

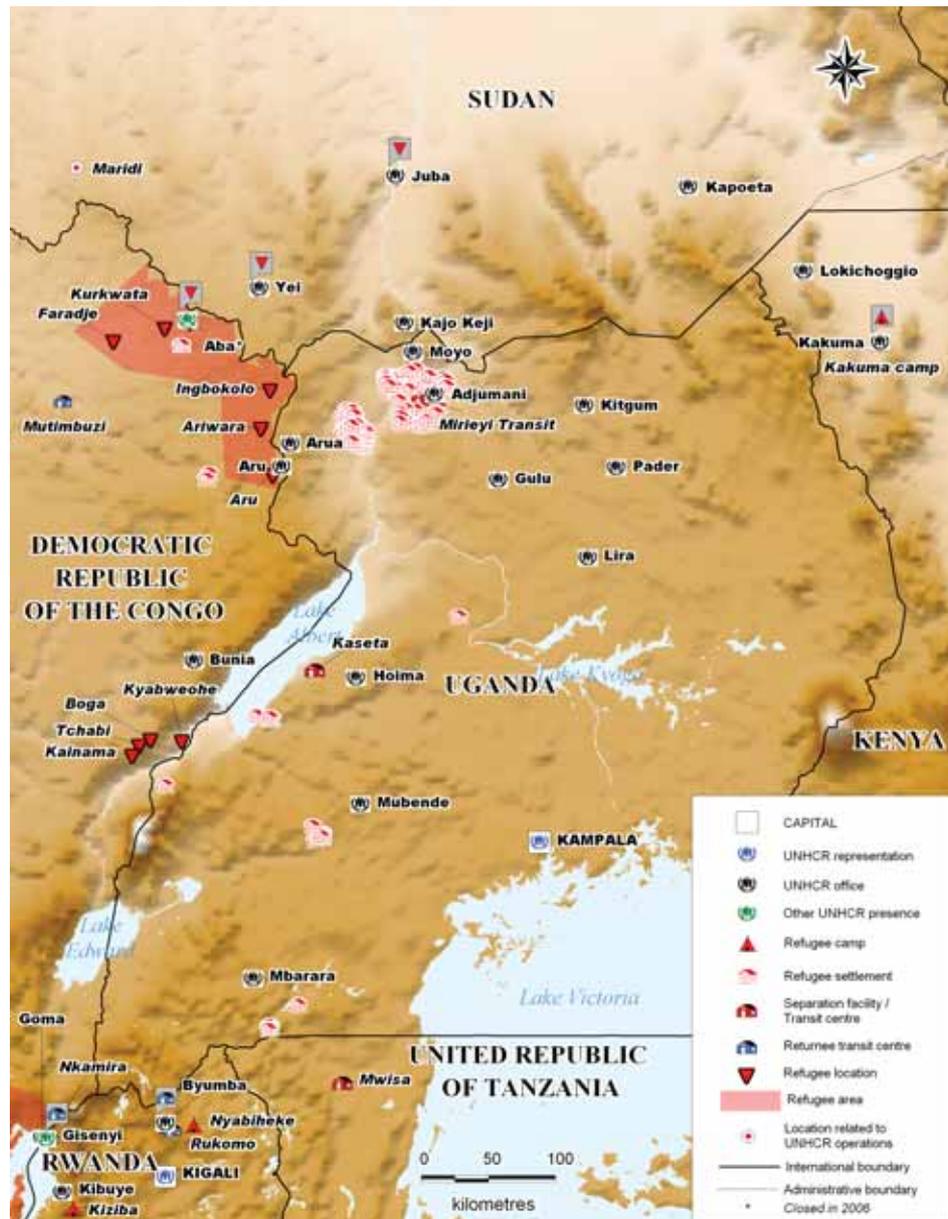
Uganda

Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted some 222,200 refugees in 11 settlements in northern and western Uganda.
- The Government of Uganda passed a new Refugee Bill, one of the most generous in Africa, in March 2006. UNHCR helped draft the bill, which grants refugees freedom of movement and the right to work.
- More than 700 refugees were resettled in third countries, recording an acceptance rate of over 90 per cent.
- UNHCR and the Governments of Uganda and Sudan signed a tripartite repatriation agreement that allowed more than 5,000 refugees to repatriate to Southern Sudan.
- The Office provided emergency assistance to some 28,800 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and facilitated their return.
- UNHCR led the protection cluster for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Uganda and established a close working relationship with the Government and other partners.
- Some 300,000 IDPs returned voluntarily to their areas of origin following a cessation of hostilities between the Government and rebels in northern Uganda.

