

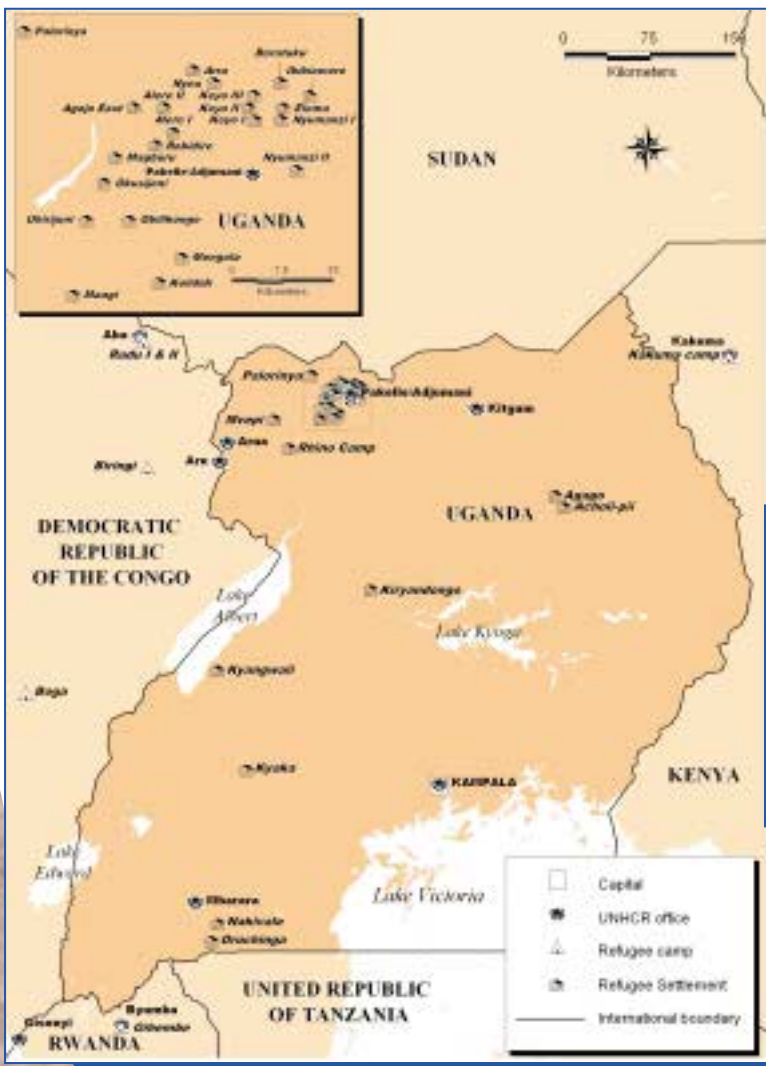
# UGANDA



## IN SHORT

### Main Objectives

- Promote local integration and long-term self-reliance of Sudanese refugees in the three northern districts of Arua, Adjumani and Moyo by streamlining services into existing national structures.
- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Congolese and Rwandan refugees whenever possible and continue multi-sectoral assistance (with emphasis on self-sufficiency) for those who stay for reasons of security.
- Vigorously promote skills-training for other refugees, including those in urban areas, with a view to making them more self-reliant.



Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Sudanese Refugees	177,300	177,300
Congolese Refugees	8,400	8,400
Rwandan Refugees	8,600	8,600
Other Refugees	1,900	1,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>196,200</b>	<b>196,200</b>
<b>Total Requirements USD 19,642,821</b>		

# W

## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

Uganda has received large numbers of refugees throughout the 1990's. More recently, the political and security situation in neighbouring countries such as Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has contributed to a constant flow of refugees into the northern and western parts of the country. The ongoing conflict in southern Sudan between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army has brought thousands of new refugees to Uganda in search of protection. Despite the instability in the surrounding countries, the security situation in Uganda itself has continued to improve steadily. UN staff are now able to travel by road to the north rather than by chartered flight, which for more than three years had usually been necessary. The Government of Uganda has adopted a liberal refugee policy and provides land for most of the Sudanese refugees, helping them achieve self-sufficiency in food production. A four-year Self-Reliance Strategy, whose aim is to reduce aid dependency, has been embraced by central and district authorities and is expected to continue until 2003.

The prevailing insecurity in many parts of the Great Lakes region has led to the arrival of some 3,000 refugees from the DRC in 1999 alone, bringing the total close to 8,500. In addition, more than 7,800 Rwandan refugees are currently unable to return to their homes. Recent peace initiatives, culminating in the signature of a peace agreement by six nations (including Uganda) in Lusaka, Zambia in September 1999 have however raised hopes that these refugees may eventually be able to return to their homes.

### Constraints

The unstable situation in neighbouring countries has until recently made voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees very difficult. The conflict in southern Sudan shows no signs of abating. So the Sudanese refugees are not expected to return home any time soon.

Security in and around refugee settlements in both northern and southern Uganda continues to be of concern to UNHCR. Incursions by armed rebel forces have been reported, mainly to retrieve so-called deserters considered to be hiding among the refugee populations. UNHCR has provided advice on the issue to local military commanders as well as to the Government.

Care for Sudanese refugees is complicated by the lack of resources and infrastructure in northern Uganda. The scarcity of local NGOs in the north has effectively reduced the ability of the local authorities to provide services for the refugees.

# S

## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

Voluntary repatriation is the preferred solution for the majority of the Congolese and Rwandan refugees in Uganda. However, large-scale return may prove difficult, given the continuing danger in the eastern parts of the DRC. UNHCR will assist individual refugees who wish to return home and continue to support the peace and reconciliation process in neighbouring countries.

