

Fighting in eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to influxes of refugees into Uganda. In 2007, political violence following elections in Kenya prompted some 12,000 Kenyans to seek asylum in Uganda, where they received refugee status on a *prima facie* basis. Since 2006, more than 150,000 refugees from the DRC, Rwanda and Sudan have returned to their countries.

Uganda's adoption of the Refugee Act promises a fairer and more efficient asylum regime. The refugee law, considered one of the most progressive in Africa, emphasizes the need for refugees to become self-sufficient and enables them to benefit from freedom of movement, the right to work and access to farming land.

Improvements in security have allowed some 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to their areas of origin. However, as of June 2008, nearly 480,000 people were still living in camps. Assistance is needed to create conditions conducive to the achievement of durable solutions

for all IDPs.

## Working environment

### The context

Following the signing of a ceasefire agreement by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government in July 2006, Uganda has enjoyed greater political stability. Nevertheless, insecurity troubles some regions of the country, and many of its people are extremely impoverished. UNHCR is involved in the Government-led Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP), the national framework for the transition from relief to recovery in northern Uganda.

### The needs

UNHCR is assisting refugees from the DRC, Kenya, Rwanda and Sudan living in camps, as well as urban refugees of various nationalities. Refugee needs include access to medicines, clean water, secondary education and legal assistance for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR will address these issues through community-based approaches. The main concern of IDPs is the lack of minimum conditions in areas of potential return.



An older Congolese refugee in Nyakabanda reception centre.

## Main objectives

### Annual programme

- All people in need of international protection have access to asylum procedures and receive protection against *refoulement*.
- Ensure a coordinated response in the camp coordination and camp management and protection clusters.
- To provide basic services to all people of concern, focusing on primary health care, access to primary education, the reduction of malnutrition, prevention of HIV and AIDS, and malaria control, as well as income generation and agricultural activities to aid self-reliance.
- Pursue durable solutions for all refugees.
- Launch a multi-year rehabilitation programme in northern Uganda to mitigate the environmental damage caused by long-staying refugees.

### Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	DRC	25,770	25,770	18,680	18,680
	Rwanda	31,630	16,060	21,390	15,120
	Sudan	162,410	150,330	118,090	115,590
	Various	4,070	3,320	3,210	2,440
Asylum-seekers	Burundi	900	-	900	-
	Rwanda	3,000	-	3,000	-
	Somalia	2,000	-	2,000	-
	Various	800	-	800	-
IDPs		1,200,000	1,200,000	800,000	800,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,420,580</b>	<b>1,395,480</b>	<b>968,070</b>	<b>951,830</b>

## Supplementary programme

- To ensure protection of IDPs and seek durable solutions for them within the framework of the PRDP and the District Development Plans.
- To implement a rehabilitation and livelihoods programme addressing the impact of the long presence of refugee camps in particular areas.

### Key targets

#### Annual programme

- Responsibility for refugee status determination (RSD) is transferred to the Government's Refugee Eligibility Committee, which is able to process outstanding asylum claims.
- The Office of the Prime Minister takes on responsibility for the registration of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- No reports of *refoulement*, arbitrary arrest or unwarranted detention of refugees.
- The number of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence is reduced, and reports of child abuse and neglect are documented and reviewed regularly in refugee settlements.
- All survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in refugee-hosting areas receive medical certificates for use in court (up from 60 per cent).
- At least 15 litres of drinking water is provided per person per day in refugee settlements.
- All refugees have access to primary health care and sanitation.
- All refugee children have access to primary education.
- At least 90 per cent of newborn refugee babies are vaccinated against preventable diseases.
- Sixty-five per cent of HIV and AIDS patients receive treatment and counselling in refugee settlements.

#### Supplementary programme

- A protection monitoring and advocacy campaign against forced returns of IDPs is implemented.
- Counselling and legal assistance for IDPs are expanded.
- Areas affected by refugee camp closures are rehabilitated, infrastructure consolidated, and the capacities of host communities strengthened through livelihood activities.

## Strategy and activities

UNHCR, in coordination with the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda, will continue to promote

repatriation as a durable solution for Rwandan refugee. The Office will continue discussions with the Government of Uganda about local integration.

Repatriation activities for Sudanese refugees will be given priority even as conditions in the settlements are maintained at an acceptable level. Health, water and education services and facilities will be consolidated. UNHCR and the Government will discuss implementation of a multi-year rehabilitation plan for refugee hosting areas.

UNHCR will continue to provide protection and assistance to some 2,000 Kenyan refugees in Kiryandongo refugee settlement until a durable solution, most likely repatriation, is found for them.

The Office will register new asylum-seekers. Resettlement will be used as a protection tool and as durable solution. Targeted medical and educational assistance will continue as resources permit.

The Office will focus on the implementation of the framework for durable solutions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs. This will ensure the access of IDPs to socioeconomic services as a means to achieve reintegration. An exit strategy will take into account the capacity-building needs of national institutions.

## Constraints

Lack of tangible progress in peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) may hamper interventions by UNHCR and other humanitarian actors. The repatriation to Southern Sudan may be hampered by the limited absorption capacity in areas of return. Delays in the implementation of the Refugee Act due to limited government capacity and funding could also curb full enjoyment of rights by refugees.

## Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence	
Number of offices	8
Total staff	116
International	17
National	79
JPOs	4
UNVs	16



## Coordination

According to the 2004 national IDP policy, the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees within the Office of the Prime Minister will be the lead agency for the protection and assistance of persons who have been internally displaced. UNHCR will support the Office of the Prime Minister by participating in the monitoring committee for implementation of this policy. To build local capacity, UNHCR has also strengthened its collaboration with the Ugandan Human Rights Commission. Recently the District protection clusters led by UNHCR were merged with the District Human Right Protection and Promotion sub-committees. The two agencies are now co-chairing the merged body.

