

Uganda

Promote the integration of services for refugees into existing national structures and continue to promote the self-reliance strategy, (SRS); encourage development agencies to incorporate the SRS into their programmes for refugees and Ugandan nationals; ensure international protection and continue to promote resettlement as a durable solution for eligible refugees; provide material assistance to refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

Impact

- Some 24 per cent of refugees attained a measure of food self-sufficiency in 2001; by contrast, 41 per cent had to continue to receive undiminished food rations.
- Under the SRS objectives, health, education and environment issues continued to be tackled (with varying degrees of success).
- UNHCR co-operated with six operational partners to ensure the smooth delivery of programme activities for both refugees and nationals in Adjumani and Moyo districts.
- UNHCR continued to ensure effective protection and provision of material assistance and counselling to urban refugees in Kampala.

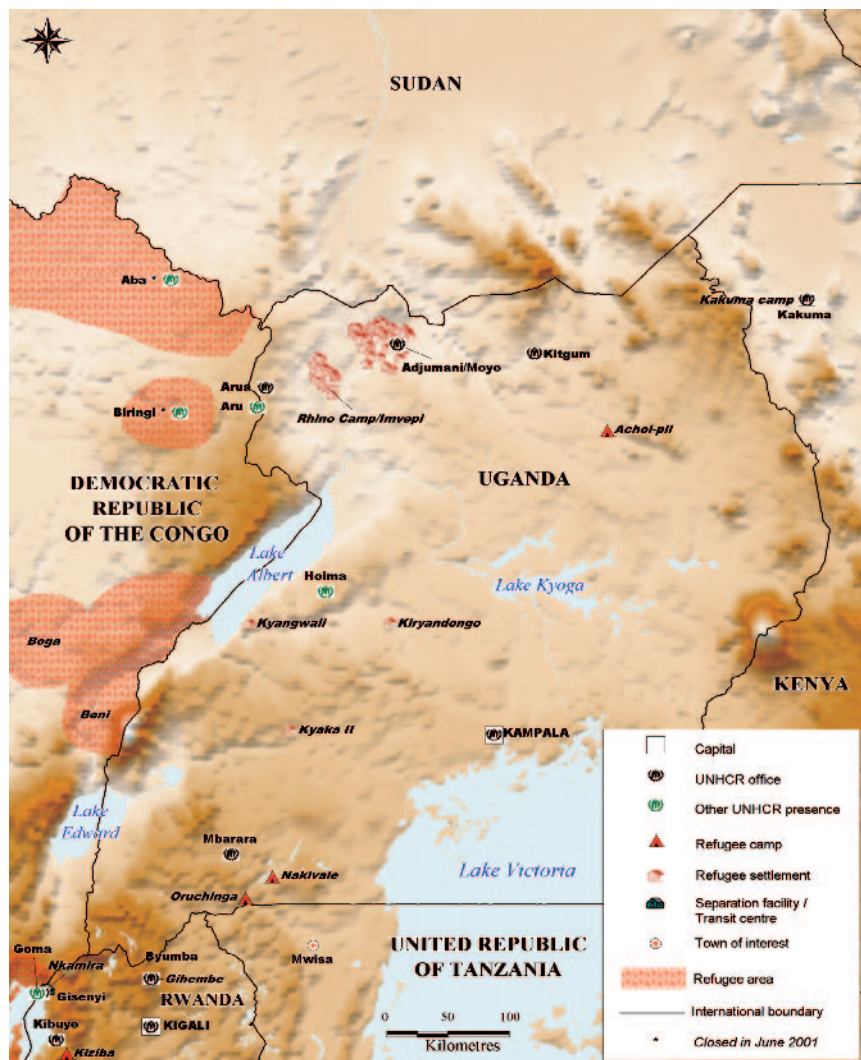
Working Environment

The Context

There were 179,736 registered refugees in Uganda in 2001; 90 per cent of them came from

southern Sudan, the remainder from Rwanda, the DRC, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. During the year, there was a new influx of 13,439 refugees. Political calm and a natural affinity between the local population and refugees have ensured good relationships (sometimes going as far back as 1993) mainly in northern Uganda.

