



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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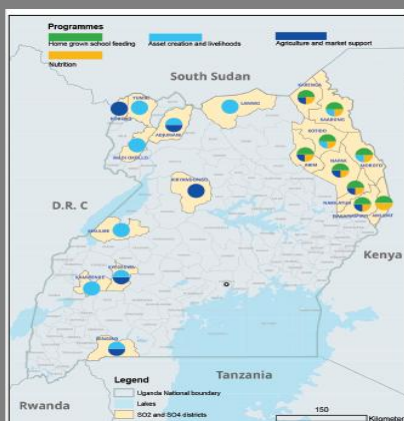
WFP Uganda Country Brief March 2025



Operational Context

Uganda hosts over 1.8 million refugees, primarily from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. Despite its agricultural potential and export capacity, the country faces serious food insecurity. Ugandans consume an average of 400 kcal less than their daily needs, and malnutrition remains widespread: 29 percent of children under five are stunted and 53 percent are anaemic and at risk of not reaching their full mental and physical potential.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2018-2025 has 6 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.



Income Level: **Lower-middle**

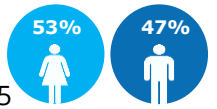
2021 Human Development Index: **161 out of 191**

Population: **45.9 million**

Stunting: **29 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,549,833 people assisted in March 2025



3,285 mt of in-kind food distributed

USD 4.2 million in cash-based transfers

USD 67 million net funding requirements for the period April – September 2025)

Operational Updates

Support to Refugees.

- In March, WFP provided food assistance to more than 1.3 million settlement-based refugees hosted in Uganda. A total of 351,886 beneficiaries received 2,393 mt of in-kind food assistance while 946,077 received cash-based transfers (CBT) worth USD 4.2 million.
- In addition, under the maternal child health and nutrition (MCHN) programme, 1,123 children under five, along with pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, received 2.8 mt of specialized nutritious foods.

Financial Literacy and Scaling up of Digital Cash-Based Transfers (CBT):

- To improve cost efficiency in the refugee response, WFP expanded the use of digital delivery mechanisms through Mobile Money delivery mechanism from 23 percent in February to 27 percent in March 2025 while agency banking stands at 41 percent. By the end of March, 32 percent of refugee beneficiaries received assistance through cash-in-hand, while mobile money use increased from 23 percent in February to 27 percent in March. Agency banking stood at 41 percent. WFP aims to transition all cash-in-hand recipients to mobile money, targeting 97,345 households for full enrolment by the end of quarter 2 of 2025.

Social Protection and Systems Capacity Strengthening

- To realise the expansion of social protection coverage in Uganda, WFP working with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Office of the Prime Minister and District Local Governments (Koboko and Yumbe) piloted the delivery of social cash transfers to elderly refugees in Lobule and Bidibidi refugee settlements. The first delivery was cashed out in March 2025 with enthusiasm. The first 350 elderly refugees (aged 80 and above) received USD 7 per month, mirroring Uganda's Senior Citizens Grant model.
- The social cash transfers to elderly refugees' intervention contributes to the Refugee Self-Reliance Model objectives of, enabling the elderly to increase participation in labour and productivity, providing basic income security to improve nutrition among elderly refugees and demonstrating commitment to expanding and extending social protection coverage to refugees.

School Meals Programme

- In March, WFP provided hot school meals to more than 220,000 learners across Karamoja at 80 percent rations. To strengthen local food systems, WFP and the Government initiated discussions on piloting a decentralized school procurement model in seven schools across Napak, Nakapiripirit, and Kaabong districts. This approach enables schools to buy directly from local smallholder farmers.

* Beneficiaries figures are based on estimates.

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Photo Caption: WFP and partner staff look on as the first recipient of the Social Cash Transfer for elderly refugees receives her cash in Lobule Settlement.

Photo credit: WFP/Emily Awili.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2025)

Total Requirement (In USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.99 b	1.32 b	67 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 and promote financial inclusion of 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 technical assistance to the Government, women and men participating in community-level asset creation projects and strengthen the national social protection system to deliver livelihood and resilience building programmes.
- Provide nutritious hot meals to children attending school and technical assistance to the Government through South-South cooperation, for increased national ownership

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 interventions to populations at risk

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:

- Strengthen the capacity of the Government in post-harvest management and link smallholder farmers to markets.

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:

- Strengthen the capacity of selected national and subnational institutions and their underlying systems to provide direct income support.
- Strengthen the capacity of selected national and subnational institutions and their underlying systems to respond to shocks

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.

This will be done by supporting schools to procure directly from local suppliers-smallholder farmers. Additionally, WFP in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and Sports and other stakeholders held a joint stakeholder planning meeting which led to the mapping of all partners implementing school feeding initiatives and review of the national school feeding policy.

Climate Risk Management

- Working with the Department of Meteorology and District Local Governments across Karamoja, WFP facilitated the downscaling of the March, April, May (MAM) weather forecast for Karamoja sub-region. Advisories were developed based on the MAM forecast and disseminated through public address systems, radio, churches, mosques, and markets to help farmers make informed decisions on planting and preparing for climatic shocks. This information will enable famers to make informed decisions about timely planting, crops to plants and preparing for climatic shocks.

Nutrition

- WFP implemented nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive services across Karamoja reaching more than 9,100 people. A total of 6,051 moderate acute malnutrition clients (including 4,002 children under the age of five as well as 2,049 Pregnant and Breast-feeding Women and Girls) received 11.2 mt of Ready to Use Supplementary Foods and 12 mt of Corn Soya Blend. A total of 766 children (419 Female) were discharged from the Integrated Nutrition Programme. In line with promoting nutrient dense foods, 361 mothers received food vouchers worth USD 4,000 to obtain locally available ingredients in the preparation of porridge.
- Through integrated health and nutrition outreaches, 6,701 people (5,236 female) received health and nutrition education. Services included antenatal care for 299 women, HIV testing for 89, malaria testing for 499, TB screening for 433, deworming for 1,272 children, and Vitamin A supplementation for 549 children.

Agriculture and Market Support (AMS)

- To increase the adoption of agricultural insurance by small holder farmers to mitigate effects of unpredictable weather conditions, WFP and Agro-Consortium trained 13 youth in West Nile on an agricultural insurance agent model. These agents will guide farmers on insurance options while earning commissions, contributing to both risk reduction and employment creation.
- In Karamoja, WFP worked with partners to connect farmers to agricultural input dealers. A total of 34 farmers purchased various seeds (maize, tomatoes, eggplants, onions), farm tools, and fertilizers. These farmers plan to plant their seeds to align with the planting season. WFP also facilitated 274 farmers to till 569 acres of land using tractors across Karamoja in preparation for the first cropping season.

Donors (in alphabetical order)

Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, European Commission, Italy, Japan, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Ireland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Uganda, UN CERF, United Kingdom, and USA.