

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 July, nearly 1.6 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 621,000 refugees resided in the country's top three refugee hosting districts—northern Uganda's Adjumani, Madi Okollo and Terego, and Yumbe districts—as of late July, UNHCR reports.
- Refugees in Uganda rely on a combination of livelihood activities, subsistence agriculture, and humanitarian food assistance to meet their basic needs. Due to diminished levels of humanitarian assistance and increased prices for staple foods, the UN World Food Program (WFP) instituted a needs-based targeting system for food assistance distributions in refugee settlements during July, likely resulting in reduced ration sizes for certain refugee populations. With limited access to income-generating activities, sustained high food prices, declining food assistance ration sizes, and poor harvests, driven in part by erratic rainfall, refugee households are likely to face acute food insecurity between July and September, according to a Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis from July.
- In Karamoja, a sub-region located in the eastern portion of Northern Region, rainfall levels 45 to 75 percent of long-term averages increased the risk of a poor harvest and delayed the start of the August harvest period, FEWS NET reports. Communities in Karamoja have faced prolonged food and nutrition insecurity for several years due to repeated climatic shocks and insecurity. Ongoing insecurity in the area and surrounding districts continue to generate population displacement and disrupt agriculture activities, livelihoods, and access to markets, FEWS NET reports.
- Natural disasters and disease outbreaks also continue to adversely affect populations across Uganda, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Between January and June, natural disasters including floods, landslides, and wildfires affected more than 90,000 people—including approximately 33,000 children—across ten districts. Additionally, between September 2022 and January 2023, an outbreak of Ebola virus disease resulted in the deaths of at least 55 people while populations in Uganda also confronted outbreaks of measles and meningitis during early 2023, UNICEF reports.



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. WFP,

USAID/BHA's primary partner in Uganda, distributes locally and internationally procured emergency food assistance—such as beans, maize, vegetable oil, and High Energy Biscuits—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. Throughout Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, WFP plans to reach approximately 1.3 million refugees in Uganda with USAID/BHA-funded food assistance.

USAID/BHA Funding in Uganda ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$98,947,263	\$22,638,413	\$121,585,676
FY 2023	\$72,093,535	\$3,139,101	\$75,232,636

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 22, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience (ER4) activities with emergency response.