

Project Number: 201048 | **Project Category:** Emergency Preparedness Activity
Project Approval Date: February 06, 2017 | **Planned Start Date:** February 06, 2017
Actual Start Date: February 06, 2017 | **Project End Date:** May 05, 2017
Financial Closure Date: December 31, 2017

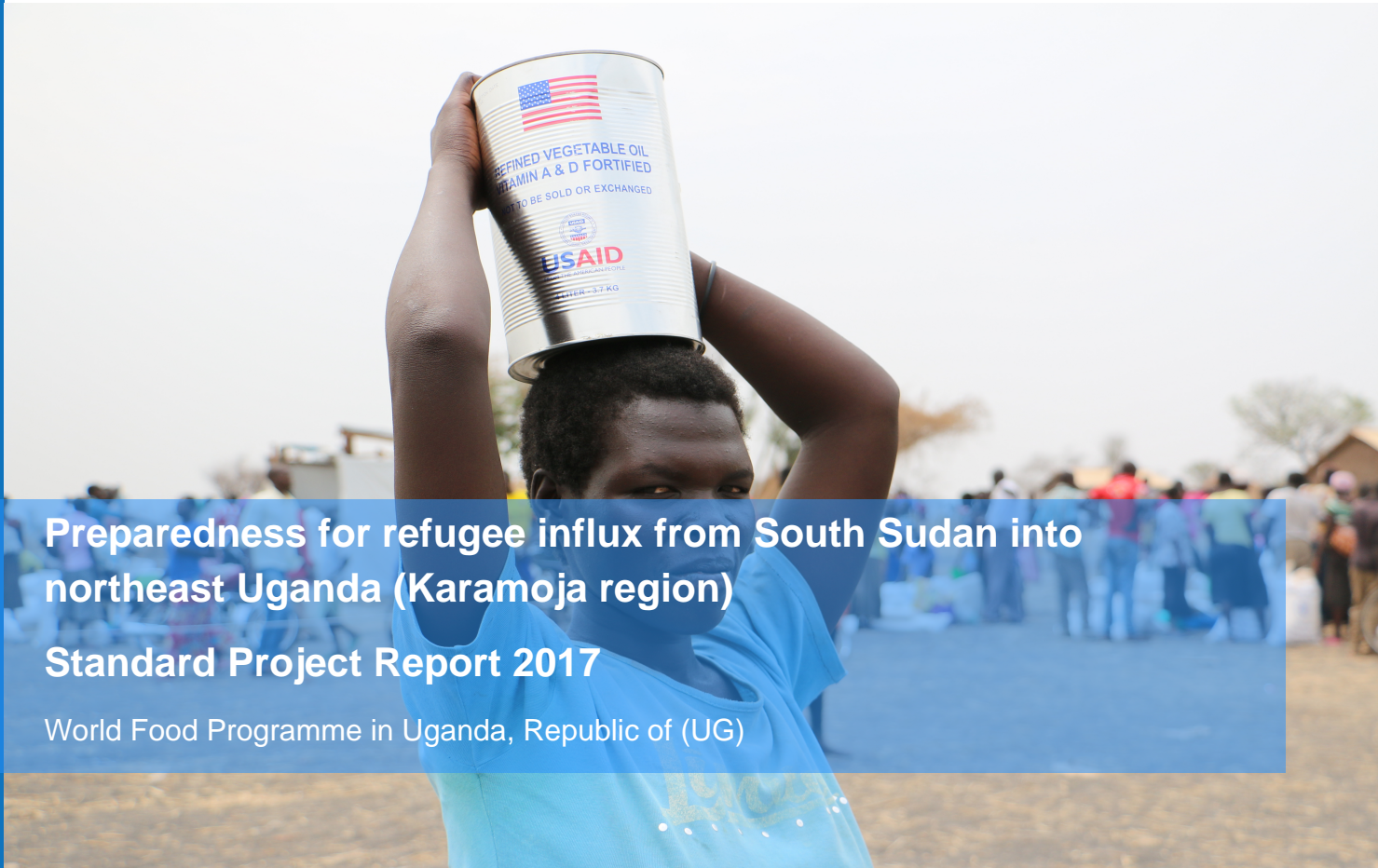
Contact Info

Cheryl Harrison
Cheryl.Harrison@wfp.org

Country Director
El Khidir Daloum

Further Information

<http://www.wfp.org/countries>
SPR Reading Guidance



**Preparedness for refugee influx from South Sudan into
northeast Uganda (Karamoja region)**
Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Uganda, Republic of (UG)



