH) investigate 3,380 COVID-19 alerts and test 4,022 refugees for COVID-19, including by covering the costs of transporting samples to the Uganda Virus Research Institute. Since March, Kyangwali settlement registered the highest number of alerts (793), followed by Adjumani (558), Bidibidi (537) and Nakivale (453).

UNHCR and partners continued to support at least 19 quarantine facilities within the settlements and at transit centres across the country, including covering the costs of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, site management, food and logistics. There were 3,266 individuals quarantined in these facilities including, 2,910 asylum seekers and refugees, and 356 nationals and foreigners.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

In response to the COVID-19, water accessed by refugees increased to an average of 19 litres per person per day, to support hand-washing hygiene activities for refugees and host populations. This was achieved by increasing pumping hours for the 169 water schemes and ensuring 1,200 handpumps remained operational. Additional water attendants were engaged to support in ensuring and enforcing social distancing at water collections points.

Handwashing stations and soap were provided at all communal meeting points, water collection points and health facilities coupled with increased risk communication on COVID-19. Hygiene promoters and Village Health Teams worked together, to pass messages door-to-door while mass media methods such as radio, *bodaboda* talks, and billboards were introduced in all settlements. Soap distribution was enhanced, and allocation doubled from 250g/person/month to 500g/person/month.



ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

Out of the 5.1 million seedlings raised at the different NFA nurseries for first planting season (March – June 2020) under the ReForest Project, a total of 2.04 million seedlings (40 percent) have been distributed to refugees and host communities for planting. By end of June 2020, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), distributed 185,807 assorted seedlings to over 8,639 refugees (5,794 female and 2,845 male) across the different zones in Palorinya settlement,



with support from UNHCR, OPM and Moyo and Obongi District Local Governments. In Rhino Camp and Lobule settlements, 70,768 woody tree and fruit seedlings were planted, while in Adjumani and Lamwo, 50,000 tree seedlings were distributed in June 2020. The farmers planting the trees are being mapped for follow up on survival assessments. Under the household tree planting, a total of 1,011 (386 female and 625 male) were reached and provided with fruit trees (2,609) and fast-growing tree species (2,788) in Imvepi and Rhino Camp.

In addition, a total of 55 hectares (ha) of trees were planted in Omugo (10 ha), Ofua (13 ha), Odobu (15 ha), Ocea (6 ha) and Lobule (11 ha) in June 2020, bringing the cumulative total of trees planted in Arua and Koboko to 119 ha since the onset of the rains. The main tree species planted include, *Gmelina arborea, Eucalyptus spp, Senna spp, Khaya senegalensis, Grevilia robusta, Tectona grandis* and *Pinus oocarpa*. Additional 91 ha of land has been prepared for tree planting in Rhino Camp and Imvepi settlements, while in Lobule, four ha have been prepared for the second season planting. In Adjumani and Lamwo, 50.4 ha of seedlings were planted.

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) continued to maintain the 422 Ha of restoration planting established in 2019 among the three Central Forest Reserves of Era and Eria in Moyo/Obongi districts and Bugoma in Hoima/Kikuube districts. By end of June 2020, both spot and strip weeding had been completed for the restored plantation with survival rates of not less than 70 percent.

During the reporting period, a total of 1,028 youth (377 female and 651 male), were engaged under Cash-for-Work to prepare land and participate in actual planting and maintenance of woodlots in Rhino Camp and Invepi refugee settlements, to support green livelihoods. A group of 25 members (5 female and 10 male), was trained in production and marketing of briquettes in Umijo village, Basecamp Zone in Palorinya facilitated by 2 members (1 female and 1 male) who had been trained by LWF in 2018.

Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF), procured 984 household energy saving stoves of which, 550 have already been distributed to urban households, to support them in saving energy especially during the COVID-19 period. In addition, RGF distributed 210 briquette making machines to households, and trained the recipients in producing their own briquettes. Each household received three kilograms of briquettes for testing, to help them appreciate the product.

A total of 558 kilograms of briquettes were produced June 2020, by Work Hard Briquette Producing Group in Zone 1, Imvepi settlement. The group received six sacks to support in drying the briquettes. In Lamwo, 22 energy saving stoves were constructed and LWF monitored the operations of local stove artisans.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

To sustain efforts made under tree planting across the operation, emphasis is placed on tree growing for long term tree survival rather than stopping at planting trees. This makes use of the community structures and attracts its participation through use of agroforestry practices. Practices such as taungya system that allows for trees to be grown intercropped with food crops for ease of maintenance of the plantation, hence guaranteeing survival. Adjumani expressed the need to establish a central tree nursery there, to mitigate against the logistical challenges of transportation of seedlings from Lamwo, Kitgum or Gulu.

Demonstration woodlots for fast growing species such as *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Lucaena lucocephala*, *Sesbania sesaban* and *Tamarindus indica* need to be established to promote woodlots for fuel and enhance the uptake of these seedlings by communities. Continuous community sensitization is important to enhance uptake of seedlings by refugees and host communities. Availability of land to establish woodlots remains a challenge for refugees.