A countrywide decentralisation process gave each local district the power to plan its own development activities, known as District Development Plan (DDP). The current DDPs run from 1999 to 2002 and have continued to recognise the SRS as a major



development tool for refugees. Nevertheless, misconceptions surrounding the SRS have continued to impede its full implementation at district levels. Some local authorities see the SRS as an exit strategy for UNHCR, and fear that districts will be burdened to breaking point, with the requirement to accommodate refugees as well as their own citizens. Others see the SRS as a gateway allowing refugees to be naturalised as Ugandan citizens even when conditions in their home countries have improved.

The physical safety of refugees in Uganda was a matter of great concern. There were more attacks in and around the settlements in 2001 and efforts were made to strengthen security. UNHCR recorded rebel incursions leading to deaths and serious injury of refugees, mainly in the north and west.

Uganda continued to apply liberal asylum policies towards refugees. However, a new policy introduced in 2001 required Sudanese asylum-seekers to report and register at settlements nearest to their point of entry into Uganda. The policy was designed to make protection accessible to refugees immediately upon arrival. There were no cases of *refoulement* known to UNHCR during the year. Rejected asylum seekers were given 90 days to appeal and those whose appeal failed were allowed to remain in the country with unclear status. UNHCR organised many training sessions to promote the rights of refugees in Uganda. The participants were drawn from refugee communities, government and implementing partners. In addition, UNHCR facilitated refugee status determina-

tion training for all personnel dealing with the issue.

Constraints

Funding remains a major challenge to SRS development. Although all stakeholders (including donors) unanimously support the SRS objectives, it remained a severe challenge to persuade donors to continue to provide development resources to districts after local authorities declared themselves willing to integrate services for refugees into their own plans. Financial contributions for development from international donors have not been as forthcoming as anticipated. Savings on food aid and other humanitarian assistance activities would justify contributions towards the additional expenditure by district authorities, but there is no simple mechanism of transferring savings from humanitarian budgets to development budgets.

UNHCR continued to meet increased resistance by local authorities to further land allocation to refugees whose families are expanding yearly. Moreover, the national population is increasingly encroaching upon refugee-designated land, which is also declining in productivity due to overuse. In 1998, it was envisaged that by the end of 2001, almost all refugees living in settlements, with land allocated, would be completely self-sufficient in food; however, by the end of 2001, only 24 per cent of refugees were able to produce their own food whilst 76 per cent still depended on some form of food rationing.

The programme suffered not only from current financial problems in 2001, but also from uncertainty over future funding. The consequent staff cuts under Action 2 resulted in a lack of personnel for monitoring and implementation of the programme in some areas.

Funding

Following the budget revision in April, the programme lost 14 per cent of its total operational budget. This meant that activities

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Sudan (Refugees)	176,800	156,800	48	57
Rwanda (Refugees)	14,300	14,300	48	60
DRC (Refugees)	7,600	7,600	49	58
Somalia (Refugees)	820	820	50	44

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
AB & TF	16,963,229	6,192,857	8,213,094	14,405,951	14,404,450

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.

in some sectors had to be deferred or cancelled. In addressing these issues, UNHCR lost valuable time in programme implementation during the first half of the year.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

For the majority of refugees in Uganda, in particular, the large number of Sudanese, the prospects for return continued to be remote: fighting between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) still continues. Similarly, unfavourable conditions for return prevail in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Therefore, the ongoing SRS was pursued as the only interim durable solution for Sudanese

after three years; and children can register as Ugandan citizens if one parent is Ugandan-born; but there are no other ways for a refugee to become a citizen. The period spent in Uganda by a refugee does not count as residence under the citizenship laws; consequently, long-staying refugees have no claim to citizenship. The provisions apply equally to their children. Therefore, under the existing law the chances of integration are extremely limited.