World Food Programme

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

- Achievements at Country Level
- Country Context and Response of the Government
- WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Country Resources and Results

- Resources for Results
- Supply Chain
- Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

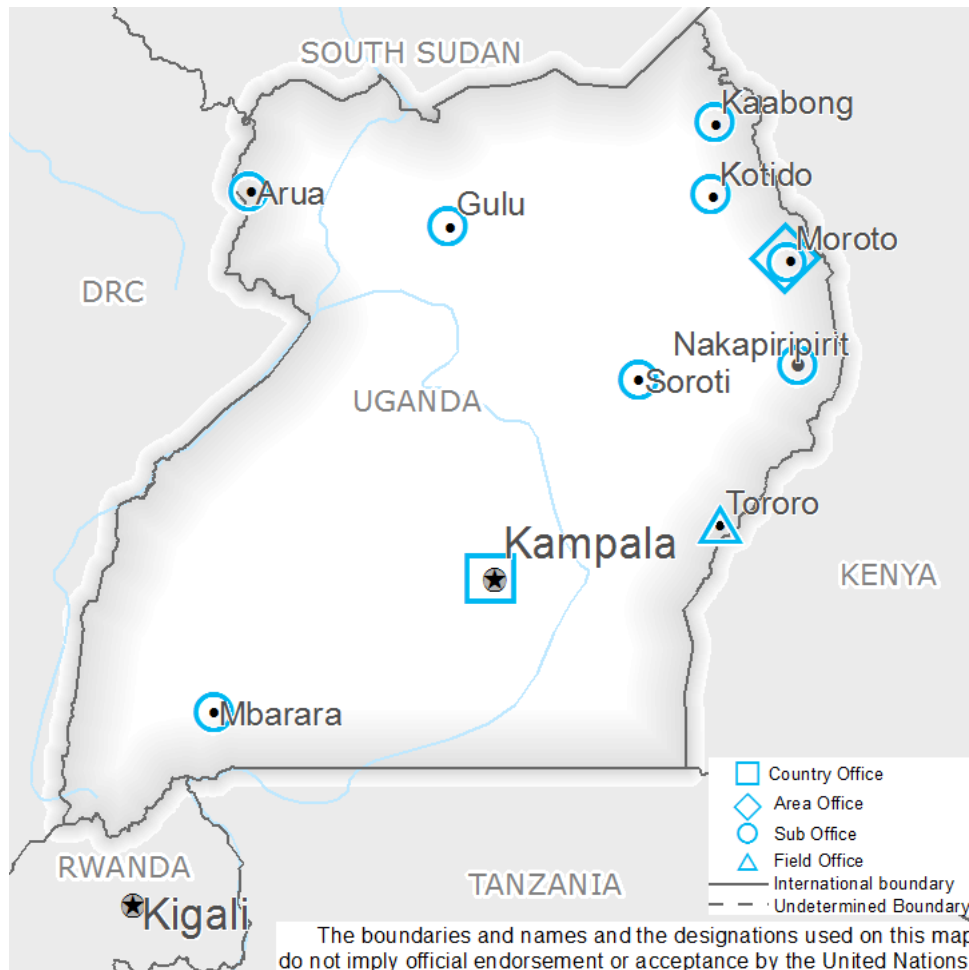
Project Results

- Activities and Operational Partnerships
- Results

Figures and Indicators

- Data Notes

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

In 2017, WFP responded to an unprecedented number of refugees fleeing from conflict and crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. To adapt to the evolving influx of refugees at different border points, WFP rapidly mobilised resources to establish offices and mobile storage units in northeast Uganda to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to newly arrived refugees.

WFP's use of cash-based transfers more than doubled to respond to the influx of refugees from South Sudan, which began in July 2016. WFP continued a gradual scale-up of transfers from USD 5 million in 2016 to USD 13 million in 2017. A Local Economy-Wide Impact Evaluation (LEWIE) found that every dollar of WFP food assistance given in the form of cash multiplies by an additional USD 2.01 to USD 2.47, creating significant benefits for the refugee and host community. In addition to expanding the number of refugees receiving cash transfers to meet their food needs, WFP also piloted a mixed modalities approach – a combination of in-kind food and cash transfers – in Adjumani settlement in the West Nile to enable flexible and rapid support. In September 2017, WFP responded to a pipeline break in cereals by delivering an emergency cash transfer substitution to nearly 600,000 refugees in West Nile. This demonstrated WFP's operational capacity to rapidly scale up and manage cash transfers.