Working environment

On 23 March 2006, Uganda's Parliament approved a new Refugee Bill to replace the Alien Control Law of 1962. The new bill recognizes gender-related



persecution as a reason for claiming refugee status, and gives refugees the right to work and freedom of movement. UNHCR was involved at every stage, from the drafting of the bill to its presentation in Parliament.

Security improved after peace talks between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) led to a cessation of hostilities in the latter half of 2006. This encouraged some 300,000 IDPs to return to their homes in the north. Still, the search for lasting peace continues, and the political and military situation remains extremely fragile.

The Government's decision to forcibly disarm the people of Karamoja – scene of an illegal arms trade and one of the most neglected areas of Uganda – led to violent clashes in the third quarter of the year. Both the local

Karamajong people and the armed forces suffered heavy casualties. UNHCR and its humanitarian partners requested the Government to allow them to extend their activities to the Karamoja region.

Participatory needs assessments were conducted in all refugee settlements with the aid of focus groups and field visits. The problems identified were an inadequate supply of drugs; insufficient potable water, especially during the dry season; limited access to post-primary education; and lack of legal follow-up in cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Of equal concern were early or forced marriages and the limited representation of women in leadership roles.

In general, the attitude of the local population to refugees has been receptive and generous. In most cases, refugees and nationals share ethnic affiliations, and may be related by marriage. Many Ugandans in the refugee-hosting areas have been refugees themselves and are knowledgeable on asylum issues. The few incidents of violence against refugees were usually related to land or water disputes.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's objectives were to provide international protection and assistance to refugees while pursuing durable solutions for them; promote greater self-reliance and the integration of refugee services into national structures; expand the Development Assistance to Refugees (DAR) programme and ensure its full ownership by the Ugandan Government; ensure that the new Refugee Bill goes into effect and that government



UNHCR and UNDP carried joint assessments in Aloi Sub County, Lira District, where this school is found.

protection and management structures are institutionalized; and monitor the needs of IDPs in refugee-hosting areas/districts and intervene when necessary.

Protection and solutions

UNHCR gave emergency aid to some 28,800 refugees from the DRC who arrived in Uganda between January and December 2006. Most of these asylum-seekers have returned home. UNHCR registered all new asylum-seekers. It encouraged better relations between refugees and host communities and used such ties successfully to clear roads, construct community buildings and support those with special needs.

UNHCR held resettlement interviews with more than 840 refugees, of whom almost 790 were resettled, recording an acceptance rate of 92 per cent. In accordance with the tripartite repatriation agreement of

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Sudan	215,700	171,600	50	57
	DRC	28,800	28,800	49	56
	Rwanda	21,900	17,000	50	57
	Somalia	3,800	3,700	46	40
	Burundi	1,700	1,100	48	59
Asylum-seekers	Rwanda	3,100	-	47	49
	Somalia	1,100	-	45	37
	Burundi	900	-	48	55
	Eritrea	400	-	33	11
	Ethiopia	300	-	30	5
Returnees (refugees)	DRC	5,000	-	-	-
Returnees (IDPs)		300,000	300,000	-	-
IDPs		1,586,200	1,586,200	-	-
Total		2,168,900	2,108,400		

March 2006 between UNHCR and the Governments of Uganda and Sudan, the Office assisted a total of over 5,700 refugees to return to their communities in Southern Sudan.

A Protection Cluster was established in Kampala, Gulu, Lira, Kitgum and Pader, with a sub-cluster on camp coordination and management. The majority of cluster members, including government authorities, accepted the principle of freedom of movement for all IDPs. Some 300,000 IDPs returned voluntarily to their areas of origin, with the help of return assessment teams, a “tools-for-work” programme and improved access roads.

Activities and assistance

Community services: With the help of participatory assessments, community participation expanded. All families and individuals with special needs were identified and assisted. Sexual and gender-based violence remained a major concern, even though there was a significant improvement in the reporting and follow-up of cases.

Crop production: UNHCR trained some 300 farmers in agro-forestry and provided them with about 15,000 seedlings.

Domestic needs and household support: All refugees who repatriated to Southern Sudan received jerry cans to carry potable water. UNHCR provided cooking stoves to refugees in settlements, thereby reducing the use of firewood for cooking by 40 per cent. Due to shortage of funds, the Office had to prioritize beneficiaries' needs, and only 12 per cent of women of child-bearing age received sanitary packages.

