

# NRC's operations in Uganda

## Humanitarian overview

Uganda is hosting over 1.53 million refugees and with the ongoing influx, the number of refugees is expected to rise. Uganda is the largest refugee hosting country in Africa. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Uganda has an open-door policy to refugees and a progressive legislation giving protection and access to services, work and movement, and is committed to the global CRRF (Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework). The commitments have however not been reflected in funding. The refugee response in Uganda has been critically underfunded over the past years. In June 2022, only 25 per cent of the response was funded, leading to protection risks and making it difficult for refugees and their host communities to sustain themselves.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the socioeconomic impacts of the restrictions on movement and activities, has further exacerbated the difficult situation. Vulnerable groups are getting more desperate as they don't have access to basic survival resources, resulting in negative coping mechanisms.

## NRC's operation

NRC's programme in Uganda has a community-based approach and uses protection analysis to inform the response and target the most vulnerable refugees and host communities. The programme is multisector and anchored mainly on market-based interventions, with expertise in education, protection, livelihood and food security (LFS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion, shelter and information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA).

NRC is present in all larger refugee hosting districts. Scaling up our activities with the hard-to-reach populations is our priority, resulting in an integrated urban programme, among other activities.

### NRC Uganda

Established	1997 and re-registered 2014
International staff	5
National staff	158



## NRC Uganda

### Country office

Kampala

### Areas of operation

Area office in Arua with programmes in Yumbe, Tergol, Madi Okollo, Imvempi, Arua and Adjumani, Area office in Kampala with operation in Kampala, Kikube, Kisoro, Bundibugyo and Isingiro



## NRC Uganda

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### Education

We work to improve learning outcomes in schools, especially among girls. We offer an accelerated education programme for refugee children, so that they catch up and join the official school system. Our education teams:

- provide cash to address education financial barriers
- offer remedial and catch-up classes and support primary education for children and young adults
- provide vocational training to young adults with self-employment and diversified livelihood options
- support teacher professional development
- support construction and rehabilitation of learning facilities
- support improvement of teachers' welfare in hard-to-reach areas
- provide school materials and multipurpose cash to address financial barriers to education

### Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

Our information services help refugees make informed decisions about returning to their home countries. Our ICLA teams:

- provide cash to facilitate different services
- help refugees obtain legal and civil documentation
- help resolve disputes on housing, land and property
- research and provide information services and training sessions on housing, land and property, refugee status determination, legal identity, and employment laws and procedures
- lead on durable solutions around refugee status determination

### Livelihoods and food security

The lack of post-primary school opportunities is a major challenge for refugees in Uganda. To help them earn a living, our livelihood and food security teams:

- support communities to access agricultural tools and seeds through cash interventions
- offer vocational skills development for refugees and nationals in self-employment, agriculture and entrepreneurship
- provide business support and cash grants to vulnerable youths to increase their access to income generating livelihood opportunities
- provide cash grants to refugees with specific needs, especially those with disabilities, single-headed households and elderly people, to enable them to cover their basic needs upon arrival

### Shelter and settlements

Our shelter teams:

- provide cash for rent, cash for emergency shelter solutions and emergency shelter materials for new arrivals
- construct emergency and semi-permanent shelter and latrines, especially for refugees with specific needs, like people with disabilities and the elderly
- build and rehabilitate learning spaces and provide furniture
- construct quarantine centres as part of our Covid-19 response

### Water, hygiene and sanitation promotion (WASH)

Our WASH teams are responsible for bringing clean water and sanitation to displaced and local communities. Our WASH experts:

- provide clean drinking water and sanitation services to settlements, for urban refugees as well as schools and vocational centres
- together with communities, establish water facilities for refugee villages and schools
- provide permanent water solutions to refugees, urban refugees and people with low income
- work with local actors (e.g., KCCA) to extend water facilities to unserved areas with vulnerable communities
- raise awareness and sensitise on high-risk practices including on cholera, hepatitis and Covid-19 prevention

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