

Uganda

Main objectives

Ensure international protection for all Sudanese refugees and integrate refugee services into national structures; continue to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) while facilitating their voluntary repatriation, whenever possible; provide protection and assistance to urban refugees in Kampala and ensure they achieve a certain level of self-reliance strengthen the implementation of the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS) in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and implementing partners; prepare and update contingency plan for possible displacement in northern Uganda.

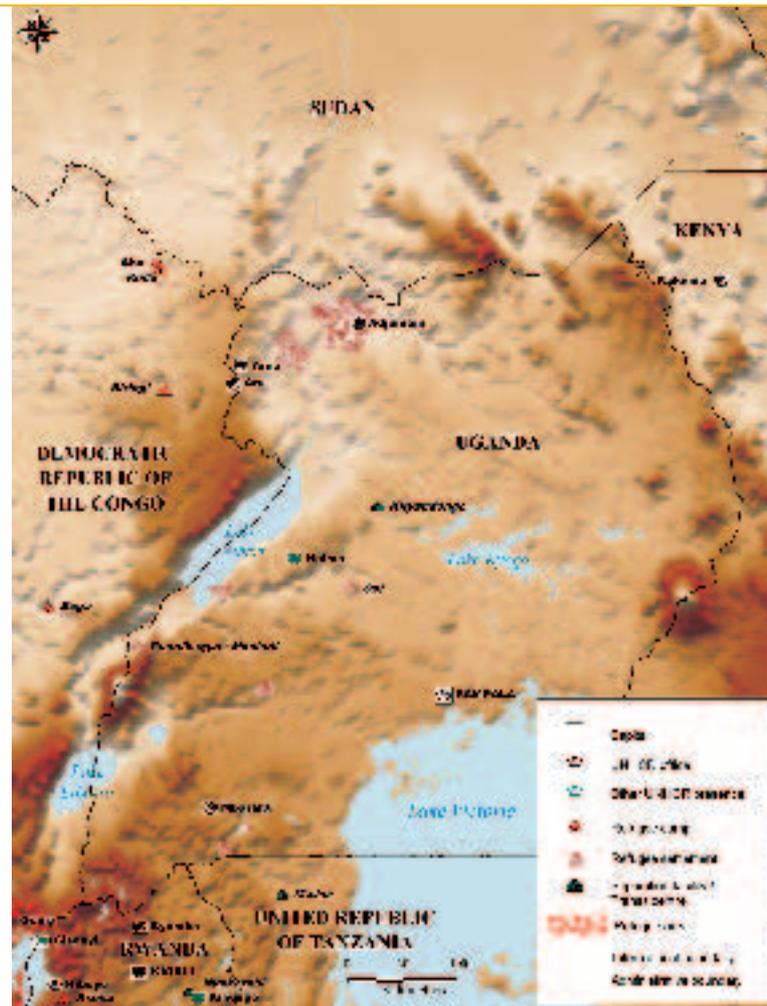
Impact

- Following rebel attacks in northern Uganda, some 30,000 displaced refugees from Achol-Pii and Maaji settlements were relocated to safer areas.
- Refugees attained a higher level of food self-sufficiency compared to the previous year: 40 per cent (78,800 persons) were fully self-sufficient in their food provision.
- Under SRS objectives, education, health, environment and livelihood activities were handed over to the district authorities for implementation.
- UNHCR continued to ensure effective protection and provision of material assistance and counselling to some 600 urban refugees in Kampala.
- Some 27,500 refugees from Rwanda and the DRC continued to receive international protection and humanitarian assistance.
- 542 refugees were resettled in seven countries in Australia, North America and Europe.

Working environment

The context

Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels on the settlements of Achol-Pii and Maaji (Adjumani



district) in July and August 2002 led to the deaths of 57 persons and the displacement of 30,000 refugees. All 24,000 refugees residing in Achol-Pii were displaced and later relocated to Kiryandongo Settlement. Some 8,800 of them were further relocated to Kyangwali, while 15,200 were given emergency assistance in Kiryandongo pending their relocation to new sites. Almost 6,000 refugees who fled Maaji were relocated to other settlements within Adjumani district. The displaced refugees, who had attained a degree of self-sufficiency, lost all their household property as well as their harvest, leaving them once again totally dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Despite the insecurity caused by rebel attacks, refugees and nationals lived side by side in relative harmony. There were 14,100 new arrivals in 2002 (3 per cent more than in 2001) of whom two-thirds were

Sudanese and one-third Rwandans. The Government of Uganda continued to apply liberal asylum policies. There were no cases of *refoulement* known to UNHCR, and rejected applicants for asylum were nevertheless allowed to remain in the country, despite their unclear status. However, the proposed new refugee law had still not been passed by the end of the year. UNHCR continued to promote and disseminate information on refugee issues.