UNHCR increased its focus on resettlement during the reporting period in order to meet the challenges faced by refugees whose physical safety and security could not be guaranteed by the Government. Many of the refugees claim to have held high profile positions in their own countries, that they were victims of torture, women at risk, that they had medical and family reunion problems, or feared deportation or refoulement. Several cases

were accepted for resettlement in other countries. As a consequence of a better understanding of the selection process for resettlement, the number of resettlement cases increased during the year.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: Training workshops were conducted during 2001 to increase community participation in refugee issues. In Adjumani alone, 25 community meetings on care and support of vulnerable persons were conducted, benefiting 875 people (479 female), 53 extremely vulnerable individuals (36 female) were helped with construction of their huts, while 173 vulnerable refugees (131 female) were provided with non-food items. 66

vulnerable refugee families were given additional quantities of basic food supplies and sugar by WFP. 242 acres of land were made available to 181 vulnerable refugee families and 29 community sensitisation sessions were conducted for 1,316 refugees (926 female) on the subject of care and support for their own vulnerable persons. Communities developed an increased capacity to help their own vulnerable people.

Water for domestic consumption had to be supplied in sufficient quantities and good quality. Refugees at a waterpoint in Nakivale. *UNHCR / B. Malik*

refugees. It should be clearly understood that the success of the SRS hinges on the availability of ample fertile land for refugees and adequate contributions of development funds from major donors and other parties.

Under the Ugandan Constitution of 1995, refugees have limited prospects of citizenship. Refugees married to nationals can be registered as citizens

Crop Production: 12,400 hectares of land was made available in Adjumani for crop production and 3,200 hectares in Moyo. However, due to adverse climatic conditions, the cultivated land produced only 60 per cent of household food needs in Adjumani and 73 per cent in Moyo. During the 2001 Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted by UNHCR, WFP and the Government (Office of the Prime Minister), it was discovered that only four refugee locations had achieved some measure of food self-sufficiency (Kiryandongo, Kyangwali, Moyo and Adjumani). Land in these locations, especially in Kiryandongo and Kyangwali, is very fertile and the rainfall is good. In addition, refugees also have access to additional agricultural land through private arrangements with nationals.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Reception centres in two settlements in the Arua district provided new arrivals with cooked meals and shelter for one night, before they were registered and had plots allocated to them. About 4,681 new arrivals (1,388 families) were assisted and provided with non-food items. Some 274 refugees residing in urban areas were paid monthly subsistence and accommodation allowances. 2,378 refugees, who travelled to Kampala for resettlement interviews, were provided with accommodation. Five houses were rented for refugees and asylum-seekers with special security and medical concerns.

Education: Primary education of refugees was further harmonised with the national education system. UNHCR focused on building national secondary schools to absorb refugees and provided scholarships. Income-generating activities led to an increased number of refugee parents having the financial resources to make a meaningful contribution to the education of their children. In all, a total of 18,607 children were enrolled in nursery/pre-school education (49 per cent girls) and 57,564 attended primary education (43 per cent girls). Some 12,720 children were enrolled in secondary education (16 per cent girls) and 378 received vocational or university education (28 per cent females).

Fisheries: Four fish-landing sites were improved with the provision of fish dressing and handling facilities. A pit latrine and one incinerator were constructed at fish markets to improve sanitation. A wooden fishing boat was provided to fishermen

on a loan recovery basis. Training was provided to fishermen on methods of fish processing – to improve the quality of fish products and consequently, increase their income-generation capacity.

Forestry: Environmental mapping was undertaken to determine appropriate conservation measures and steps were taken to avoid the destruction of trees during house construction. Nearly seven acres of land were planted with trees in various settlements. Environment mobilisation and awareness campaigns reduced environmental degradation and contributed to environmental rehabilitation. The selling of seedlings generated some income for refugees.

Health/Nutrition: UNHCR, through its implementing partners, delivered health and nutrition services, including HIV/AIDS prevention, in all refugee settlements and to individual refugees in the urban area. A process of integrating refugee services into the district health systems has been initiated in each district. The emphasis was placed on safe motherhood, family planning, and promotion of awareness of sexual and gender-based violence as well as friendly health services for adolescents. This project fostered peer teaching of community health workers, refugee welfare leaders, religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, and traditional healers. The construction and repair of health facilities was cancelled for lack of funds.

