

Uganda Assistance Overview

August 2022

CONTEXT

- For decades, Uganda has provided asylum to people fleeing war and persecution in neighboring countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, as well as Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Somalia. As of June 2022, more than 1.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers were sheltering in Uganda, which hosts the largest refugee population on the African continent, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Nearly 77,000 refugees arrived in Uganda during the first half of 2022 alone, UNHCR reports.
- Most refugees in Uganda rely on humanitarian food assistance to meet their daily needs. However, with high prices of food, limited access to income, and poor harvests across Uganda, a growing number of refugee households face acute food insecurity, according to Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis from June.
- In Karamoja, a sub-region located in the eastern portion of Northern Region, low and sporadic rainfall in 2022 increased the risk of an additional poor harvest and a prolonged lean season, when food is scarcest, FEWS NET reports. Communities in Karamoja have faced prolonged food and nutrition insecurity since 2020 due to repeated climatic shocks and insecurity. Localized conflict and crime—involving armed confrontation with security forces, cattle rustling, and destruction of property—continue to hinder normal livelihood and income-earning activities, FEWS NET reports.
- Other areas of Uganda are generally more food-secure, though needs persist for some households in eastern and northern areas, as well as some central locations, according to FEWS NET. Increasing prices for staple food products stemming from drought-induced scarcity, the Government of Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine, rising transportation costs, and supply chain disruptions due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, particularly among poor households.



ASSISTANCE

- As the largest humanitarian donor in Uganda, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provides sustained support through emergency food assistance needs for the refugee population hosted in Uganda. The UN World Food Program (WFP), USAID/BHA's primary partner in Uganda, distributes locally and internationally procured emergency food assistance—such as beans, High Energy Biscuits, maize, and vegetable oil—to refugees and asylum-seekers. Purchasing food locally whenever possible enables WFP to rapidly deliver food assistance to populations in need while simultaneously benefiting Ugandan farmers. USAID/BHA also supports WFP to provide cash transfers for food to many refugees, depending on local market conditions, empowering vulnerable individuals

to purchase the food most appropriate for their households from local vendors. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, USAID/BHA assistance through WFP will reach more than 1.4 million refugees in Uganda.

- USAID/BHA supports multi-year programs that aim to build resilience and respond to longer-term needs among Uganda’s most vulnerable communities. Through Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience (ER4) funding, USAID/BHA and USAID’s former Office of Food for Peace have supported two long-term programs implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Mercy Corps in Karamoja since FY 2017. The programs span multiple sectors including agriculture and livelihoods; disaster risk reduction; nutrition; health; governance; and water, sanitation, and hygiene. In FY 2021, through the Nuyok program, USAID/BHA supported CRS to provide integrated health services—including antenatal care, immunization, and nutrition services—to more than 23,000 pregnant and lactating women and 46,000 children ages five and younger. The second program, through Mercy Corps, works in Karamoja’s Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, and Moroto districts and reached more than 264,000 participants in FY 2021 through activities focused on strengthening and enhancing household capacity to sustain food and nutrition security.
- In partnership with the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) Foundation, USAID/BHA also helps improve the food security and livelihoods of 14,000 refugee and Ugandan host community households in southwestern Uganda’s Kamwenge District through the Graduating to Resilience activity. This innovative activity seeks to graduate refugee and Ugandan host community households from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance and resilience.



Anonciata, a USAID Graduating to Resilience activity participant, smiles after a big tomato harvest. *Photo courtesy of AVSI Foundation in Uganda.*

USAID/BHA Funding in Uganda ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$91,843,045	\$21,751,604	\$113,594,649
FY 2021	\$84,316,922	\$18,027,505	\$102,344,427
FY 2022	\$ 98,995,965	\$18,395,245	\$117,391,210

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 26, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.