Although some district and local authorities were initially sceptical about the implementation of the Self-Reliance Strategy (SRS), UNHCR and its collaborators in the Government continued sensitisation campaigns. These proved to be very useful in dispelling apprehension and led to the eventual hand-over of education, health, environment and livelihood activities to the district line ministries.

Constraints

Security incidents, due to rebel activities in northern Uganda, continued to be a major constraint. Furthermore, insecurity along the main supply routes delayed the delivery of supplies and humanitarian assistance from Kampala.

The achievement of self-reliance was hindered by a shortage of farmland in some settlements, especially in southwestern Uganda. UNHCR continued to negotiate with the appropriate authorities for more

land for the refugees. To make the task more difficult, in the first half of 2002, insufficient rainfall led to very poor harvests, and then heavy rains in the second half of the year destroyed crops, contaminated water sources and damaged roads and houses.

The district departments' lack of technical capacity to provide timely financial and narrative reports on UNHCR-funded projects necessitated capacity-building mechanisms to minimise delays. Several workshops were organised to enhance the monitoring capacity of the staff concerned.

Funding

Budget reductions throughout 2002 affected UNHCR's ability to implement the programme, and, particularly during the last quarter of the year, almost all implementing partners received funding several weeks late. These financial constraints compelled UNHCR to postpone several development-related activities under the SRS and to focus on life-saving activities.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Despite the Machakos peace process for the Sudan, the large scale return of Sudanese refugees to their

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin / Type of Population	Total In Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (Refugees)	188,200	168,200	49	58
Rwanda (Refugees)	18,900	18,900	48	65
DRC (Refugees)	8,850	8,540	49	60
Somalia (Refugees)	880	880	50	46
Asylum-seekers	540	-	48	47

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
17,049,791	6,996,482	8,424,217	15,420,699	15,087,699

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.
² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.
The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

home country was not possible in 2002 because of continued fighting in the South. As a result, the SRS was pursued as the most viable solutions-oriented programme for Sudanese refugees. In the DRC, security and political conditions did not favour voluntary repatriation of refugees. The new influx of Rwandan refugees in 2002 dampened hopes of voluntary repatriation to Rwanda.

Resettlement continued to be a core function of the Office. The main objective has been to enhance the protection of refugees whose physical safety and security have been threatened in Uganda, as well as refugee victims of torture, women-at-risk and medical or family reunification cases. 542 refugees who fulfilled the criteria were resettled.

UNHCR also organised training and workshops for refugee communities, authorities, and implementing partners to promote refugee rights and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Activities and assistance

Community services: In 2002, this sector focused on services and assistance as protection tools, to ensure that refugees acquire life skills for their physical, psycho-social and economic well-being. 12,425 refugees (83 per cent women) participated in training workshops and awareness campaigns on various topics, including Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) and SGBV. Sensitisation campaigns on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS were carried out in schools and local communities. Women constituted 33-50 per cent of refugee management committee members and 59 per cent of those who received loans or credits. In addition, 500 women were trained in leadership skills. In Rhino Camp, 463 refugees (60 per cent women) participated in adult literacy training. Sanitary materials were distributed to 30,000 adolescent girls and women in all settlements. 1,161 older vulnerable refugees received construction materials. UNHCR also assisted 783 unaccompanied minors (16 per cent girls).

Crop production: In Arua district, 9,609 hectares of agricultural land were distributed to 38,500 refugees. Residential and arable plots were demarcated and 1,209 new arrivals received plots. In Adjumani and Moyo districts, 5,938 refugee families received seeds, tools and agricultural advisory services, and

3,849 hectares of land were planted. In Kyangwali, UNHCR distributed seeds (maize, sorghum and beans), as well as agricultural tools to 1,400 refugee families. However, due to adverse climatic conditions, the yield was less than expected.

Domestic needs/household support: In 2002 UNHCR supplied shelter materials such as plastic sheets and household items (kitchen sets, soap) to 14,100 new arrivals and 30,000 refugees displaced from the Achol-Pii and Maaji settlements.

