



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Uganda Country Brief March 2019



Operational Context

Despite its agricultural potential and significant agricultural exports, Uganda's food insecurity levels remain classified as 'serious' by the 2018 Global Hunger Index. The northern and eastern parts of the country are most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. In some areas, stunting and wasting reach 40 and 20 percent, respectively. Uganda is the third largest refugee hosting country in the world with 1.1 million refugees living in settlements. Studies estimate that the prevalence of food insecurity to be 90 percent in the refugee population.

WFP's operations in Uganda are guided by the Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2018-2022) which is aligned to National Development Plan II and Vision 2040 towards the achievement of sustainable development goals 2 and 17. Through the CSP, WFP addresses root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, supports the refugee response and strengthens social protection systems. WFP assistance is provided through direct implementation, evidence generation, knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening, while building strategic partnerships including through South-South Cooperation.



Population: **39 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **162 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower income**

Chronic malnutrition: **32% of children between 6-59 months**

Contact info: Dennis G. Tumusiime dennis.tumusiime@wfp.org
Country Director: El-Khidir Daloum
Further information: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/uganda>

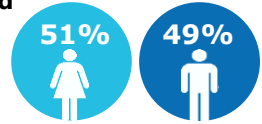
In Numbers

14,251 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 63.5 m six months (April – September 2019) net funding requirements

1.3 million people assisted in March 2019*



Operational Updates

- Overview:** In March 2019, WFP supported 1.3 million people in Uganda. WFP's operations mainly focused on refugee support, with 1.1 million refugees receiving food and nutrition assistance. In Karamoja, WFP provided school meals to 130,000 school going children and implemented nutrition activities for 45,000 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and nursing mothers. WFP also supported 26,000 smallholder farmers to access markets and participate in trainings.
- Review of new food assistance procedures:** Since February 2019, WFP's monthly food assistance is provided exclusively through the new food assistance collection procedures across the thirteen refugee settlement areas in Uganda. The procedures use UNHCR's Global Distribution Tool (GDT) to verify and validate the identity and eligibility of refugees by means of iris and fingerprints scan. A joint WFP, UNHCR and OPM review of the new food assistance collection procedures started in March 2019. Four teams were deployed to collect feedback from stakeholders in the field. Based on the findings, WFP, UNHCR and OPM expect to further strengthen the accountability of the food assistance distribution system and the quality of service provision to beneficiaries.
- Isingiro district integrates three-pronged approach (3PA) products in the district development plans:** Makerere University, district Government officials and WFP successfully presented ten community action plans (CAPs) developed through the 3PA framework. As a result, the CAPs will be included in subcounty and district development plans to guide resilience and livelihood programming. The 3PA is a consultative process that deepens the understanding of risk, livelihood and programmatic context at national, district and community levels.
- Ebola preparedness actions:** While cases of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo increased, no case of Ebola virus has been reported in Uganda. In March 2019, WFP through national taskforce started to construct an Ebola treatment unit in Kihhihi district in western Uganda to maintain high level of preparedness.

* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimated figures

Photo credit/caption: A scooper weighs a food ration for refugees.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.2 b	327.7m	63.5m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and other crisis affected people in Uganda access adequate and nutritious food in times of crisis

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to refugees
- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure populations in areas affected by climate shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food all year

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide cash and food transfers for community-level asset creation and technical assistance to the Government of Uganda
- Provide nutritious hot meals to school children and technical assistance to the Government of Uganda

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children aged 6-59 months in food-insecure areas have acute malnutrition rates in line with national targets by 2030

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide specialized nutritious food and nutrition-sensitive cash transfers to at risk populations

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and income

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas have enhanced and resilient livelihoods by 2030

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide training, post-harvest equipment and aggregation facilities to farmer organizations and technical assistance to the Government of Uganda
- Provide transfers for purchasing affordable household storage and training

Strategic Result 5: Capacity strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: Institutions have increased capacity to coordinate and manage food security and nutrition programmes and respond to shocks by 2030

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide a single registry to enable government and development partners to coordinate and target programmes
- Provide technical assistance to enable the government and first responders to prepare for and respond to emergencies

Strategic Result 8: Global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian actors have access to cost-efficient supply chain services when needed

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide supply chain services and expertise to enable all partners to deliver humanitarian assistance

- **Integrated management of acute malnutrition guidelines:** To improve the quality of nutrition interventions at national level and in the refugee operation, WFP and other United Nations agencies supported the review of the integrated management of acute malnutrition guidelines through the Ministry of Health. The draft guidelines will be validated in April 2019.
- **Outbreak of sickness among people in two districts in Karamoja:** Between 13 and 20 March 2019, 265 persons who consumed WFP's Super Cereal were hospitalized in Napak and Amudat districts in Karamoja. Among them, 263 were discharged and 2 people died. Super Cereal is a blended food fortified with micronutrients used in nutrition programmes to treat and prevent malnutrition. As of 31 March, tests by independent specialists were still being performed to clarify whether there is a link between consumed food products and the symptoms of people admitted in the health clinics. As a precautionary measure, WFP suspended the distribution of Super Cereal across Uganda until the investigations are complete.
- WFP resumed its nutrition programmes in Karamoja using alternative commodities where feasible. WFP replaced Super Cereal with regular maize meal at the refugee reception centres where hot meals are served and with Super Cereal Plus in nutrition programmes. WFP is implementing a community engagement and communication plan to keep communities informed. WFP, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Karamoja Affairs are determined to discover what caused these symptoms.

Accountability to affected population

- WFP is running a toll-free helpline to provide affected populations with a direct communication channel to contact WFP. Users of the helpline can seek support, find information, provide feedback and report issues. In March, WFP received 1,100 calls, out of which 95 percent had been addressed and closed. To popularize the usage of the helpline, WFP regularly conducts awareness sessions.

Impact of limited funding

- WFP Uganda anticipates a pipeline break for its maternal and child health nutrition (MCHN) programme in the refugee operations and in Karamoja starting in June 2019. An estimated US\$ 6.9 million is required to avert the break. The MCHN programme provides specialized nutritious food to prevent and treat malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women. A funding shortage could contribute to deterioration of malnutrition among children.

Donors

The work of WFP in Uganda is funded by: Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda, UN CERF, UK, USA and multilateral and private donors.