WFP successfully connected development and humanitarian activities by piloting an activity in the West Nile region where refugees receiving cash transfers were linked to farmer groups supported by WFP's Agriculture and Market Support portfolio. These farmer groups established markets near WFP's cash distribution points, thus increasing demand for their commodities and improving market access amongst refugees living in nearby settlements. This initiative stimulated the local economy, benefitting both refugees and host community in a sustainable manner. WFP

also supported economic development by purchasing over 100,000 metric tons of food valued at USD 42 million from Uganda, providing support to operations in-country and regionally.

To promote gender equality and women's empowerment, WFP's agriculture and market support program made a concerted effort to increase smallholder farmer women in trainings and promote women's decision-making and leadership in farmer organizations. Ensuring inclusivity, WFP engaged women and men in discussions on the opportunities that can be created by recognizing women as opinion leaders and decision makers and appointing them to executive positions.

School meals has proven itself globally to be an effective safety net. WFP Uganda's school meals program supports school children's access to food and education. In 2017, WFP reached 129,000 children in 269 schools with nutritious meals. WFP is also committed to supporting the Government to progressively transform school meals to a nationally-run program and linking smallholder farmers to support home-grown school meals.

Country Context and Response of the Government

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked, low-income country in East Africa with a population of 41 million[1] – expected to increase to 100 million by 2050. This is due in part to the recent influx of refugees from South Sudan. Due to regional instability, Uganda hosts 1.4 million[2] refugees mostly coming from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. In 2017, Uganda became the third largest refugee hosting country globally and the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. Uganda now has a total of eight refugee settlements in the north and five in the southwest of the country.

The Government of Uganda adheres to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) through a progressive policy which allows refugees free movement and work within the country. Furthermore, the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Strategic Framework sets the foundation for key stakeholders to support the resilience and self-reliance of refugees in Uganda, as well as the communities that host the refugee settlements.

Uganda was one of the few countries to not only meet but exceed Millennium Development Goal 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 50 percent, achieving a reduction of two-thirds. Despite significant socio-economic gains in recent years, Uganda remains at the bottom of the Human Development Index, ranking 163 out of 188 countries and the absolute number of people in poverty has not decreased. The 2015 national Social Protection Policy recognizes the importance of the provision of and access to social safety nets for vulnerable populations to reach national targets for poverty reduction.

Although the prevalence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is one of the highest globally at approximately 1.4 million people, Uganda recorded a decline in new HIV infections by almost 50 percent from 2010 to 2016[3]. However, Uganda is still classified by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as one of the 30 countries which account for close to 90 percent of the global HIV burden.

Nationally, stunting prevalence has stagnated at 32 percent but reaches rates upwards of 40 percent in some refugee settlements while the global acute malnutrition (GAM) in almost half of the refugee settlements is classified above UNHCR's critical threshold level of 10 percent[4][5]. The Government joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2011 and has since made significant strides to develop a multi-sectoral nutrition security policy.

The enactment of primary universal education in 2006 saw enrolment rates increase, however advancement to and completion of secondary school remains a challenge, with seven percent of all repetitions in school associated with stunting[6]. Over 12 percent of children are out of school, with rates as high as 61 percent in refugee and host communities[7]. There remains a disparity in girls' and boys' enrolment and retention in school, with primary school dropout rates higher amongst boys and gross enrolment in secondary education lower amongst girls[8]. Key protection concerns include a high rate of child marriage (40 percent) and sexual and gender based violence. However, women hold over one-third of local government seats, demonstrating improved participation and representation of women in politics and leadership positions[9].

Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's economy, contributing to one-quarter of the gross domestic product and employing over 70 percent of the working population[10]. In recent years, agricultural growth hovered around 2 percent per year, far below the target rate of 5 percent set out in Uganda Vision 2040. However, this may be attributed to the effects of the drought in 2016. Although the country maintains self-sufficiency in food and exports a number of cash crops, productivity amongst smallholder farmers remains low due to slow adaptation of improved technologies, poor rural infrastructure, high post-harvest losses and limited access to agricultural services. Moreover, women constitute over 80 percent of the agricultural workforce but are less likely to be productive than men because of lower use of improved inputs, child care responsibility and smaller land size and ownership (5 percent).

