



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

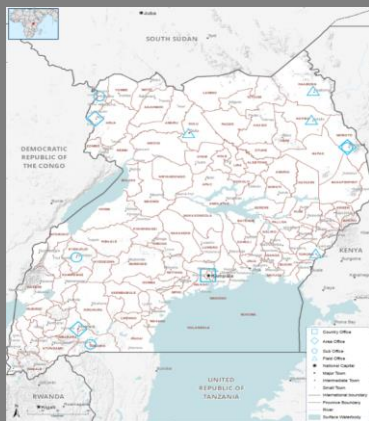
# WFP Uganda Country Brief, July 2020



## Operational Context

Uganda has a longstanding history of hosting refugees, with 1.42 million of them, mainly natives of South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi currently resident in the country. Despite its agricultural potential and significant exports, Uganda's food insecurity levels remain classified as 'serious' by the 2019 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 Third National Development Plan (NDP III). 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 Co-operation.



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**

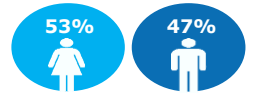
## In Numbers

**13,470 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**US\$ 3.8 m** cash-based transfers

**US\$ 103 million** six months (August 2020 – January 2021) net funding requirements

**1.38m people assisted\*** in July 2020



## Operational Updates

### Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 infections increased by 24 percent from June 30 (893 people) to July 31 (1,176 people) as Kampala-based refugees struggled to access nutritious food, following loss of livelihoods and income during the lockdown. A WFP monthly monitoring analysis found that the proportion of households with inadequate diets among the refugees rose from 24 to 28 percent between June and July.

A [WFP study](#), conducted in April, revealed the number of households with no income earner rose by 41 percent in the first three weeks of the lockdown. Of this, families headed by women, people living with disabilities or elderly people, were disproportionately affected.

### Critical funding shortfall for refugees

WFP extended its 30 percent ration cut on all the 1.2 million refugees in the settlements into a fourth month in July as a resource shortfall persisted. Despite the reduction in assistance, WFP will not be able to continue its cash-based transfer modality in October, unless donors confirm new contributions.

To provide full rations for 1.2 million refugees from August until the end of 2020, WFP urgently requires US\$ 47.4 million. In order for WFP to maintain current assistance (of 70 percent ration) through to the end of 2020, US\$ 22.5 million is required.

### WFP Response Cash for urban-based refugees

WFP began electronic cash transfers to Kampala-based refugees supporting them to meet their basic food needs for a three-month period. WFP is providing a transfer value equivalent to US\$ 6/per person/per month, which represent 70 percent of the minimum food basket.

As the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), including the Ugandan Government, and the mobile network operator continue to verify more SIM cards, WFP aims to reach all 80,000 refugees in Kampala with monthly transfers. The transfers are provided alongside complementary activities undertaken by UNHCR, supporting refugees to meet their non-food needs, such as rent.

### New WFP measures improve social distancing

In the refugee settlements, WFP provided two months' food assistance to the refugees and nutrition support. COVID-19 mitigation measures such as social distancing, temperate checks

\* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimates.

Photo Caption: Accompanied by her parents, a child receives her school feeding take-home ration at Napumpum Primary School in Karamoja. Credits: WFP/Hugh Dutton

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.2b	492 m	103 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

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and handwashing at the distribution points were reinforced to limit the spread of COVID-19. The new measures were introduced in May, in addition to WFP's scale-up of CBT to further limit contact with and among refugees during distributions. Going forward, WFP aims to expand on digital solutions such as the agent banking model and mobile money in order to rollout contactless distribution models where possible.

Logistics challenges related to COVID-19 testing protocols for truck operators at the Kenya-Uganda border affected the planned double distributions of WFP food assistance in July due to stock delays. Protocols have since eased; truck operators entering Uganda now only have to present a negative test certificate issued in Kenya – forgoing testing the Ugandan border. Subsequently, food pipelines have improved, with WFP utilising the Mombasa-Eldoret-Tororo railway line to expedite the delivery of food that is unavailable in the local markets.

### WFP injects US\$ 3.8 million into settlements monthly

With 52 percent refugees now receiving cash-based transfers – from just 36 percent in January 2020 – WFP dispenses the equivalent of US\$ 3.8 million a month in the rural refugee economies in nine settlements (at a reduced ration). To enable markets in the rural refugee hosting districts to absorb this monthly cash injection, while being able to meet the food and nutrition needs of both refugees and host communities, WFP has stepped up its support to market development, while also focusing on financial literacy training courses to enhance the capacity of refugees to deal with (digital) banking tools.

### Take-home rations for 101,000 school children

In Uganda's most food-insecure region, Karamoja, WFP distributed take-home rations to 101,000 school children to contribute to their ongoing home-learning – schools throughout Uganda remained closed due to COVID-19. The food arrived as the government issued home schooling guidelines and distributed learning materials in the most vulnerable regions, including Karamoja.

## Impact of Limited Funding

A complete WFP food ration which provides the minimum daily dietary requirements (2,100 kilocalories per person per day) is essential to contributing to the food security of those people targeted for assistance. Before ration cuts were even in place, in March WFP found that 56 percent of refugees struggled with inadequate diets.

The Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) initiative in Karamoja was suspended in 2019 due to low donor funding. The MCHN+ has since been developed, WFP requires US\$8.5 million for MCHN+ (September 2020 - August 2021). This activity would support the prevention of stunting, which affects more than a third of children aged under five in Karamoja.

WFP's community-based supplementary feeding programme has no available funding for 2021. WFP urgently requires US\$3 million through to the end of December 2021 to continue assistance under this activity.

### Donors

**Top donors in 2020:** United States of America, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Canada, European Commission.