Operational Context

Uganda has a longstanding history of hosting refugees, with 1.42 million currently in the country, mainly natives of 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 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 (CSP) 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 its CSP, WFP addresses the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, supports the refugee response and strengthens social protection systems. WFP support is provided through direct implementation, evidence generation, knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening, while building strategic partnerships including through South-South and Triangular Co-operation.

In Numbers

- **6,461 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 1.9 m** cash transfers made
- **USD 129 m** six months (December 2020 – June 2021) net funding requirements
- **912,565 people** assisted in December 2020

Operational Updates

**Nutrition support in Karamoja Region**

WFP started implementing its blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in Moroto and Napak Districts in Karamoja sub-region. The implementation follows results from the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) carried out by WFP and UNICEF in March 2020, which indicates that global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in Moroto has increased beyond the emergency threshold of 15 percent and stands at 17.2 percent, requiring immediate nutrition support and assistance.

At least 29,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and children aged 6 to 59 months were enrolled into the BSFP. Distributions started in Moroto and reached a total of 7,054 people in December and will be extended to Napak in January. A ration of 100 grams of SuperCereal Plus per person per day is distributed.

In addition to the provision of nutritious food items to prevent malnutrition, the intervention includes other activities such as screening, counselling, referrals to other key programs and activities, social and behaviour change communication, micro-nutrients and vitamins supplementation, immunization, and deworming of children.

Following the approval of the revised integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines by the Ministry of Health (MOH), WFP trained over fifty district health workers, staff, and cooperating partners in Karamoja region on the new guidelines. To ensure that all health workers supporting the community-based supplementary feeding sites get trained, WFP is engaging with the Ministry of Health to roll out trainings on the revised IMAM guidelines.

The implementation of the inception activities for the multi-year project “Strengthening shock-responsive systems in Karamoja” (2020-2022) was completed. The 4 million EUR project is funded thanks to the DEVCO Pro-Resilience Action (Pro-ACT) initiative. The project aims at improving the capacity and systems of national and local stakeholders to generate and disseminate accurate, timely and actionable early warning information as well as to effectively prepare for and manage food shocks based on early warning information and to provide early response to shock-affected households in Karamoja. The project also includes other activities such as improving skills and assets of communities and households in Karamoja, enhancing their capacities to manage seasonal variability and reduce risk of shocks.

* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimates.

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Photo Caption: A woman receives food supplements in Karamoja Region.
Photo credit: WFP/Alex Ogenrwoth
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 b</td>
<td>634 m</td>
<td>129 m</td>
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**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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**Support to refugee communities**

In December, WFP continued to provide general food assistance, through both in-kind food and cash-based transfer (CBT), to approximately 912,565 refugees hosted in the 13 refugee settlements in Uganda. The food basket distributed meets a minimum dietary requirement of 2,100 Kcal per person per day and is the main source of food for refugees. Due to funding constraints, WFP provided only 70 percent of the food ration, thus leaving majority of the refugees exposed to food and nutrition insecurity. If no additional funding is received, WFP will be constrained to implement a further reduction of ration down to 60 percent of the food basket from February on.

In order to identify priorities and enhance the implementation of activities, WFP, together with UNHCR and UNICEF, carried out a Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) in all the refugee settlements. This annual exercise was conducted in refugee settlements and their hosting districts, to understand the food security, nutrition, WASH and health situation and needs of the refugees.

**Logistics activities and services**

WFP is acquiring fifteen prefabs and two Fospans through the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), to provide office space and thermal scanner shades at five very active border crossing points of Kenya (Malaba, Busia), Tanzania (Mutukula), South Sudan (Elegu) and Rwanda (Mirama Hills). The Fospans will augment the storage capacity for COVID-19 dry commodities.

On behalf of FAO, WFP supported the procurement process for the construction of two mobile storage units (MSUs) platforms, worth USD 33,000. The construction is scheduled to commence in January at Moroto and Soroti aerodromes. The MSUs will be used to store pesticides to support response to locust invasion in eastern and northern Uganda.

**Challenges**

Due to the rainy season, the roads to some distribution points in some settlements are impassable, hence causing delays and disruptions in food distributions. Travel across the Nile River and Lake Albert from West Nile to Northern Uganda and Masindi District by ferry was suspended due to high water levels on River Nile. Ferry services will only resume operations when the water levels subside.

**Donors (in alphabetical order):**

Top donors in 2020: Canada, European Commission, Germany, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Sweden and United Kingdom, United States of America.