The aim of the Self-Reliance Strategy is to reduce dependency for the Sudanese refugees by improving their integration into national structures (not to be confused with naturalisation and citizenship). Ways of granting temporary work permits and business licenses to these refugees who have resided in Uganda for many years will be explored in concert with the Government.

Over the past year, the Government of Uganda and UNHCR have worked together to draft a new national refugee law which will be brought before Parliament shortly. The law will strengthen the national system for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, spelling out their rights and obligations as well as procedures for the review of asylum claims. To raise awareness of the new refugee law, training and seminars will be organised for the relevant Government and law enforcement officials. UNHCR will also continue to work closely with the national Eligibility Committee on issues that relate to the determination of refugee status.

### Assistance

Sudanese refugees are mainly located in Arua, Adjumani and Moyo districts in northern Uganda. In line with the Self-Reliance Strategy, UNHCR's main focus in 2000 will be to streamline the services for these refugees into national structures. The strategy also favours improving the standard of living of the refugees' host communities. Refugees will be treated on a par with nationals and will share responsibilities with their local communities. The success of this strategy will depend on



the authorities at district level who are directly involved in its implementation. UNHCR will therefore work with the authorities to sensitise them to the importance of the project and help them build the operational strength to provide services for the refugees. The Strategy will prepare the refugees for their eventual future return (even though repatriation is not a priority) and successful reintegration by acquiring skills and knowledge as well as possible assets. The Strategy will also enhance their dignity and self-confidence. UNHCR is preparing the ground for a similar approach for the Sudanese refugees in Acholi-Pii and Kiryandongo who are not yet covered by the Self-Reliance Strategy.

UNHCR will continue to assist those Congolese refugees who wish to repatriate. Refugees in Kyaka II settlement have expressed an interest in repatriating to eastern DRC, Kasindi and Bunia-Boga areas, and Rutshuru district. It is nevertheless difficult to organise repatriation as eastern DRC is witness to continual conflict. As the refugees in Kyangwali settlement are not yet able to return, UNHCR plans to apply the Self-Reliance Strategy to them as well. Meanwhile, food production by these refugees will be boosted and basic services, especially health care, will continue to be provided. Given that more Congolese

refugees might arrive, contingency plans will be regularly updated.

UNHCR will continue to provide multi-sectoral assistance to Rwandan refugees until they can be repatriated. The assistance strategy for other refugees, including those in urban areas, will be reviewed. UNHCR will redouble efforts to equip these refugees with skills in various fields. As prospects for repatriation are remote, local small businesses, agricultural and other income-generating activities will be supported. Lasting solutions for the Somali refugee group (the majority in this category) will mainly involve resettlement. A small group of refugees in Kampala will continue to be assisted with vocational training and counselling services.

Refugee women will be encouraged to participate in activities such as food distribution, literacy and leadership training to empower them with organisational skills. These activities will help the community maintain a gender balance in refugee welfare committees for water supply, milling and education. Income-generating activities and micro-credit projects will also be promoted.

Of great concern is the continuing abduction by armed rebels of young refugee women and children.



Victims are usually traumatised and need immediate support. UNHCR will therefore continue to help them through psycho-social counselling. Additional efforts will be made to improve girls' attendance in schools. A community-based nursery and pre-school programme will be supported to help mothers pursue other activities. UNHCR will also support non-formal education, and social and recreational activities for refugee children and youngsters.

Environmental education and awareness campaigns will be intensified. Tree nurseries will be established in order to prevent environmental degradation in areas affected by the presence of large numbers of refugees.

### Desired Impact

The Sudanese refugees in the northern district of Uganda will be able to grow, process, and buy their own food. It is expected that they will pay for the costs of their health services and education, take care of the vulnerable members of their family, and generally take part in social and economic activity in the same way as Ugandan nationals. Other refugees in Uganda are expected to receive adequate humanitarian assistance while solutions to their situation are still being sought.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management Structure

UNHCR's programme in Uganda is administered from the Branch Office in Kampala, which is supported by the four field-based offices in Arua, Pakelle, Mbarara and Kitgum. In 2000, UNHCR will operate with 112 staff in Uganda (20 international and 92 national). In addition, it is planned that three Junior Professional Officers will reinforce the team.

### Coordination

UNHCR will intensify cooperation with the UNFPA (on reproductive health) and with other members of the UN Disaster Management Team comprising UNICEF, WFP, UNESCO, FAO, OCHA and UNDP.

### Offices

Kampala  
Arua  
Kitgum  
Mbarara  
Pakelle/Adjumani

### Partners

#### NGOs

Action contre la faim  
Africa Humanitarian Action  
African Development and Emergency Organisation  
Agency for Cooperation and Research for Development  
Aktion Afrika Hilfe  
CARE  
Danish Refugee Council  
German Development Service  
Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit  
Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust  
Inter-Aid Uganda  
International Aid Sweden  
Jesuit Refugee Service  
Lutheran World Federation  
Transcultural Psycho-social Organisation  
Uganda Red Cross/International Federation of the Red Cross

### Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	2,584,905
Community Services	610,000
Crop Production	1,035,000
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	360,000
Education	2,605,000
Fisheries	30,000
Forestry	570,000
Health/Nutrition	1,615,000
Income Generation	514,000
Legal Assistance	260,000
Livestock	105,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,045,000
Sanitation	91,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	1,065,000
Transport/Logistics	3,190,000
Water (non-agricultural)	505,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>17,184,905</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>	<b>2,457,916</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,642,821</b>