Income Generation: Refugees gained some knowledge of crop production methods and applied it, producing their own food and selling the surplus for profit. Through the formation of savings schemes, a few refugees were able to accumulate funds amounting to two million Uganda Shillings (equivalent of USD 1,170). Refugees trained in business skills used their newly acquired skills to operate their own bank accounts and lend to other members of the community. They set up agricultural and trading associations. 103 girls from various settlements were selected to undertake a four-month tailoring training programme.

Legal Assistance: Through its advice and consultations, UNHCR made significant contributions to the development of the draft law. But the tabling of the Refugee Bill in Parliament did not seem to be a priority for the Government, and by year's end the proposed new refugee law had not yet been passed.

In the interim, UNHCR continued to disseminate the principles of refugee law, through the media and through training workshops. Other training workshops were dedicated to gender awareness, gender discrimination and gender violence, human rights, refugee law and status determination. Participants came from refugee communities, local and central government, NGOs and implementing partners.

Livestock: In the Moyo district, methods to improve livestock management through pass-on-the-gift methods and artificial insemination of livestock, resulted in 11 diary cows and five off-springs managed by two female and eight male refugee farmers. This boosted milk production and the income for the farmers. Imported high-breed goats and their cross-breeding benefited both the owners and the surrounding communities. Barter trade of goats and cows, a common practice in the district, was intensified due to increased live weight of the cross-bred goats. In the Arua district, livestock disease/pest control investigations were carried out in the settlements. 250 units of assorted live-stock drugs/medicines were procured and 12,000 goats, cattle and sheep were vaccinated against various diseases for refugees and the local communities. A workshop on livestock-housing, breeding and disease control was organised in the Rhino camp for 40 women and 15 men. In the Adjumani district, goats and turkeys were purchased for refugee farmers. Livestock for 605 men and 87 women farmers from both the refugee and host communities was treated against various diseases.

Operational Support (to Agencies): UNHCR covered some of its implementing partners' administrative costs and organised training sessions in financial management and environmental resource management.

Sanitation: 91 latrines were constructed in 37 primary schools in Adjumani and Moyo districts. Four community awareness campaigns were conducted on the health hazards of improper disposal of human waste and inadequate control of vectors (disease carriers), while 30 health education meetings were held to promote good hygienic practices. Health pamphlets were distributed to teachers. 17 sets of tools for digging sanitary structures were provided to the new settlements. The community

became more aware of the importance of clean water, proper sanitation and the need to maintain these facilities. Despite the progress made, construction of 30 normal and 10 reinforced latrine blocks and provision of 175 latrine slabs to refugee primary schools in Adjumani were cancelled due to the funding shortfall. This delayed the licensing of some schools by government authorities. Unlicensed schools do not qualify as examination centres and consequently, refugee pupils had to travel long distances to sit examinations. Girls were exposed to the risks of being assaulted or abducted during such walks.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Roads to existing settlements were maintained but funding shortages led to the cancellation of: the development of a potential new site to accommodate new arrivals, the construction of new roads and the repair of social infrastructure. The cancellation of the new site meant that any influx of refugees into Arua would have to remain on food rations indefinitely.

Transport/Logistics: An implementing partner managed the central warehouse in Kampala, where most of the relief items are stored before despatch to the field. The same partner also ran a fleet of four ten-ton trucks that delivered all relief items during the year. Another NGO partner continued to run the mechanical workshop for the maintenance of project vehicles and motorcycles. These services ensured mobility throughout the year and uninterrupted delivery of assistance to refugees. UNHCR procured 14 vehicles and 29 motorcycles for different implementing partners during the reporting period.

Water: In Adjumani and Moyo districts, where 45 per cent of refugees reside, water of good quality for domestic consumption was supplied in sufficient quantities. 101 boreholes were repaired, 13 new ones were drilled and equipped with hand pumps and two shallow wells were constructed. These additional water sources reached over 7,000 refugees, bringing water coverage in the settlements to 87 per cent of that required (six per cent more than in 2000). The intervention significantly reduced the incidence of water-borne diseases. In Arua district, the number of boreholes increased from 101 to 105. Three new boreholes were sunk for the host communities during 2001.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

UNHCR operations in Uganda were co-ordinated by a branch office in Kampala and six offices in the field. In 2001, UNHCR employed 25 internationals, including four UNVs, and 76 national staff. The UN Internal Auditors conducted an audit of the office's operations in July 2001. Major findings focused on improvements to be made to the management and implementation of UNHCR-funded projects by implementing partners and government counterparts.