Due to the COVID-19 related restrictions on large gatherings, LWF was unable to hold the training for 25 artisans in construction of energy saving cookstoves, which affected progress in meeting their target of constructing 3,000 energy saving stoves.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

MoU between UNHCR, OPM and MoLG: The Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) together with OPM, co-chair the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group at national level and are key players in its implementation in Uganda. The MoLG plays an oversight role for the District Local Governments, including service



delivery for refugees and host communities in refugee-hosting districts. UNHCR and MoLG are strengthening their partnership through the establishment of a tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between UNHCR, OPM and MoLG, to enhance coordination of humanitarian and development interventions for refugee-hosting districts. The tri-partite memorandum was signed on the 5 June 2020, by the UNHCR Representative, and Permanent Secretaries of both OPM and MoLG. Key to note in the MoU is, the parties agreed to closely work together to strengthen coordination of the refugee response in the hosting districts. This will be done through convening regular inclusive coordination meetings, with all relevant partners both at the district and sub-county levels. In addition, they will jointly monitor implementation of host Districts Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs) entered into between UNHCR and the various refugee hosting and entry districts, to enhance their compliance through exercising the MoLG's oversight role.

Mask production: As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government of Uganda, through a presidential directive, required all persons above the age of 6-years to wear masks while in public, as a containment measure. Although the Government of Uganda initiated a national process of mask production and distribution targeting one reusable mask per individual, it did not include the estimated 1.2 million refugees who are above six years. While non-governmental organizations started to provide masks to refugees, the initiatives were at a small-scale, targeting a limited number of refugees in various locations, and were deemed insufficient considering the magnitude of numbers and the response required within the timelines.

UNHCR embarked on a process of facilitating the production and distribution of non-medical masks, using trained refugee tailoring groups within the respective refugee settlements. To produce the required 1,102,219 masks, a total of 1,122 refugee tailors will be facilitated with material required to make the masks and paid for the labor through the cash-for-work approach. This initiative is not only ensuring that refugees comply with the government directive but is also providing an opportunity for the refugees to earn an income within the short to medium term period of the COVID-19 crisis. Positively, it is envisaged that this activity may be maintained for the medium-term period, to cover age groups that will soon turn six years and the new arrivals fleeing conflicts in neighboring countries. Once this initiative is successful, other enterprises will be explored to design and develop interventions that will address social economic aspects, by leveraging the resources and innovation of the private sector.

Procurement of planting seeds: UNHCR procured assorted seeds worth USD 300,000 for refugees to plant during the second planting season of 2020, that runs from June through September. The seeds were procured to cover gaps that were identified by UNHCR and partners as a result of measures introduced by the government, to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, movement restrictions caused supply chain disruptions and slowed down supply of inputs for agricultural production, as well as curtailing movement of humanitarian workers to support refugee livelihoods thus, exposing vulnerable refugee and host community farmers to increased risks of food and income insecurity. Currently, about 50,000 MT of assorted planting seed is being delivered to various settlements for second season planting.

Establishment of a cash delivery mechanism: During the month, agreement with Airtel for the delivery of cash assistance through mobile money was reached which enabled disbursement of cash to urban refugees. UNHCR intends to expand its cash implementation using mobile money to other settlements, alongside the existing bank accounts opened in Imvepi and Oruchinga settlements. Through this agreement, UNHCR will be able to transfer assistance to both airtel and non-airtel mobile subscribers. At the same time, UNHCR has kick started initiatives to expand the scope of mobile money by exploring agreements with MTN Uganda for the delivery of assistance.

COORDINATION

UNHCR and OPM launched on 4 June the review of 2020 Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and its extension through to 2021, in coordination with the national Inter-Agency Coordination Group, with a view to factor the COVID-19 crisis into planning and to review response priorities and strategies accordingly. In that meeting, revised planning assumptions and population planning figures were discussed and validated. Consultations with sector co-leads will take place in the week of 8 June. It is expected that the RRP review and extension process will be completed by the



end of July. The revised plan will feed the regional RRPs on South Sudan, DRC and Burundi as well as the August update of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19.

Working in partnership with:

Government - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Government (DLG), Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC).

Refugee Hosting Districts – Adjumani, Arua, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi, Yumbe.

UN - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Migration Agency (IOM), United Nations Officer for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations World Health Organization (WHO).

NGOs - Action Africa Help (AAH), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Andre Foods International (AFI), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ), Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), Associazione Centro Aiuti Voluntari (ACAV), A-Z Children's Charity, Baylor, Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC), Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), CARE, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Caritas Uganda (CU), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Child Voices International, Communication and Education (PACE), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN), Concern World Wide (CWW), Cooperazionee Sviluppo (CESVI), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), Drop in the Basket (DiB), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), Friends of Kisoro, German International Cooperation (GiZ), Give Directly, Global Aim, Global Refugee International (GRI), Healing Kadi Foundation, Help Age International, Humane Africa Mission (HAM), Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Humanitarian Open Street Map Team (HOT), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), IMPACT, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), InterAid, Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO Cooperation), International Aid Services (IAS), International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IsraAid, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Johanniter, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Malteser International (MI), Medical Teams International (MTI), Mercy Corps (MC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (NSAMIZI), OXFAM, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF), Plan International (PI), Programme for Accessible Health, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Right to Play (RtP), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile (RICE-WN), Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children International (SCI), Self Help Africa (SHA), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (Tunado), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Trocaire, Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR), Uganda Law Society (ULS), Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDMC), War Child Canada (WCC), War Child Holland (WCH), Water Mission Uganda (WMU), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Windle International Uganda (WIU), World Vision International (WVI), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), ZOA - Uganda (ZOA).



External Relations

Thank you to donors for providing generous un-earmarked and earmarked contributions to UNHCR Uganda in 2020

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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The Refugee Response in Uganda is coordinated jointly by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Links:

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