The food security situation amongst refugees remains precarious, with 'acceptable' food consumption scores declining to an average of 40 percent in 2017 from 80 percent in 2016 across all refugee settlements[11]. Nearly half (46 percent) of households in Karamoja were food insecure, of which 9 percent were severely food insecure[12].

The effects of climate change have further impacted the production levels of staple food commodities, especially in highly food insecure regions such as Karamoja in the northeast. The Government of Uganda demonstrated its capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters when the 2016 El Niño drought crippled agricultural production across east and southern Africa. The Government developed an early warning system that triggered the scale-up of the World Bank-funded Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF III) safety net project, which helped to protect 25,000 vulnerable households[13].

[1] World Bank, 2016 estimate

[2] Estimates from the Office of the Prime Minister

[3] UNAIDS data 2017 http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20170720_Data_book_2017_en.pdf

[4] According to the 2017 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment of Refugee Settlements, West Nile settlements: Arua, Adjumani, Bidibidi, Palorinya and Palabek

[5] UNHCR Acute Malnutrition Threshold <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/86022/acute-malnutrition-threshold>

[6] The Cost of Hunger in Uganda

[7] The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda

[8] Uganda National Education Profile 2014 Update

[9] Africa Human Development Report 2016, UNDP

[10] MAAIF. 2016. Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2015/2016 - 2020/2021

[11] Preliminary findings of 2016 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment in Refugee Settlements

[12] 2017 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment for Karamoja

[13] Maher, Barry Patrick and Poulter, Richard Andrew. *Better Data, Better Resilience: Lessons in Disaster Risk Finance from Uganda*. The World Bank Group. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/121776-BRI-UgandaLessonsLearned-PUBLIC.pdf>

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

WFP supports the Government of Uganda to achieve zero hunger by addressing the causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, providing support to enhance the social protection system and to strengthen the Government's emergency preparedness and response capacity. This is done through Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200852, which supports vulnerable households in Karamoja and refugees, and Country Programme 200894, which provides agriculture and nutrition support to improve livelihoods. WFP aims to improve gender equality and women's empowerment through nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women, as well as targeted trainings to improve women's participation, leadership and decision-making in agricultural business practices.

The United Nations in Uganda operates under the Delivering as One approach to more effectively design and deliver assistance to the Government. This is realized through implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is aligned with the long-term National Development Plan and Vision 2040 to accelerate development and inclusive growth through national capacity development. WFP co-chairs the Peace, Security and Resilience pillar of the UNDAF to strengthen households and communities ability to manage and mitigate the effects of shocks to their livelihoods.

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200852 (2016-2018), approved budget of USD 410 million provides food and nutrition assistance to refugees and food insecure households in Karamoja to improve self-reliance and resilience to shocks.

Under the inter-agency Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response, WFP coordinates with the Government and humanitarian partners to provide assistance to meet the food and nutrition needs of newly arrived refugees and create livelihood opportunities to increase refugees' self-reliance.

WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) developed a Joint Resilience Strategy for Karamoja, which focuses on diversifying livelihood strategies and intensifying

production to increase household income and improve food security, enhancing basic social services to strengthen vulnerable households' human capital, establishing predictable safety nets and strengthening disaster risk management support. The resilience strategy aligns with the Government's Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) III to generate sustainable income and improve livelihoods in Karamoja.

Country Programme 200894 (2016-2020), approved budget of USD 103.5 million focuses on strengthening the Government of Uganda's health, education and social protection system.

WFP collaborates with the National Planning Authority and the Ministry of Karamoja Affairs to implement a school meals program across Karamoja's seven districts to increase enrolment and retention in primary school, as well as promote multi-sectoral linkages including health and nutrition to improve education outcomes. The country programme aims to support the establishment and phased introduction of a home-grown school meals program to strengthen safety nets in one of the country's most vulnerable regions and build capacity of district education officials to engage with school meals committees.

In coordination with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition (REACH), WFP supports an integrated and comprehensive approach to nutrition sensitive interventions. WFP's nutrition programs aim to reduce the prevalence of chronic malnutrition and improve maternal and child health and nutrition through the provision of specialised nutritious food to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months. WFP also serves as the convener on food and nutrition for the Joint Team on HIV/AIDS operational response.

WFP's Agriculture and Market Support team works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to improve access to and usage of hermetic storage to reduce post-harvest losses.