UNHCR leads the protection and camp coordination and camp management clusters. Furthermore, UNHCR is part of the UN Country Team developing a strategy to support the Government's efforts to bridge the gap between relief and recovery.

UNHCR will strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders participating in the Local Development Partners Group and the monitoring committee, including the Office of the Prime Minister, donors, NGOs and other UN agencies.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

**Government:** Office of the Prime Minister, District Director of Health Services - District of Arua, District Education Officers - Districts of Arua, Moyo, Directorate of Community Services, District of Arua, Ministry of Works and Transport

**NGOs:** Africa Humanitarian Action, *Aktion Afrika Hilfe*, African Development and Emergency Organization, African Initiative for Relief and Development, American Refugee Committee, *Arbeiter Samariter Bund*, Agency for Technical, Cooperation and Development, Association of Volunteers in International Service, Christian Children's Fund, Danish Refugee Council, German Development Services, GOAL (Ireland), Health of Adolescents Programme, InterAid Uganda, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Services, Norwegian Refugee Council, Samaritan's Purse, War Child Canada, Windle Trust Uganda

**Others:** *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

#### Operational partners

**Government:** Office of the Prime Minister

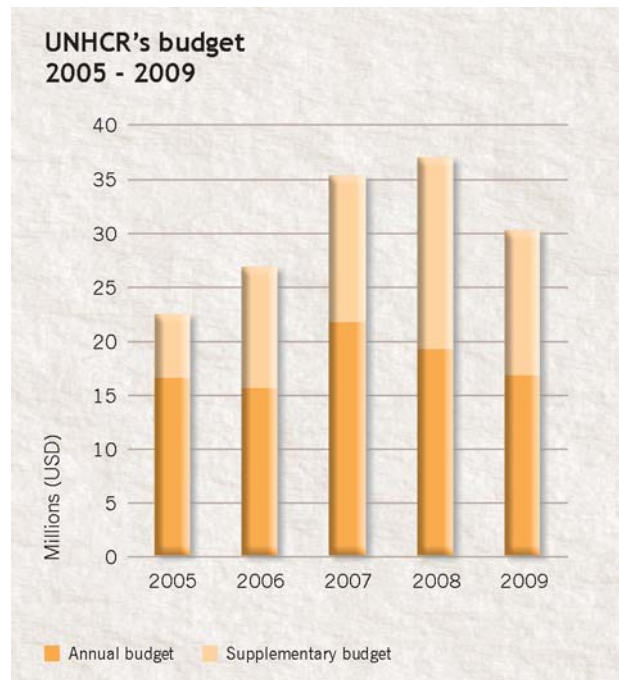
**NGOs:** Finnish Refugee Council, International Medical Corps, Right to Play, Directorate of Community Development, International Rescue, Madi AIDS Control Initiative, National Lake Rescue Institute, Youth Anti Aids Service Association

**Others:** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ), OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOHCH, UNV

## Financial information

The annual programme budget for UNHCR's operation in Uganda consistently increased from 2005 to 2007 to ensure that minimum standards were attained for refugees. However, the budget is decreasing in 2009 mainly due to the declining number of Sudanese refugees in the country.

Due to UNHCR's involvement in protection and assistance of IDPs in Uganda, the supplementary programme budget gradually increased between 2005 and 2008. Nevertheless, as IDPs have started to return to their places of origin, or relocated within the country, the supplementary programme budget has also been adjusted accordingly for 2009.



Budget (USD)							
Activities and services	2008			2009			
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget <sup>1</sup>	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget		Total
					IDPs	Return of Sudanese refugees	
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,401,300	5,233,928	8,635,228	4,108,228	2,345,482	345,463	6,799,173
Community services	882,421	1,247,991	2,130,412	868,750	460,000	0	1,328,750
Crop production	8,896	0	8,896	0	0	0	0
Domestic needs	136,714	8,624	145,338	130,000	0	0	130,000
Education	1,594,325	0	1,594,325	1,123,472	0	0	1,123,472
Forestry	278,996	0	278,996	61,000	520,000	0	581,000
Health	2,157,505	47,383	2,204,888	1,609,690	0	0	1,609,690
Income generation	0	0	0	0	400,000	0	400,000
Legal assistance	896,538	5,351,433	6,247,971	876,250	2,331,000	0	3,207,250
Operational support (to agencies)	1,705,537	2,898,828	4,604,365	1,591,000	1,470,000	0	3,061,000
Sanitation	173,322	64,520	237,842	145,000	0	3,000,000	3,145,000
Shelter and infrastructure	165,714	1,517,000	1,682,714	853,815	1,319,000	0	2,172,815
Transport and logistics	2,089,392	1,023,650	3,113,042	1,905,023	500,000	0	2,405,023
Water	210,641	173,672	384,313	232,000	0	0	232,000
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>13,701,301</b>	<b>17,567,029</b>	<b>31,268,330</b>	<b>13,504,228</b>	<b>9,345,482</b>	<b>3,345,463</b>	<b>26,195,173</b>
Programme support	3,149,783	70,525	3,220,308	3,151,474	577,956	107,912	3,837,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,851,084</b>	<b>17,637,554</b>	<b>34,488,638</b>	<b>16,655,702</b>	<b>9,923,438</b>	<b>3,453,375</b>	<b>30,032,515</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes supplementary programmes for IDPs (USD 14,432,710), return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs in Southern Sudan (USD 3,004,844), and water and sanitation activities (USD 200,000).

Note: Supplementary programme budgets exclude 7 per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.