

UGANDA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Ensure international protection for all Sudanese refugees in Uganda and integrate refugee services into national structures.
- Continue to provide international protection and care and maintenance assistance to refugees from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) while facilitating their voluntary repatriation, whenever possible.
- Provide protection and the necessary assistance to urban refugees in Kampala and ensure that 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.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

Under a directive from the Minister responsible for Refugees and Disaster Preparedness, all refugee-hosting districts were requested to start implementing refugee-related projects in their districts as part of the SRS initiative. Following the directive, UNHCR was requested to transfer certain activities in the education, health and environment/forestry sectors to district line ministries for implementation.

Uganda and Sudan signed a Protocol in March 2002, for the armies of the two countries to engage in operations against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in southern Sudan. The Protocol allowed the deployment of troops from the Uganda Government Forces (UPDF) in strategic towns of Juba and Torit, and to operate from there. In the face of "Operation Iron Fist" launched by the Ugandan army, in April 2002, it was

feared that the operation would trigger a refugee influx into northern Uganda from southern Sudan.

There was an increase of about 8,400 in the settlements during the first half of the year. This included 2,900 refugees, mostly Rwandan Hutus, who arrived at the Nakivale refugee camp in Mbarara from the United Republic of Tanzania. Adjumani in the north registered 2,079 new refugees during the same period, mostly from Eastern Equatoria region of Sudan due to renewed conflicts there. Some also came from IDP camps in Southern Sudan, where the supply of relief items and food rations was interrupted. As of 30 June 2002, there were 188,000 refugees in Uganda, representing a five per cent increase since the beginning of the year.

Marked progress in implementing the SRS was largely due to action by the Minister for Disaster Management and Refugees to clarify its purpose and objectives with the authorities of refugee-hosting districts. These include that of gradually phasing out parallel and inefficient systems of rendering services, which risk isolating refugees from the host communities, and encouraging measures to facilitate their integration into local communities.

A multi-sectoral approach is being used for the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS among refugees in settlements. Voluntary counselling and clinical testing is being used as a strategy for one of the pilot projects, for the benefit of refugees and nationals in Adjumani and Hoima districts. A comprehensive behaviour-change health programme for school adolescents was used to help reduce their risks against HIV/AIDS. A favourable change in attitudes and increased acceptance of the use of condoms for prevention of HIV/AIDS was observed among the refugee population. The drugs for treatment of

HIV/AIDS infections were made readily available.

The enrolment in formal education continues to be good. Total number of school age refugee children (from 5 to 17 years) by June 2002 was 79,698 (46 per cent of whom were females) out of a total refugee population of 187,683. Some 67,227 were enrolled in formal education and received assistance from UNHCR (43 per cent females). Those who were not assisted were either self-sponsored or were out of school. Of those assisted, 14,343 were national students attending refugee schools. The Education sector continued to support the SRS, and all the 20 schools in Rhino camp and Imvepi in Arua district were integrated into the district system from the beginning of 2002, and are now under the management of the District Education Office. Continued monitoring of the progress and an evaluation will be

carried out before transferring any additional activities to the Government for the next year.

Unfavourable weather conditions continued to hamper crop production for food self-sufficiency among the refugee communities. The first cropping season, which runs through March to July was a “disaster”. This was compounded by the shortage of additional agricultural land to refugees who have continued to depend on the same small piece of land allocated many years ago. The security situation in the north has further compromised refugees’ access and mobility to their agricultural plots. It is more likely that less land will be cultivated resulting in low household food production levels. Limited agricultural land and difficult access to markets for farm produce was another concern for UNHCR.

Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Improved academic performance among refugee pupils on year-end or external examinations and increased number of girls attending school.	The pass rate was between 85 per cent and 90 per cent among refugee pupils in Arua, Acholi-Pii, Adjumani and Moyo districts compared to between 75 per cent and 85 per cent among national pupils in the same locations. Girls’ enrolment in primary education increased from 41 per cent in 2001 to 44.5 per cent.
Improved community based water management system.	35 per cent of households make a token contribution per month as a user fee in refugee settlements in Arua district. 4 out of 7 water committee members are women (in Arua).
Increased coverage of sanitary facilities.	Latrine facilities in all the settlements span between 30 per cent and 37 per cent. In Arua settlements, 218 new latrines were constructed representing an increased average coverage of between 30 per cent and 50 per cent.
Reduced rates of global and severe malnutrition and mortality.	Global and severe malnutrition rates were maintained below 10 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. Crude mortality rate was maintained below 1/1000/month. No maternal death was reported in the refugee settlements.
Expansion of reproductive health programmes including STI/HIV/AIDS.	All health units in the settlements maintained adequate stocks of male condoms. Voluntary Counselling and Testing services were functional in all the settlements in the 4 districts of Mbarara, Hoima, Adjumani and Arua. All settlements delivered comprehensive reproductive health services (safe motherhood, family planning).

**REVISED OBJECTIVES AND
PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY–
DECEMBER 2002**

For the rest of the year, the objectives remain the same as the initial objectives. The implementation of activities with respect to the SRS will be continued with emphasis on monitoring, sensitisation, and capacity-building in close collaboration with the Ugandan authorities at both central and the district levels. Considering the evolving

security situation in northern Sudan, especially in Adjumani and Mayo districts - covered by UNHCR's sub office in Pakelle, and Achol-pii area of Pader district covered by UNHCR's field office in Kitgum, plans to respond immediately to possible displacement of the refugees from designated settlements and a moderate contingency plan to cater to a possible larger displacement will be put into place by UNHCR.

Financial Data (USD)

Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds			
Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
16,469,530	16,481,012	9,799,199	8,074,460