Immediate Response Preparedness Operation 201048 supported the rapid response to the influx of refugees from South Sudan through the procurement and pre-positioning of operational equipment.

To respond to the shift of refugees arriving into Uganda from the northwest border to the northeast, WFP worked with partners including the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR to scale up assistance.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

In 2017, WFP received USD 131 million for operations in Uganda, totalling 55 percent of needs for the year. Funding levels varied significantly between the two largest operations: Country Programme (CP) 200984 and Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200852. Due to the South Sudan refugee crisis, which began in July 2016 and continued through 2017, WFP received USD 127 million against the PRRO. This resulted in a substantial reduction to USD 4 million received to the CP as donors prioritised their resources to the refugee response. Given this reallocation of funding, WFP relied heavily on multilateral contributions to sustain livelihood and nutrition activities under the CP, but was forced to suspend asset creation activities in mid-2017.

Despite new contributions and generous pledges from donors towards WFP's refugee operation in Uganda, funding did not keep pace with the needs of the rapidly growing refugee population. The country office initiated a budget revision of almost US\$30 million to PRRO 200852 to accommodate for the influx of refugees arriving in Uganda and address the deteriorating nutrition situation in Karamoja that was a result of a severe and prolonged drought in early 2017. WFP increased the number of planned refugee support to 1.4 million from 1.2 million by the end of December 2017.

WFP continued to advocate to donors and partners on the criticality of sustained food assistance to refugees and vulnerable households in Uganda. WFP held regular meetings to update partners on operational performance and communicate the needs, planned assistance and gaps. Furthermore, WFP implemented a number of measures to improve value for money to utilise existing resources.

Effectiveness: WFP procured a significant portion of food locally for use in its operations, given the cost-effectiveness of shorter lead times and reduced transport costs, as well as the return on investment of supporting the local economy. However, the growing demand in the region for these commodities coupled with seasonally constrained local supply necessitated regional and international procurement. To avoid pipeline breaks typically associated with long lead times for internationally procured food, WFP implemented a rapid cash transfer 'top-up' system in the face of pipeline breaks. In September 2017, a delayed shipment of cereals resulted in WFP providing almost 600,000 refugees with a cash transfer valued at half the cost of the cereal in the food basket to ensure they were able to meet their food needs. In 2018, the country office will develop a tailored Retail Engagement Strategy to enable better food availability, affordability and accessibility for the people WFP serves. The strategy aims to partner with retailers and wholesalers to gain the best value through reduced retail prices, develop the retail sector and build scale, improve market linkages and aggregation, and develop consumer profiles to tailor programs based on actual demand.

Efficiency: The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) implemented the Uganda Business Operation Strategy (2016-2020) to improve operational coherence and reduce transaction costs through common service harmonization. WFP shared common premises in Arua, Karamoja and Kampala with other UN agencies, which reduced the transaction costs of procurement of equipment, fuel, water and medical supplies. WFP realized actual savings of over USD 3.6 million in 2017 based on the long-term agreement (LTA) subscription and transaction volume, accounting for 42 percent of savings across the UNCT[1].

Economy: Through the Global Vehicle Leasing Programme (GVLP) WFP leased 32 vehicles to replace those that had reached their usage life. This supported the increasing scale of operations in Arua, Gulu and Moroto. The new vehicles reduced maintenance costs and increased fuel efficiency by 20 percent (compared to usage of older vehicles which consumed more fuel). In 2017, WFP also introduced a 'driver-swap' program which provides transport for passengers up to mid-point of their destination, wherein a driver from the destination office picks up the passenger. The program completed 79 missions in 2017, deriving USD 10,000 in savings through decreased daily subsistence allowance (DSA) travel costs.

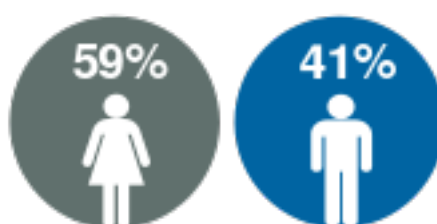
Equity: In September 2017, WFP began the rollout of a helpline in Karamoja, with plans to reach all regions in early 2018. WFP trained staff in the field and area offices on the use of the help line, which accompanied a refresher training on protection, gender and accountability to affected populations. The trainings emphasize WFP's responsibility to facilitate complain and feedback mechanisms to support inclusive participation amongst targeted communities. Besides responding to all inquiries received through the helpline, WFP also collects sex and age-disaggregated data of calls received, to ensure the help line is accessible to all groups.

