Operational Context

Uganda has a longstanding history of hosting refugees, with 1.42 million of them, mainly from South Sudan, 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.

Operational Updates

Support to refugee communities

- WFP assisted 932,317 refugees across 13 refugee settlements in Uganda. Of these, 684,582 received cash in nine of the settlements while 247,735 received in kind food assistance. Both groups received a reduced ration of 60 percent of their general food assistance entitlements. WFP continued to make operational preparations to roll out the digital cash delivery mechanism to refugees in Rwamwanja and Kyangwali settlements in preparation for the first distribution in June.

- In partnership with Equity Bank, WFP assisted 37,551 refugee households through digital payment with fully-fledged bank accounts linked to regular debit cards (MasterCard) in their names using the Agency Banking system in the South West Region. This supports access to formal financial services within and outside the settlements, while enabling beneficiaries to withdraw cash and pay for goods and services using a debit cards (digital merchant payments).

- To support the development of a financial service infrastructure in all the settlements in the South West region, WFP and Equity Bank identified, trained, and contracted 117 bank agents and 37 food merchants to provide formal financial services across all settlements in the South West of Uganda.

Nutrition: Switch from Super Cereal Plus to Ready to Use Supplementary Food to enhance recovery from acute malnutrition

- WFP rolled out a switch from Super Cereal Plus to Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF), a highly fortified, nutrient dense paste designed for the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) among children aged 6-59 months. The rollout, which was implemented in all the 13 refugee settlements, aligns with evidence from studies showing that the use of lipid based specialized RUSFs improves the recovery of children.

In Numbers

- 7,779.29 mt of food assistance distributed
- USD 6.1 million in cash transfers made
- USD 123.1 million six months (June – November 2021) net funding requirements
- 1,154,009 people assisted in May 2021

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Further information: https://www.wfp.org/countries/uganda
**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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<td>1.2 b</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 6**: 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

under treatment of MAM faster than fortified blended specialized foods. In addition to reducing sharing of specialised foods among family members, RUSF is perceived as a treatment commodity due to its packaging and less of a routine dietary supplement leading to better utilization.

- To create awareness on the rollout, WFP sensitized the refugees to inform and prepare them in all settlements. This led to high acceptability and utilization of RUSF as a MAM treatment commodity across all the settlements.

**Support in Karamoja region**

- WFP continued with preparations to respond to the alarming levels of food and nutrition insecurity in Karamoja region during the current lean season. The response plan includes targeted general food assistance in support of malnutrition treatment programmes and rollout of activities aimed to prevent acute malnutrition which will follow a mass-screening exercise to be conducted in June. The lean season response will target persons experiencing malnutrition, or that are vulnerable to malnutrition, in the districts of Kotido, Kaabong and Moroto, where acute malnutrition has reached emergency levels (or is serious with aggravating factors).

- WFP continued to consult stakeholders on plans to roll out targeted general food assistance for 84,599 moderately acute malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6 – 59 months and their families to ensure these vulnerable individuals have access to the specialized nutritious foods provided through the treatment programme.

**Gender and protection**

- WFP held stakeholder consultations with the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, protection actors, cooperating partners, refugee leaders and persons with specific needs (PSNs) to discuss benefits and possible risks associated with cash-based transfers (CBT) for general food assistance and to address concerns in Kiyandongo as WFP plans to scale up cash to 100 percent in the settlement. The consultations helped to inform stakeholders about the scale up, document the key concerns and benefits and identify recommendations for the scale up. The results of the consultations will be consolidated with those from other settlements to inform the development of guidelines for the cash scale up.

**Challenges**

- Due to critical funding constraints, WFP has not been providing full General Food Assistance entitlements to refugees since April 2020. WFP requires USD 123.1 million within the next six months to continue its operations.

**Donors (in alphabetical order)**

Canada, Germany, European Commission, Republic of Ireland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.