Working with Others

Co-operation with Uganda Micro Finance Union and Uganda Change was productive in providing guidance for micro-credit schemes. Several meetings were held with UNICEF with a view to integrating services to better meet refugee needs. UNHCR agreed to share expenses on the transport of food commodities, and the purchase of cooking materials for one of its projects. It is expected that as a consequence of this scheme, school enrolment and attendance will improve further. Efforts have been made to encourage operational partners to implement programmes that benefit both nationals and refugees, to enable the phasing-out of UNHCR's assistance. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with two international NGOs for the implementation of adult literacy programmes, income-generating activities, agricultural support and skills training. WFP introduced a food-for-work programme, which included infrastructure development benefiting both refugees and nationals. A number of other agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, and the World Bank are involved in projects in northern Uganda as part of the Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme. In 2001, UNHCR's co-ordinated and monitored assistance programmes implemented by 16 NGOs and three government partners.

Overall Assessment

Programme activities undertaken in 2001 had positive impacts both on the refugee and the Ugandan population. Despite some persisting misconceptions, there was a positive change of attitude by local authorities towards SRS. Refugees and host communities actively participated in the implementation of various programme activities. There is an urgent need to build on these partnerships if further progress is to be made.

Budget reductions throughout the year reduced the overall effectiveness of the programme and the Ugandan refugee operation underwent considerable downsizing. Refugees can clearly become self-sufficient, but generalised self-sufficiency will only make sense if the process is gradual and within the framework of integrated services. Access to arable land for crop production and market outlets for excess products are a prerequisite.

UNHCR's role is and should remain that of supporter and facilitator of the essential activities of international protection. The SRS in Uganda is not an exit strategy per se; rather, it is a strategy to improve the quality of asylum in protracted refugee situations.

Offices

Kampala
Adjumani
Arua
Hoima
Kitgum
Mbarara

Partners

Government Agencies

District Directorate of Health Services
District Forestry Office
Office of the Prime Minister

NGOs

Action contre la faim
Africa Humanitarian Action
African Development and Emergency Organisation
Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development
Aktion Afrika Hilfe
Equatoria Civic Fund
German Development Services
Inter-Aid Uganda
International Aid Sweden
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Uganda Red Cross Society

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,324,569		22,137	
Community Services	136,244		109,246	
Crop Production	180,693		9,758	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	146,827		59,874	
Education	1,077,649		325,054	
Fisheries	672		(1,619)	
Food	0		(1,533)	
Forestry	143,332		64,942	
Health / Nutrition	769,321		151,554	
Income Generation	52,050		15,356	
Legal Assistance	239,537		2,377	
Livestock	15,897		(5,031)	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,559,198		235,860	
Sanitation	28,593		48,832	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	245,680		20,909	
Transport / Logistics	1,571,593		421,570	
Water	130,576		63,603	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	2,577,558		(1,223,154)	
Sub-total Operational	11,199,989		319,735	
Programme Support	2,164,171		68,804	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	13,364,160	(3)	388,539	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,040,290	(3)	0	
TOTAL	14,404,450	(1) (3)	388,539	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	7,404,365		1,423,948	
Reporting Received	4,826,807		2,647,102	
Balance	2,577,558		(1,223,154)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,404,262	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		189,762	
Currency Adjustment	0		5,780	
Outstanding 31 December	2,577,558		(2,874)	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		779,043	(5) ¹
New Obligations	14,404,450	(1)	0	
Disbursements	13,364,160	(3)	388,539	(5)
Cancellations	0		390,504	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	1,040,290	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5

(5)¹ This balance includes USD 999, outstanding from operations before 2000. It is also reported under "Unearmarked" in Schedule 5, page 46 of UNHCR's Accounts.