[1] Operations Management Team (OMT) Uganda Business Operation Strategy (BoS) Annual Report 2017.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	152,431	194,941	347,372
Children (5-18 years)	334,439	431,319	765,758
Adults (18 years plus)	396,651	619,858	1,016,509
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	883,521	1,246,118	2,129,639




Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	2,639	365	568	4,096	109	7,776
Single Country PRRO	112,981	9,048	23,415	21,547	766	167,757
Total Food Distributed in 2017	115,620	9,413	23,983	25,643	875	175,534



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	13,477,625	-	-
Total Distributed in 2017	13,477,625	-	-

Supply Chain

To reduce lead times and ensure rapid response to emergencies, WFP Uganda purchased and prepositioned food stocks through the corporate Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF). The GCMF enabled WFP to procure food at the right time, when market prices were competitive, and shortened delivery time through strategic prepositioning of food commodities in Tororo and Kampala. The effects of the regional drought in 2016 decreased the Uganda's contribution to the GCMF in 2017 and required WFP to import maize from Mexico, South Africa and Zambia to meet the needs of its operations. However, these international purchases resulted in an estimated cost savings of USD 1.9 million compared to regional imports.

In 2017, WFP procured over 100,000 mt of food locally – valued at almost USD 42 million – for in-country and external operations. The country's favourable market conditions, combined with the low cost of transport, has enabled the country office to take the lead in sourcing food commodities to WFP operations in Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan.

Part of WFP's resilience building strategy is to improve smallholder farmers' access to markets, including WFP. In 2016, WFP purchased 5,466 mt valued at USD 1.7 million from smallholder farmers, however, this number declined to 865 mt in 2017. This is the result of an effort to purchase from smallholder farmers cultivating 1-5 acres, while large aggregators previously used for local procurement, such as Joseph Initiative and Amatheon, were removed from the vendor roster.

In 2017, WFP worked on increasing its transport capacity in Uganda. This was done to reduce lead time of cargo uplifts, accelerate loading and offloading times and improve the transparency of shortlisting and contracting transports. WFP was able to shortlist 70 companies, which resulted in a reduction of 6-7 percent of transportation costs both within Uganda and on routes to South Sudan. These shortlisted transporters have a combined capacity of 39,000 mt to deliver cargo within Uganda and 1.1 million mt capacity to deliver overland to the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan.

WFP opened a logistics hub in Gulu, northwest of the country, with initial capacity of 6,000mt and plans of expansion to 10,000mt in 2018. WFP also intends to open a facility in Jinja with up to 6,000mt capacity. These two hubs will enhance WFP's handling capacity in Uganda and throughout the region. Moreover, WFP augmented the storage capacity at extended distribution points (EDPs), which decreased the offloading delays and reduced transporters' fixed costs, effectively reducing WFP's transport rates.

The WFP South Sudan airdrop operation involves a total of eight aircrafts, two of which are based at Entebbe International Airport in Uganda. An assessment conducted in mid-2017 concluded that Gulu Airport is also a viable alternative to Entebbe International Airport, as it could reduce daily flying time by as much as four hours and reduce the environmental impact of CO2 emissions, resulting in over USD 12 million savings per year. WFP expects to operationalize this plan in the first quarter of 2018.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Iodised Salt	-	679	679
Maize Meal	11,947	1,200	13,147
Total	11,947	1,879	13,826
Percentage	86.4%	13.6%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Beans	22,986
Corn Soya Blend	14,851

Commodity	Total
Maize	82,086
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	3
Sorghum/Millet	34,675
Split Peas	17
Sugar	223
Vegetable Oil	5,351
Total	160,191

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Local Economy-Wide Impact Evaluation (LEWIE)

The LEWIE study conducted by researchers from WFP, the University of California, Davis, and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) found that humanitarian assistance for refugees creates significant economic benefits for the local economy, and these benefits are greater when the assistance is in the form of cash transfers and land for agricultural production. Every dollar of WFP food assistance given in the form of cash multiplies by an additional USD 1 to USD 1.5 in and around refugee settlements. The multiplier per dollar from in-kind food is USD 1 to USD 1.3. Cash based transfers drove demand for food that were made available by mostly local producers and traders, which stimulated both local agriculture and retail activities in and around settlements and created spill over effects. Recognizing these benefits, WFP gradually expanded cash distributions to refugees in 2017. In line with the findings from the LEWIE study, WFP introduced a mixed-modality approach, providing refugee households with a combination of in-kind food and cash transfers to meet their food requirements.

