UGANDA

Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy for Refugees and Host Communities
Background

“Displacement isn’t just a humanitarian issue, it’s also a development opportunity. UNDP offers solutions for refugees and host communities to address urgent needs with a long-term perspective”

Rosa Malango
UN Resident Coordinator &
UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda

Uganda is the largest refugee hosting country in Africa, with more than one million refugees and asylum seekers. Since the outbreak of conflict in South Sudan in 2013, Uganda has been experiencing increasing numbers of refugees, especially in the districts of West Nile, Northern Uganda. In light of the deteriorating security situation in South Sudan, a continued influx of refugees to Uganda is expected.

- According to UNHCR, the registered number of new refugees from South Sudan has reached 779,622.
- 86% of the new refugees are women and children.
- 76% of Uganda’s total number of refugees are South Sudanese.
- Estimations are as high as 1.6 million South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2017.

Impact

The impact of refugee settlements on host communities is significant, including competition over access to livelihoods and water; pressure on natural resources as trees are cleared for both housing and fuel; and limited capacities to deal with human waste, increasing risk for an outbreak of disease.

Security is a concern as law enforcement is limited, as are prison facilities and detention centres.
- Increased conflict between refugees and host communities, including looting and attacks on female-headed households.
- Girls as young as 14 are being married off as a means of escaping poverty.

Environmental impact and rapidly degrading natural resources must also be considered.
- Competition over natural resources is becoming a source of tension between the communities.
- Some endangered species such as ebony and mahogany will become extinct if not protected.
- Strain on the water supply: Yumbe district, where Bidibidi settlement is located, has only 18% water coverage - compared to 65% in other parts of the country.
- Liquid and solid waste disposal, as well as inadequate latrine holes, have been shown to have a dramatic increase in the risk of disease.

Source: UNHCR Uganda Flash Update 6 March 2017
Refugees are displaced for an average of 17 years. Displacement is a long term issue that requires long term development oriented solutions, especially in Uganda where refugees are settled within communities opposed to camps. While humanitarian actors deal with the response to displacement, for example, by setting up refugee settlements and providing food and other essential protection needs, UNDP works with local and national authorities to help them manage the increased population and support refugees and host communities on socio economic recovery, social cohesion and development.

Globally, UNDP is the chair of the UN Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery and plays a central role in providing emergency livelihoods and fostering economic recovery in both crisis and post-crisis setting, including refugee hosting countries. Although the cluster system has not been activated in Uganda, UNDP brings its global knowledge and experience in livelihoods stabilization, mid to long term economic recovery, and long term employment creation and inclusive economic growth in responding to the refugee influx.

**Objective**

The objective of the Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy is to strengthen the resilience of refugees, host communities, district local governments and relevant national institutions to cope with and recover from the impact of large influxes of refugees. The aim is to provide emergency support, while investing in existing national and local capacity to ensure they can adequately serve both refugee and host communities.
Strategy

In line with the United Nations Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) framework and the Government of Uganda’s Settlement Transformation Agenda, the Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy seeks to support both the emergency response needs of recently arrived refugees, and medium to long term interventions to support both refugees and their host communities, focusing on economic stabilization, prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and improved service delivery.
Key Components of the Strategy

**COMPONENT 1**

**EMERGENCY LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY**
- Disaster risk and climate change sensitive jobs and livelihoods for refugees and host communities, focusing on women and youth.
  - cash for work
  - small grants
  - vocational and business skills training value chain development

**COMPONENT 2**

**MULTI-SECTORAL SUPPORT TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**
- Legal aid provision and enhanced legal awareness for victims.
- Ensure adequate and trained staff are available.
- Support women’s political participation within the host communities.
- Contribute to the physical infrastructure required (e.g., detention centres, shelters).
- Access to justice and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

**COMPONENT 3**

**STRENGTHEN CORE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS**
- Strengthening of relevant national and local level government capacity to:
  - cope with and respond to influxes of refugees
  - to ensure a resilience based development approach is mainstreamed across the overall response from the start
UN’s Three-Track Approach for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration

**TRACK A**
(Livelihoods Stabilization)

- Programming responds to the urgent needs of crisis-affected groups with interventions to help stabilize livelihoods. These interventions are more intensive in the early stages of a crisis.

**TRACK B**
(Economic Recovery)

- Programming focuses on medium to long-term economic recovery, including interventions to boost sustainable employment and income generation.

**TRACK C**
(Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth)

- Capacity development of national and local government.

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION**

- Emergency employment creation through cash for work
- Community infrastructure rehabilitation
- Vocational and skills training and placement
- Targeted self-employment support through start-up grants
- Capacity development of judiciary, police and security forces to prevent and respond to SGBV
- Inclusive value chain development in partnership with private sector

**PHASE I**
Stabilization

**PHASE II**
Transition

**PHASE III**
Sustainability

While the priority is set on Track A in the short-term, UNDP aims to start all three tracks at the same time in order to ease the translation of initial emergency interventions into medium to longer term inclusive and sustainable growth.
UNDP’s 3x6 Approach

The 3x6 Approach was developed by UNDP to help build resilience of affected communities in crisis situations. This approach considers participants as active partners in their own socio-economic recovery and development.

