

# Humanitarian Development Nexus



Kingdom of the Netherlands

## Country Profile

Uganda hosts over 1.4 million refugees, with this amount it is Africa's largest hosting country and hosts the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest amount of refugees in the world. Due to recurring conflict in neighbouring countries, Uganda has had to respond to emergency influxes from the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Burundi.

The profile of the refugees in Uganda is characterized by a high number of women and children, representing approximately 81% of the refugee population while 94% of the overall number of refugees reside in the Refugee Settlements.

The Government of Uganda has received international praise on their progressive refugee response. Through the Settlement Transformative Agenda, which has been included in the National Development Plans II (NDP II 2016-2020) and III (NDP III 2020-2025), the government continues to strengthen the refugee-hosting environment, where attention is not only paid to the refugees in the country but also the communities hosting these refugees.

This approach has made Uganda an excellent country to rollout the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) since 2017, where both refugees and host communities are seen as the beneficiaries of humanitarian and development aid.

Given the continuing conflict and humanitarian situations in neighbouring countries such as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the expectation is that more refugees will continue to seek settlement in Uganda, putting more strain on the refugee response systems in place and increasing the importance of comprehensive refugee response.

## Bilateral Relationship

While humanitarian development is not one of the main focus points of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Uganda, refugee response, refugee hosting in the region, migration as well as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support are important focus points for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore through centralized funding the Embassy has monitored and continues to monitor a few projects in this field, namely:

1. Agri-business skilling for youth. This project, which is winding up was implemented by ZOA, ICCO and War child Holland, and aimed at linking young people, both from refugee and host communities to the markets in Yumbe district. Currently the largest refugee settlement in the world, Bidibidi Refugee Settlement is located in Yumbe. This 3-year programme for €2 million was aimed at increasing the number of refugee and host community youth with the ability to generate income and are (self-) employed in agriculture.

2. Refugee Law Project. In 2017, a two-year programme for €2.5 million was signed with the Refugee Law Project. Phase II of this programme is currently ongoing (2019-2023) for €7.5 million. The goal of the project is to enhance the protection, well-being and dignity of South Sudanese refugees and their hosts in Adjumani, Lamwo and Kiryandongo districts.

3. VNG International. With VNG as the implementing partner, a project for €1 million was implemented in 2017- 2018 and the main goal was to strengthen local governments, to be able to increase sustainable social cohesion between host communities and refugees, increase sustainable public service delivery and increase economic resilience in host districts.

4. PROSPECTS Strategic Partnership. The Netherlands has spearheaded a strategic multi-year partnership bringing together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNICEF and the World Bank. This Prospects Partnership operationalizes the humanitarian-development nexus, creating strong partnerships between humanitarian and development actors to leverage comparative advantages, improve coordination and efficiency to boost their overall impact for forcibly displaced persons and host communities. This programme that will be implemented between 2019-2023 for \$ 48.7 million aims at Improved sustainable living conditions for women, men, girls and boys in refugee and vulnerable host communities.

Given the increasing amount of refugees in Uganda in the past years and expected to continue in the years to come, aside from these projects, the inclusion of refugees and their host communities in other Embassy programs will continue.

Due to the importance for the hosting of refugees in the region and migration for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the rapid developments in these fields in Uganda, the Embassy of the Netherlands takes part in several donor partner group meetings.



These meetings discuss the developments, and the projects and interventions of different partners, in this way the aim is to have a more comprehensive, cooperative and streamlined response to the influx of refugees and the influence this has on the host communities.

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