2016 Evaluation of the Department For International Development Funded “Enhancing Resilience in Karamoja Programme (ERKP)”

The evaluation provided recommendations for WFP to work more efficiently with cooperating partners and enhance their capacity to implement activities, and identified areas to improve program effectiveness.

In terms of collaboration with cooperating partners, in 2017 WFP held monthly coordination and learning meetings within the country office and field offices. WFP also conducted mid-term and end-of-contract reviews on cooperating partners' performance.

WFP conducted the Community Based Participatory Planning and Seasonal Livelihood Programme under the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) from late 2016 to early 2017. These activities ensured communities were not only fully involved but had ownership in asset identification and creation. Furthermore, WFP linked the Public Works Programme and Household Income Support Programme to improve project outcomes.

WFP participated in consultations with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Department for International Development, IrishAid and the World Bank to develop guidelines for the Labour Intensive Public Works, a priority social protection intervention outlined in the National Social Protection Policy. WFP's contribution to the development of the guidelines was informed by extensive experience gained in the implementation of the Karamoja resilience program.

Decentralized Evaluation WFP's Nutrition Programs in the Karamoja region: Community Based Supplementary Feeding Programme (PRRO 200249) and Maternal Child Health Nutrition (CP 108070) in Uganda from 2013 to 2015

The evaluation of WFP's nutrition programs in Karamoja assessed the performance and results of the community-based supplementary feeding program and the Maternal-and-Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) program to better understand why results were achieved or not.

The Government of Uganda expanded antenatal and postnatal care to 10 more health facilities in Karamoja, subsequently allowing WFP to expand the MCHN program from 47 sites in 2016 to 57 sites in 2017. WFP continued to advocate for the upgrade of health facilities to provide services under the MCHN program, and simultaneously worked with the United Nation Children's Agency (UNICEF) to strengthen the capacity of Village Health Teams (VHTs) to conduct case management within the community.

In 2018, WFP will begin to pilot SCOPE, a beneficiary information management platform, to conduct case management in Karamoja. The pilot will be launched in Moroto district, and will provide a system to improve data quality and the linkage between components of treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition activities, which will allow for enhanced evaluation of integrated management of malnutrition interventions.

Analysis of Refugee Vulnerability in Uganda and Recommendations for Improved Targeting of Food Assistance

WFP, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) partnered with Development Pathways, a social policy consultancy firm, to develop a comprehensive study to determine the levels and types of vulnerability of refugees in Uganda. The goal of the study was to provide information to assess and revise the current targeting strategy to reach those most in need and improve the effectiveness of assistance.

WFP used eligibility criteria following a time-based approach, wherein the level of food assistance was based on the number of years that a refugee remained in Uganda, with assistance decreasing over time and stopping after five years in country. The study found that the assumption that refugees adapt to a new environment after a given number of years has an inherent risk of both inclusion and exclusion errors. According to preliminary findings of the report, the time refugees have spent resettled in Uganda is not closely correlated with levels of vulnerability, regardless of the geographic location or country of origin.

WFP implemented the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals/Households (EVI/EVH) framework for all in-kind food and cash transfer assistance activities in 2017. Upon classification as an EVI/EVH, recipients were entitled to a 100 percent ration and were protected from ration cuts. Although it proved useful to target vulnerable households to ensure their food security does not deteriorate further, WFP identified the need to review and redesign the framework to ensure clarity and consistency in its application. The country office's Gender and Protection Advisor undertook various assessments and participated in joint missions to refugee settlements that revealed inclusion and exclusion errors related to the breadth and vagueness of classification eligibility of EVI/EVHs. These findings resulted in the recruitment of a senior protection expert to help redefine the criteria for EVI to ensure people most in need receive the right food and nutrition assistance in a timely manner, with a specific focus on ensuring protection and gender equality. This will be done through a desk-based review and key informant interviews to develop recommendations to revise the framework.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

The Immediate Response Preparedness (IR-PREP) operation was launched in 2017 following an inter-agency assessment that indicated there was a high likelihood of a refugee influx from South Sudan into Northern Uganda through a new corridor east of the existing operational area. The assessment was jointly conducted by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), other UN agencies and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs). The joint exercise examined new border points in Lamwo district, an area east of the Nile river where refugee reception facilities, WFP extended distribution points (EDPs), food distribution points (FDPs) and settlements were not already in place.