Education: UNHCR constructed schools in Nakivale and Kyaka, and a five-classroom semi-permanent block for IDP children in Adjumani district. The Office also gave scholarships for secondary education to some 80 refugee girls and to 90 refugees for university studies. The enrolment rate in primary school varied from 35 to 71 per cent, and between 35 and 45 per cent of the students were girls.

Forestry: UNHCR distributed seedlings to all refugees in settlements and held awareness sessions on reforestation and environmental rehabilitation.

Health and nutrition: All refugees in settlements benefited from primary health care services, and overall immunization coverage was 90 per cent. Refresher courses on primary health care were given to community health workers and traditional birth attendants.

The crude mortality rate was reduced in all settlements and was significantly lower than the national average. Nutrition surveys were conducted in four settlements,

but the global acute malnutrition rate rose to 5.4 per cent, against a target of 5 per cent.

Legal assistance: UNHCR conducted refugee status determination and issued identity cards to asylum-seekers in urban areas. The waiting period for status determination was reduced from 18 months in 2005 to six in 2006.

Following adoption of the Refugee Bill, UNHCR helped with its implementation by making local government officials and civil-society workers aware of refugees' rights and obligations. In partnership with the Refugee Law Project, the Office trained law enforcement and government officials.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR supported its implementing partners by covering the cost of salaries, allowances and administration. Due to the shortfall in UNHCR's funding, however, some NGOs had to dismiss their staff.

Sanitation: The Office ensured that 80 per cent of households in refugee settlements had private sanitary facilities, including rubbish pits, bathing shelters and latrines. Improved community participation in personal and public hygiene enabled latrine coverage to increase from 70 per cent in 2005 to 76 per cent in 2006.

Shelter and other infrastructure: At least 50 per cent of tertiary roads in refugee settlements were kept in good repair condition. UNHCR helped build roads in Lira district in northern Uganda to facilitate the return of IDPs.

Transport and logistics: On average, 85 per cent of UNHCR's fleet of vehicles was operational in 2006, allowing the Office to transport repatriating refugees to Southern Sudan. Better monitoring helped reduce fuel consumption by 27 per cent between 2005 and 2006. The Office also established a commodity-tracking system.

Water: In Adjumani, the water supply was increased from 15 litres per person daily to 17 litres. In Nakivale, however, an increase in the camp population reduced the water supply per person to 10 litres.

Constraints

UNHCR's planning was hampered by the slow progress of the peace talks between the Government and the LRA. Security was a major concern of IDPs wishing to return to their places of origin.

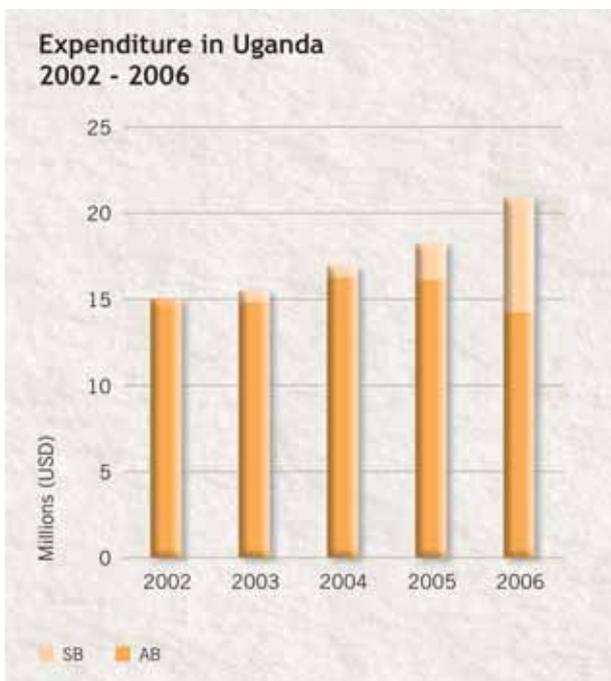
Repatriation to Southern Sudan proceeded slowly. Though many refugees expressed their desire to repatriate to Eastern Equatoria, the area was not deemed safe for return because of insecurity, land disputes and a lack of public services.

Most of northern Uganda remained under UN security phase III (see *Glossary*), limiting the movement of humanitarian agencies. Unexploded ordnance in the region posed a danger to returning IDPs and aid workers.

Financial Information

Insufficient funding forced UNHCR to adjust its programmes in 2006. Non life-saving activities such as post-primary education, vocational training and income generation were discontinued. This left many young people idle and led to an increase in protection-related incidents. UNHCR and its partners had to reduce staff due to the budget shortfall. However, while funding for refugee programmes in Uganda decreased, UNHCR's supplementary programme for IDPs was fully funded.

