



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Uganda Country Brief April 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. Ugandans consume 400 kcal less than they need each day. Stunting, underweight and wasting have declined in the past five years, but undernutrition rates remain high. Uganda is the third largest refugee hosting country in the world with 1.2 million refugees living in settlements.

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 percent of children between 6-59 months**

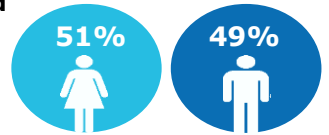
In Numbers

14.3 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.6 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 42.9 m six months (May – October 2019) net funding requirements

1.3 million people assisted in April 2019*



Operational Updates

- Overview:** In April 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 118,000 school going children and implemented nutrition activities for 67,000 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers. WFP also supported 26,000 smallholder farmers to access markets and participate in trainings.
- Looming drought:** Below-average rainfall in northern and eastern Uganda in March and most of April have raised concern about the impact that the dry conditions may have on water availability, agricultural production, food security and nutrition. WFP is monitoring the evolution of the agricultural season closely - in partnership with the Government, FAO and UNICEF - and is on stand-by to support the Government's response if a poor agricultural season materializes.
- Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW):** The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) in collaboration with WFP conducted a mission in districts where labour intensive public works programmes are implemented in Karamoja and Northern Uganda. During the mission, WFP strengthened the capacity of national labour intensive public works committee members on social protection and resilience.
- Government-led home-grown school feeding programme (HGSF):** WFP hosted a delegation of three State Ministers (Primary Education, Agriculture and Karamoja affairs) to show-case the impact of WFP school feeding programme in Karamoja. WFP advocated for an increased national leadership and for policy support towards the HGSF approach. HGSF is a school feeding approach where children are provided with food produced and purchased from local farmers.
- Ebola preparedness actions:** As escalation of the Ebola outbreak continued in neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), WFP continued its preparedness actions in Uganda. WFP officially handed over five ambulances to

* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimated figures

Photo credit/caption: School feeding programme/Hugh Rutherford

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.2 b	296 m	42.9 m

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

the Ministry of Health. WFP will support the fueling, servicing, and insurance of the ambulances as well as the per diem of the Red Cross drivers for the next three months. WFP also handed over Mpondwe border screening unit to Kasese District leadership. In addition, WFP erected four screening units and four tents at priority locations along the border.

- **Outbreak of sickness among people in two districts in Karamoja:** According to health centres records, three people died and 293 were admitted to health centres in Karamoja in March and April after eating Super Cereal, a fortified blended food distributed by WFP. The product is used by WFP and partners to prevent and treat malnutrition among pregnant and nursing mothers. Preliminary investigations have failed to conclusively find what caused the illness. To date, more than 2,400 food-related laboratory tests were conducted - including for mycotoxins, heavy metals, pesticides and microbial contaminants - but the root cause of the problem has not yet been established. As a precautionary measure, WFP has temporarily halted distribution of Super Cereal worldwide from one of its suppliers as tests continue to establish whether it is linked to the outbreak of illness in Karamoja. Communications campaigns continue to urge any people in Karamoja with remaining stocks to return them.

Analysis and assessments

- WFP conducted its quarterly post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise for the period January to March 2019 in refugee settlement areas. The PDM indicated a stable food consumption score (FCS) among the refugee households, with 68 percent of households having an acceptable FCS. Beneficiaries receiving cash were more likely to have acceptable FCS than those that received food. The PDM also indicated that women participated in the decision making on the use of WFP's assistance in 60 percent of households.

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 April, WFP received 1,320 calls, out of which 97 percent were addressed and closed within the month.

Impact of limited funding

- WFP requires additional US\$67 million for the next six months to fully cover the food needs of over 1.2 million refugees currently living in Uganda. If no further funding is received, WFP will not be able to maintain its current level of assistance from June onwards. This could have devastating consequences for refugees, the majority of whom depend on WFP for life-saving food assistance.

Donors

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