Taking into account the expected increase in refugees and in order to facilitate WFP's refugee response under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200852), the IR-PREP was launched to procure and pre-position office and residential facilities, storage equipment for food and anthropometric equipment for nutrition screening in key locations.

WFP procured two sets of prefabricated office and residential facilities, an air conditioner and two 20 KVA generators. This enabled WFP to rapidly set up an office and accommodation for swift deployment of staff to the border point. Seven mobile storage units and 1,600 pallets were also procured to manage an increase of food commodities at the EDPs and FDPs. A set of anthropometric equipment was acquired to conduct nutrition screening. This included 100 weigh scales, 250 weighing pants, 40 measuring boards and 60 mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes.

The prefabricated facilities and storage equipment were procured internationally from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Dubai, while the anthropometric equipment was procured from UNICEF Denmark.

WFP implemented these activities in close collaboration with the Government and UNHCR. OPM and UNHCR screened the new arrivals at the border points and WFP provided high energy biscuits. From the border, refugees moved to reception centres where WFP and UNHCR provided cooked meals. At the transit centres, children were screened and those diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were provided with ready-to-use supplementary foods, which allowed immediate recovery.

The Government provided land for resettlement of the refugees, while UNHCR provided basic non-food items, including plastic sheeting for shelter and household items, and worked with cooperating partners to prepare and serve hot meals at the transit and reception centers. Through the emergency preparedness operation, WFP was able to preposition the high-energy biscuits, food commodities to prepare hot meals, supplementary food products to treat MAM and a one-month dry ration for resettled refugees.

Results

The resumption of conflict in Juba, South Sudan in July 2016 resulted in a rapid increase of refugees to Uganda's northern border, where a significant number of refugees were already residing [1]. As identified by the inter-agency assessment, the influx of refugees shifted from the northwest to northeast, requiring a rapid expansion of WFP's infrastructure to respond to the growing food and nutrition needs of the incoming refugees, and to support the already highly food insecure host communities.

The availability of prefabricated offices and residential facilities allowed WFP to quickly establish its presence in February 2017 in the area to directly manage food distributions for three months. A cooperating partner was then identified and deployed to distribute food to resettled refugees. By April 2017, the process of transferring food from the extended distribution point (EDP) in Nyumanzi, a settlement in Adjumani district, to the EDP in Palabek settlement in Lamwo district had been completed.

The repositioning of equipment and rapid deployment of staff ensured timely provision of food assistance to the newly arrived refugees from South Sudan, which averaged over 66,000 per month during the period of the immediate response preparedness operation and over 300,000 in the first three months of 2017[2].

The storage facilities provided additional space for food commodities in the settlements of Palabek in the north east and Rhino Camp in West Nile, which received 175,650 new refugees. The country office was able to preposition at least 70 percent of the required monthly food commodities in time for the food distributions to over 4,000 newly arrived refugees in Palabek settlement, and over 80,000 refugees in Rhino Camp settlement in early

2017, who were entirely dependent on WFP's food assistance to meet their daily food needs.

The anthropometric equipment was used for nutrition screening of the new refugees as they arrived in the country, which allowed early detection and treatment of acutely malnourished children coming from South Sudan.

Pallets supported warehouse management in the Advanced Prepositioning Centre (APC) in Tororo. This enabled WFP to improve management of food commodities transferred to the extended distribution points in the north to support the refugee influx. The APC also serves multiple stakeholders, including UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments in Uganda and the wider Great Lakes Region. Following the establishment of the APC, partners have been able to store and dispatch relief items more efficiently and in a more coordinated manner. One example is Super Cereal, a fortified blended food used to treat acute malnutrition, which was stored at the APC and dispatched to settlements receiving newly arrived South Sudanese refugees.

[1] According to the Government of Uganda's Refugee Information Management System (RIMS), in January 2016 there were 495,594 refugees in Uganda, with South Sudan accounting for 41 percent of the refugee population (followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo at 39 percent).

[2] UNHCR South Sudan Situation Update, March 2017

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP / Claire Nevill

A South Sudanese woman carries vegetable oil, donated by USAID, at a food distribution site in Palorinya refugee settlement, Moyo district.