Between 2004 and 2005, project expenditures rose by approximately 10 per cent to accommodate the large numbers of new arrivals from the DRC. The new arrivals required UNHCR to expand refugee settlements, drill new wells, provide domestic supplies and transport new arrivals from transit centres to settlements. The 15 per cent increase in 2006 under the annual and supplementary budgets reflects UNHCR's efforts to improve health care, water supply, sanitation and education to meet appropriate standards, and further involvement with IDP's.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR's operations in Uganda were coordinated by the representation in Kampala and supported by three

sub-offices in Arua, Moyo and Gulu. The office had a total of 110 staff members, comprising 21 international and 78 national staff as well as 21 UNVs. The IDP operation was administered by the sub-office in Gulu through three field offices in Lira, Kitgum and Pader.

Working with others

UNHCR enjoyed cordial working relations with its government counterpart, the Ministry of Disaster and Refugee Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister. The ministry was responsible for the implementation of national refugee policy, refugee eligibility and status determination, and settlement administration.

UNHCR was an active member of the United Nations Country Team and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and led the protection cluster. WFP and UNHCR collaborated on food assistance for refugees in settlements, and carried out a joint assessment of food needs in 2006.

Overall assessment

In spite of the insufficient funding, UNHCR met its overall objectives for Uganda by prioritizing its activities and using available resources. The sectors that suffered the most were education, domestic needs and household support. The Office was able to develop cooperative relations with NGOs and UN agencies assisting IDPs.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Directorate of District Community Development (Arua district), District Directorate of Health Services (Adjumani, Arua and Moyo districts), District Education Office (Adjumani, Arua and Moyo districts), District Forestry Office (Adjumani, Arua and Moyo districts), Ministry of Disaster and Refugee Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister.

NGOs: African Development and Emergency Organization, African Humanitarian Action, *Aktion Afrika Hilfe*, American Refugee Council, Association of Volunteers in International Service, Christian Children's Fund, Danish Refugee Council, Feed the Children Uganda, German Development Services, Health of Adolescents Programme, Integrated Rural Development Initiatives, InterAid Uganda, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Services, Madi AIDS Control Initiative, Norwegian Refugee Council, Samaritan's Purse, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Windle Trust Uganda, Youth Anti Aids Service Association.

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit.*

Operational partners

NGOs: Refugee Law Project.

Others: UNDP, UNHCHR, UNICEF, WFP.

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget ¹	Income from contributions ²	Other funds available ³	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	15,402,299	6,534,291	8,612,108	15,146,399	14,252,895
South Sudan SB	2,613,751	1,025,913	961,022	1,986,935	1,986,935
DRC SB	705,890	0	0	0	0
IDP SB	7,867,003	8,794,989	(697,166)	8,097,823	4,716,488
Total	26,588,942	16,355,193	8,875,963	25,231,156	20,956,318

¹ The supplementary budgets do not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

³ Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	AB	SB	Total	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,457,575	1,790,872	5,248,447	0
Community services	235,778	63,272	299,050	21,131
Crop production	10,814	0	10,814	0
Domestic needs and household support	115,489	262,611	378,100	(14,606)
Education	959,863	38,590	998,453	213,403
Forestry	51,390	0	51,390	0
Health and nutrition	1,160,832	38,180	1,199,011	233,596
Legal assistance	175,946	1,450,964	1,626,910	73,127
Operational support (to agencies)	1,138,999	288,728	1,427,727	146,046
Sanitation	58,546	19,691	78,237	11,024
Shelter and infrastructure	130,637	741,162	871,799	66,408
Transport and logistics	1,793,539	148,394	1,941,932	137,329
Water	164,170	38,516	202,687	30,142
Instalments with implementing partners	2,738,983	1,555,914	4,294,897	(917,600)
Sub-total operational activities	12,192,560	6,436,893	18,629,453	0
Programme support	2,060,335	266,530	2,326,865	0
Total expenditure	14,252,895	6,703,423	20,956,318	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(90,199)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	6,395,295	1,955,989	8,351,284	
Reporting received	(3,656,312)	(400,075)	(4,056,387)	
Balance	2,738,983	1,555,914	4,294,897	
Previous years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1st January				1,376,385
Reporting received				(917,600)
Refunded to UNHCR				(158,612)
Adjustments				619
Balance				300,792