### 3 PRINCIPLES x 6 STEPS

#### PHASE I - INCLUSION

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<tr>
<th>PRINCIPLE</th>
<th>STEPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGAGING:</td>
<td>Voluntary participation in community-oriented projects creating temporary employment while reinforcing social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAVING:</td>
<td>Opportunity to invest their savings into an income-generating activity or an activity benefitting the community. Providing <strong>business counseling</strong> and <strong>technical support</strong> to participants, guiding their choices and ensuring feasibility.</td>
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#### PHASE II - OWNERSHIP

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<tr>
<td>GENERATING INCOME:</td>
<td>Short term employment creation to support immediate individual income, inject capital into local economies and revive production and local service sectors.</td>
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<td>JOINING VENTURING:</td>
<td>Investment of individual or collective savings is <strong>multiplied</strong> by UNDP to provide more start-up capital for self-managed and <strong>economically viable</strong> income-generating activities and social enterprises.</td>
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#### PHASE III - SUSTAINABILITY

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<tr>
<td>INVESTING:</td>
<td>Reinforcing investments, identifying best practices, <strong>attract partnerships</strong>, project <strong>financing</strong> and <strong>access</strong> to finance to expand.</td>
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<td>ACCESSING MARKETS:</td>
<td>Supporting the creation of <strong>platforms</strong> where different stakeholders come together, becoming more <strong>competitive</strong> and move towards <strong>sustainability</strong>.</td>
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Cash for Work:

UNDP approaches cash for work as an opportunity to engage with refugees and communities to improve social cohesion, find more sustainable livelihoods, strengthen capacities and raise awareness around issues that may cause tension and increase risk. Implemented using the 3x6 approach, UNDP will provide cash for work projects specifically focused on women and youth, targeting 70% refugees and 30% host communities.

PHASE I:
- Cash for work projects will be selected through a participatory and inclusive process.
- Cash for work activities will be disaster risk and climate change sensitive.
- Cash will be paid in return for work to provide individuals and households with the means to meet their unique life-saving needs (food, medical care, and other essential household goods and services etc.) to stabilize livelihoods.
- Cash will then be used to purchase goods and services from the local market providing liquidity into the local economy benefiting host communities.

PHASE II:
- 1/3 of the total wage earned from PHASE I will be saved (mandatory) and tripled through provision of start-up grants for micro enterprise development for those who wishes to continue to PHASE II.

PHASE III:
- UNDP will carry out regular market assessments to identify specific sectors with high potential for job creation to guide investments in critical parts of selected value chains to stimulate job creation.
Examples of Cash for Work activities

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION**
- Tree planting, including wetland restoration.
- Production of alternative source of fuel for cooking, including briquette production.
- Production of alternative construction materials for shelter.
- Construction of rain water catchment systems for households and communities.
- Awareness raising activities for those less able to perform manual labour, focusing on:
  - promotion of energy efficient cook stoves
  - peacebuilding
  - health issues such as hygiene, HIV/AIDS, SGBV, etc.
  - safe and sustainable use of water
  - disaster risk reduction

**LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- Rehabilitation of small/micro socio-economic community infrastructure, such as market places, storage facilities, small roads, shelters, and digging of latrines.

**PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**
- Provision of basic psycho social support and referral service for more advanced psycho social support for survivors of SGBV.
- Construction of temporary and permanent shelters for persons with special needs, especially for survivors of SGBV.
Innovation in Action

UNDP is supporting Uganda develop refugee settlement base maps, as part of the country's effort to build more resilient and sustainable communities. Using the latest technologies in Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) high over the settlement, UNDP is helping to create maps to deal with climate and disaster risks to the area, as well as to the self-reliance that is so fundamental to the process of refugee re-settlement. Such risks include:

- Changing weather patterns
- Water availability
- Soil degradation
- Encroachment

The UAVs are used to produce a high-resolution aerial photo-mosaic, after which hazard, risk and vulnerability information is then overlaid. Residents participate in the process by identifying community infrastructure, homestead plots and crops. The innovative mapping initiative is participatory as residents and officials work together to make informed decisions on matters such as crop selection and steps moving forward regarding community infrastructure and land management.

UNDP's support with base mapping with UAVs is essential in providing solutions to the humanitarian and developmental issues facing refugee settlements.

Timeframe & Budget

Technical, technological, operational and financial resources will be required to deliver the expected results. More specifically, this will include the sharing of innovative approaches and tools to problem-solving, sharing of best practices, technical assistance, trainings and South to South and Triangular Cooperation.

The strategy is for 4 years (2017-2020) with a total budget of USD 21,183,220.

Currently funded by:
Adjumani
- Total district population: 452,412
- Refugee population: 47.6%

Yumbe
- Total district population: 805,161
- Refugee population: 33.5%

Moyo
- Total district population: 220,864
- Refugee population: 35.5%

Kampala
- Total district population: 1,659,251
- Refugee population: 5.4%

Arua
- Total district population: 918,479
- Refugee population: 10.2%

Kiryandongo
- Total district population: 333,335
- Refugee population: 15.3%

Hoima
- Total district population: 664,057
- Refugee population: 6.8%

Isingiro
- Total district population: 659,256
- Refugee population: 20.3%

Lamwo
- New refugee hosting district

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