



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

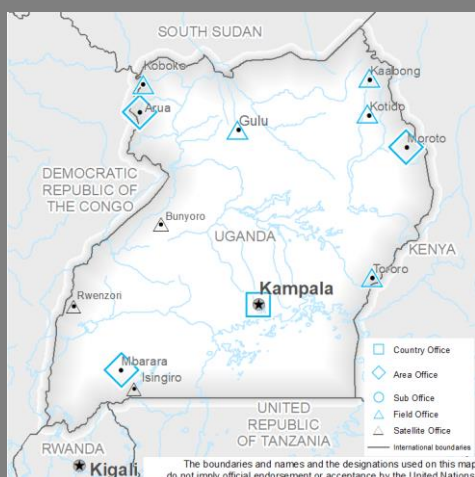
WFP Uganda Country Brief May 2019



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% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

13,190 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.6 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 55.5 m six months (June – November 2019) net funding requirements

1.3 million people assisted in May 2019*



Operational Updates

- **Overview:** In May 2019, WFP supported 1.3 million people in Uganda. WFP's operations mainly focused on refugee support, with one million refugees receiving food and nutrition assistance. In Karamoja, WFP provided school meals to 160,000 school going children and implemented nutrition activities for 63,000 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:** The poor and or delayed rainfall coupled with increasing prices of staple food continue to be of concern in Uganda. The May 2019 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicates that 402,000 people are in food security crisis or worse (phase 3 or higher) in Karamoja. WFP, together with UNICEF and FAO, are developing an inter-agency response plan based on the Government's request to provide general food assistance.
- **Agent banking model:** WFP Uganda signed a contract with a second financial service provider to deliver monthly cash transfers to refugees through a new model– agent banking. Refugees will be able to withdraw cash through authorized agents, such as retail traders operating within the settlements or in the host community. The model promotes financial inclusion, increased flexibility of access for beneficiaries (in terms of both time and location) and improvements in cost efficiency. In May 2019, WFP prepared for the launch of a pilot in Nakivale settlement by sensitizing beneficiaries on agent banking procedures, training them on protection, supporting bank account opening, and conducting debit card distribution exercises. WFP aims to make the first transfers through agent banking in June 2019 to enable 3,400 households to access their food assistance entitlements through their own bank accounts.
- **Ebola preparedness actions:** While no Ebola case was reported in Uganda in May, the national task force (NTF) maintained the implementation of high-level preparedness actions. WFP installed five tents at newly identified points of entries in Kasese and Kisoro in Southwest to serve as screening points. WFP also provided common service transport for non-food items and engineering services to facilitate ongoing construction works of the Ebola treatment unit in Kihhihi district.

Contact info: Dennis G. Tumusiime dennis.tumusiime@wfp.org

Country Director: El-Khidir Daloum

Further information: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/uganda>

* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimated figures

Photo credit/caption: WFP/Lydia Wamala/Ebola screening at a border.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.2 b	347 m	55.5 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

- **Outbreak of sickness among people in two districts in Karamoja:** More than 290 people were admitted to health centres and several people died in Karamoja in March and April after allegedly consuming Super Cereal, a fortified blended food distributed by WFP. Investigations are still ongoing under the leadership of the Government to determine the root cause of the problem. To date, more than 2,400 laboratory tests have been conducted. As a precautionary measure, WFP has temporarily halted distribution of Super Cereal worldwide from one of its suppliers.
- **WFP Uganda supports Government to reduce stunting:** In May 2019, WFP supported a series of Government-led nutrition activities at national level aimed to reach the global target of reducing stunting rates by 40 percent by 2025. Eighty members of parliament appointed to the food security and population forum were briefed on food security policy and legal frameworks. A nutrition stakeholder mapping and capacity assessment exercise was conducted through the Office of the Prime Minister to develop a nationwide capacity strengthening roadmap. WFP, in collaboration with the national nutrition development partners group, also coordinated the development of a joint workplan that will be incorporated in the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (UNAP). The UNAP guides the implementation of nutrition programmes at national and subnational levels.

Analysis and assessments

- WFP market price analysis indicates an increase in food prices since January 2019. In particular, the price of maize grains increased by 44 percent between January and April in Karamoja region. The increase is partly attributed to below-average rainfall since the beginning of the rainy season in northern and eastern Uganda. While most of the refugees receiving cash-transfers are still able to buy an equivalent, or more, of the WFP in-kind food basket, several settlements are already experiencing the strain of rising food prices. WFP will continue to monitor market prices to establish if the cash transfer value should be adjusted.

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. WFP received 1,850 calls in May 2019. 90 percent of the calls were addressed and closed within the month.

Impact of limited funding

- WFP requires US\$55.5m to meet the food needs of 1.25 million refugees for the next six months. In addition, US\$2.1m is required for WFP maternal and child health nutrition (MCHN) programme in Karamoja starting June 2019 for six months.

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.