Education: UNHCR continued to integrate educational activities for refugees into the national education system, especially at the primary level. A total of 32 refugee schools were handed over to the District Education Offices in Arua, Adjumani and Moyo. In total, UNHCR supported 66 refugee primary schools, 10 self-help secondary schools, and refugee students enrolled in 34 national secondary schools. Out of 81,300 school-aged refugee children, UNHCR assisted 89 per cent from pre-primary up to secondary education (43 per cent of them girls). Pre-school enrolment increased by six per cent as a result of a school feeding programme supported by UNHCR and WFP. Secondary school enrolment among girls increased by 23 per cent following an affirmative action programme. However, there was a decrease in boys' primary and secondary school enrolment, reportedly due, inter alia, to fears of military recruitment by Sudanese rebels. 720 young refugees (32 per cent female) received vocational or university education. Participation in adult literacy programmes increased by 42 per cent.

Forestry: Environment mapping continued in major settlements to determine bio-mass concentration, ground cover and land use in preparation for appropriate conservation measures. In Imvepi, forestry activities were handed over to the District Forestry Office. In Adjumani and Arua, more than 388,000 seedlings were raised, of which some 176,000 were distributed to individuals and institutions for planting. 9,540 mature indigenous trees in new settlements in Moyo were marked to prevent communities from cutting them down. In Arua, UNHCR maintained a 20-hectare tree plantation and established a 20-km fire line. In addition, 34 environmental education sessions were conducted in nine schools, in addition to workshops on energy-saving and activities to enhance systematic firewood collection.

Health/nutrition: In 2002, UNHCR made health services available to refugees and local communities in 42 health facilities, and provided the necessary drugs and medical supplies. Children under five years of age were immunised against measles (86 per cent vaccination coverage was achieved). In addition, UNHCR conducted sensitisation campaigns on Sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS, and established voluntary counselling and testing services in major settlements. In December, the Office hosted the UNHCR Regional Workshop on Refugees and HIV/AIDS. In line with SRS objectives, health services in Imvepi settlement, as well as three health centres in Adjumani/Moyo were handed over to the respective District Director of Health Services.

Income generation: Activities implemented in this sector in 2002 related to improved crop production, marketing, micro-finance and skills training. In Arua, 160 refugees (64 women), were trained on life skills such as home economics, use of fuel-saving stoves and pest control. Furthermore, 26 refugees received training on basic business skills, marketing and leadership. In Adjumani, 166 refugees (47 women) were trained on micro-finance enterprise and management. 34 refugees (19 women) were trained as instructors to ensure that impact is sustainable. 47 income generation groups (comprising 200 persons in all) received loans from a revolving loan scheme.

Legal assistance: UNHCR continued to promote and disseminate information on international refugee rights standards, primarily through training workshops. In Arua, UNHCR and the district authorities officially launched SGBV awareness campaigns. In Adjumani/Moyo, an SGBV workshop was held and attended by 77 participants (implementing partners, and representatives from district and governmental departments). UNHCR assisted 21 refugees to attend resettlement interviews. In addition, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) met four times during 2002 to carry out refugee status determination.

Livestock: In Arua, four women's groups were involved in animal production activities. 30 women benefited from a livestock management workshop. UNHCR-funded extension services included livestock and poultry vaccination. In addition, UNHCR distributed goats, oxen, poultry and plough acces-

sories to farmers, women's and youth groups, and older refugees. 163 refugees (including 11 women) were trained in the use of oxen for farming.

Operational support (to agencies): UNCHR supported its national and international implementing partners by covering their administrative costs. Protection and programme training workshops were organised for UNHCR's partners.

Sanitation: UNHCR's efforts to increase latrine coverage in refugee settlements through sensitisation campaigns and basic health education were hindered by cultural taboos, rocky ground, and collapsing soils (due to heavy rains). To counteract the latter problem, UNHCR taught a method of latrine construction using a sandbag lining. Enhanced sensitisation of communities in Adjumani and Moyo raised latrine coverage to 56 per cent and 48 per cent respectively.

Shelter/other infrastructure: In Arua, UNHCR maintained settlement roads and assisted the refugee-hosting areas with construction materials under Quick Impact Projects. In Adjumani/Moyo, 177 km of road were maintained or rehabilitated. A multiple culvert bridge was constructed across the river Nyawa in Moyo.

Transport/logistics: UNHCR's implementing partner managed the central warehouse for relief items in Kampala and was responsible for the maintenance of a truck fleet to ensure timely and safe delivery of relief items to the field. Two other partners ran mechanical workshops for the maintenance of project vehicles, motorcycles and plants in Adjumani/Moyo and Arua respectively. Faced with a significant increase in maintenance costs due to the age of the fleet, UNHCR procured 18 vehicles



and 41 motorcycles for different partners in 2002. An assortment of computer equipment was also purchased.

