



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Uganda Country Brief March 2020

### Operational Context

Uganda has a longstanding history of hosting refugees, with more than 1.4 million refugees and asylum seekers mainly from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. Despite its agricultural potential and significant 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. Malnutrition is widespread across the country: 29 percent of children under the age of 5 years are stunted and 53 percent are anaemic and at risk of not reaching their full mental and physical potential.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has six strategic outcomes and is fully aligned with national policy objectives, including Uganda's Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan II (NDPII). Through the CSP, WFP addresses the 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 and Triangular Cooperation.



Population: 40.3 million

2019 Human Development Index: 159 out of 189

Income Level: Lower-middle

Stunting: 29 percent of children between 6-59 months

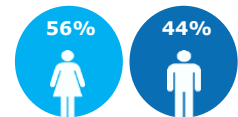
### In Numbers

12,179 mt of food assistance distributed\*

US\$ 4.7m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 34.8m six months (April 2020 – September 2020) net funding requirements

1.2m people assisted\*  
in March 2020



### Operational Updates

#### Impact of COVID-19

- As the first COVID-19 cases were registered in Uganda, the government imposed countrywide restrictions on movements to stem the spread of the virus, including the suspension of admission of new refugees for a month. The situation is likely to threaten the livelihoods of vulnerable people in the country and their ability to meet their essential needs. Refugees are at greater risk of malnutrition given the tight restrictions, their close living spaces and challenges such as poor access to clean water.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a nationwide closure of schools is in force. Nearly 130,000 children in the Karamoja region are missing out on school feeding, which in most instances is the only meal they eat during the day.
- WFP activated a business continuity plan to guarantee staff safety, while continuing to provide life-saving assistance to refugees and vulnerable women and children in Karamoja. WFP is reviewing its food distribution operations to reduce the risk of infection, and is working to expand its operational spaces to ensure social distancing during the distribution processes, abiding by all recommendations from local health authorities to protect the health and safety of the people it serves and its staff. This includes providing handwashing facilities for beneficiaries and staff, providing health and temperature screening at the entrance to sites, and sharing information on containment measures. As a precautionary measure to help prevent the virus from spreading, WFP is no longer using iris scans and fingerprints for biometric verification of refugees during its food or cash distributions. WFP is instead using ration cards and government-issued verification letters to authenticate identities. In an effort to prevent malnutrition rates from increasing, WFP is maintaining moderate acute malnutrition treatment for women and children through the Supplementary Feeding Programme, changing the distribution frequency from bi-weekly to monthly.
- Leveraging its expertise in logistics, WFP is part of a national taskforce managing the countrywide response alongside the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other UN agencies. WFP is chairing the Logistics Sub-Committee meetings at the Ministry of Health and managing the

\* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimated figures

Photo Caption: A mother and her child enrolled in the Karamoja Nutrition Programme. Credits: WFP/Hugh Rutherford

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>1.2b</b>                | <b>523m</b>                      | <b>34.8m</b>                                |

**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

construction of a temporary COVID-19 screening terminal to help Uganda manage passenger arrivals at the Entebbe Airport. WFP is also providing storage for medical equipment belonging to the government and WHO.

- WFP is planning to expand the use of remote food security monitoring tools like its phone-based mVAM vulnerability monitoring system to cover also food security of urban households and market functionality.

**Refugee ration reduction**

- A shortage of funds has led WFP to cut refugee rations by 30 percent from April 2020. If no additional contributions are confirmed within the second quarter of 2020, further ration reductions will be required. These cuts will likely have a ripple effect that goes far beyond nutrition and hunger. Risks around security for staff and the people WFP serves, negative coping mechanisms adopted by beneficiaries, and gains made towards self-reliance being reversed are foreseen. To mitigate these risks, WFP – in collaboration with UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister – developed a joint communications and community engagement plan to ensure communities are kept informed.

**Asset creation activities**

- Before the spread of COVID-19 in the country, WFP continued to implement asset creation activities in the refugee-hosting districts of Adjumani and Lamwo, supporting 50,215 women and men among refugees and host communities with cash transfers in return for their participation in building fuel-efficient cook stoves, working in school gardens and clearing land for agriculture activities.

**Impact of Limited Funding**

- WFP needed at least US\$ 219 million to provide refugees with full rations through 2020. Donors have so far given US\$ 82 million, leaving a gap of US\$ 137 million. WFP needs US\$ 56.6 million to provide food assistance to refugees at full ration for the next six months.
- The Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme in the Karamoja region, one of Uganda’s poorest areas, is still suspended due to limited funding. The programme’s target population, including children and pregnant and lactating women, are those most at risk of malnutrition. WFP needs US\$ 2.6 million to resume and maintain the programme for the next six months (April 2020 – September 2020).

**Donors**

Top donors since 2019: European Commission, Republic of Ireland, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, United States of America.