Water: Activities in this sector focused on water source maintenance and repairs. 24 boreholes in Arua were refitted with plastic (PVC) pipes to combat the effects of corrosion. In Adjumani/Moyo, UNHCR drilled 10 boreholes and rehabilitated 54, protected 10 springs and constructed five shallow wells. These activities benefited some 11,000 additional people, and achieved an overall water supply of 20 litres/person/day. In Hoima, UNHCR constructed four boreholes for the relocated refugees from Achol-Pii, and deployed two 10-ton tankers for additional needs. In addition to maintenance and repair work,

community training workshops were organised on resource mobilisation, water management and water-borne diseases.

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 24 international staff (including five UNVs) and 77 national staff (including two UNVs).



Newly-transferred refugees arrive at Kiryondongo. UNHCR / S. Mann

Working with others

In 2002, UNHCR continued to work closely with other humanitarian agencies as well as development-oriented organisations, particularly on issues related to micro- and rural finance issues. UNHCR co-ordinated and monitored assistance programmes implemented by 16 NGOs and four government departments. The Office has also encouraged operational partners (NGOs using their own funds) to implement programmes that benefit both nationals and refugees, in order to eventually allow the integration of refugee services in the districts. Agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank are involved in projects in northern Uganda as part of the Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme. SNV (Dutch Co-operation) also supports capacity-building in Arua and Moyo districts.

Overall assessment

The achievement of SRS objectives requires not only the distribution of resources but capacity-building efforts and targeted funding until each district can address its needs using its own resources. UNHCR will therefore continue to strive for SRS to become an integral part of the District Development Plans for refugee-hosting districts, through the active participation of all parties. The involvement of other development-oriented actors to complement UNHCR's efforts will be essential for sustained implementation of this encouraging initiative. In 2002 progress was made on the involvement of operational partners in activities benefiting both refugees and host communities. The use of development-oriented funding by these partners is expected to accelerate efforts by UNHCR and the Government to enhance refugees' self-reliance.

Significant progress was achieved on girls' education, and the Office will endeavour to further strengthen its efforts to address the priority needs of women and children under the programme. UNHCR will work closely with its partners in the education sector to establish the root causes of the drop in boys' school enrolment rates.

Offices
Kampala
Adjumani
Arua
Hoima
Kitgum
Mbarara

Partners
Government Agencies
District Directorate of Health Services
District Education Office
District Forest Office
Office of the Prime Minister
NGOs
Africa Humanitarian Action
African Development and Emergency Organisation
Agency for Co-operation and Research and Development
<i>Aktion Afrika Hilfe</i>
Danish Assistance for Self-reliance Strategy
Equatoria Civic Fund
Finnish Refugee Council
German Development Service
Inter-Aid Uganda
International Aid Sweden
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Ockenden International
Transcultural Psycho-social Organisation
Uganda Red Cross Society
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
UNICEF
WFP

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds			
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,161,848		81,890	
Community Services	318,831		55,903	
Crop Production	241,933		65,616	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	148,524		12,136	
Education	1,323,852		562,307	
Fisheries	0		1,175	
Forestry	246,730		148,429	
Health/Nutrition	1,072,642		491,456	
Income Generation	47,424		78,688	
Legal Assistance	86,741		18,005	
Livestock	27,759		7,031	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,309,294		462,999	
Sanitation	63,352		126,976	
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	280,344		148,712	
Transport/Logistics	2,193,481		837,633	
Water	163,720		99,826	
Transit Account	14,727		0	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	2,496,703		(2,351,580)	
Sub-total Operational	12,197,906		847,200	
Programme Support	2,066,146		7,491	
Sub-total Disbursements/Deliveries	14,264,052	(3)	854,691	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	823,647	(3)	0	
Total	15,087,699	(1) (3)	854,691	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	8,778,171		754,489	
Reporting Received	6,281,468		3,106,068	
Balance	2,496,703		(2,351,580)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		2,574,684	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		196,856	
Currency Adjustment	0		(9,640)	
Outstanding 31 December	2,496,703		16,608	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,040,290	(5)
New Obligations	15,087,699	(1)	0	
Disbursements	14,264,052	(3)	854,691	(5)
Cancellations	0		185,599	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	823,647	(3)	0	(5)
Figures which cross-reference to Accounts: (1) Annex to Statement 1 (3) Schedule 3 (5) Schedule 5				