

### 1. Crisis overview

<b>3.2 / 5</b>	<b>1.7 million</b>	<b>1.7 million</b>	<b>\$858 million</b>	<b>17%</b>
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (UCRRP 2024)	People targeted in the response plan (UCRRP 2024)	Required to reach the target (UCRRP 2024)	Of the required funding secured (31 March 2024)
<b>38 MSEK</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 MSEK</b>	<b>41 MSEK</b>	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2024	

Uganda is host to more than 1.7 million refugees and asylum-seekers in what is both a protracted and acute refugee crisis, with refugees still arriving in large numbers. After years of reductions in General Food Assistance (GFA), combined with rising food and commodity prices, the majority of refugee settlements experiences Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. Since 2023, the World Food Programme (WFP) has implemented a vulnerability-based targeting model for GFA but access to land, financial services and livelihood opportunities are limited, leaving most refugees dependent on monthly food rations that only last for a few days.

Limited funding for education, health, WASH, has resulted in overcrowded classrooms, insufficient access to clean water and latrines, while health facilities are serving catchment populations high-above their intended capacity. Nearly half of all children are anaemic and stunted and malnutrition rates are expected to rise further, both as a result of reduced GFA and because funding gaps have forced health and nutrition actors to reduce preventive health and nutrition interventions, such as supplementary feeding and outreach activities. Overall, funding gaps have eroded the capacity of humanitarian actors to effectively respond to the current displacement crisis as well as new or deteriorating crises throughout the country.

In addition to the refugee crisis, an estimated 600,000 people in the Karamoja region continue to experience acute levels of food insecurity, driven by conflict and insecurity, exacerbated by recurrent climate-related shocks, structural poverty and limited livelihood opportunities. Karamoja remains one of the poorest regions of the country and has higher food insecurity and malnutrition levels than any other part.

## 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

The main countries of origin of the refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda are South Sudan (959,303), Democratic Republic of the Congo (538,138), Eritrea (55,028), Sudan (54,343), Somalia (51,230), Burundi (43,172) and Rwanda (24,623). Most refugees, particularly new arrivals, are in need of protection, food assistance and shelter as well as basic social services, including health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Having fled insecurity and conflict, many have experienced or witnessed violence and abuse, including sexual violence, been separated from family members, and often suffer from malaria, tuberculosis and malnutrition.

Children, many unaccompanied and separated, constitute 55 per cent of the refugee population and child protection risks are widespread, including issues of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and child labour. Harmful and traditional gender norms expose girls and women to gender-based violence and issues of teenage pregnancies, child marriage and prostitution are common. Other vulnerable groups include elderly and persons with specific needs who experience challenges in accessing services due to physical disabilities, long distances to service points and because of limited awareness about their rights and available services.

Once registered, most refugees are provided with small plots for housing and subsistence farming in one of 13 major settlements where both refugees and host communities can access basic services. Small plot sizes, that are constantly reduced due to influx of new refugees, together with poor soil quality and insufficient market and financial infrastructure, limit livelihood opportunities, and most refugees remain dependent of GFA, which has been gradually reduced since 2020. In July 2023, WFP implemented a shift towards needs-based targeting and food assistance is now based on three categories of vulnerability, where the most vulnerable 14 per cent of the refugee population receive 60 per cent of a full food ration per month. A vast majority of households (82 per cent) receive a 30 per cent ration, which is equivalent to about \$3.5 per person/month. WFP data indicates that approximately half of those eligible for the highest level of GFA do not actually receive it due to funding gaps. A large number of appeals about household GFA levels are currently under review, along with efforts to assess the impact of the latest phase of the prioritisation of GFA, but with funding constrains the possibilities to re-categorise refugees and increase the levels of GFA remain limited.

According to FEWSNET analyses, for most refugees, a food ration today only last for 3-5 days, leaving most refugees reliant of negative coping mechanisms, such as selling parts of their rations in order to buy other essential in-kind items as well as sharing rations with more vulnerable refugee groups. There are increasing reports of the breakdown of social support networks and refugees are increasingly employing negative coping mechanisms, such as theft, borrowing, selling assets, reducing number of portions and portion sizes as well as begging and prostitution. Movements, both in country as well as pendular border movements, in search for livelihoods opportunities are common, leaving thousands of unaccompanied children behind.

Urban refugees are not recognised outside of Kampala. Assumed to be self-reliant, urban refugees are ineligible for assistance and protection interventions and rely on temporary and unpredictable low-wage labour and remittances. They also suffer from poor housing conditions, discrimination and limited access to basic social services. Tracking and monitoring of refugees outside of the settlements remain inconsistent, but according to reports, many refugees, fearing to lose their refugee status, frequently return to the settlements in order to collect their rations, despite the fact that travel costs are generally higher than the amount of cash/food received.

### 3. The humanitarian response

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), the refugee response in Uganda is led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR, supported by a number of UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, refugee-led organisations as well as line ministries and district authorities. The Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) 2022-2025 is the main mechanism for analysis, planning and financing with operational coordination taking place at various levels, including at inter-agency level, sector level as well as district and settlement levels and it is accompanied by a number of inter-sector working groups. In the absence of a formal Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), a “HCT light” has recently been established. The vision of the UCRRP is to ensure an open asylum space, ensure access to lifesaving protection, shelter, education, WASH, health and nutrition services, and to foster socio-economic development and the longer-term transition of services to national systems.

Food security is the largest sector in terms of targets and financial requirements, explained by the humanitarian food and cash assistance that target 96 per cent of all refugees, with protection also being prioritised due the continuing influx of new arrivals and the need for refugee registration and protection case management services. Livelihoods and resilience is another prioritised sector as all stakeholders increasingly recognise the need to foster self-reliance and socio-economic development in refugee hosting areas in order to reduce vulnerabilities and reliance on GFA. Funding for the UCRRP and previous annual plans has steadily declined, from 57 per cent in 2018 to about 35 per cent in 2023. Contributing with around 53 per cent of all funding registered in FTS, the US is by far the biggest humanitarian donor, followed by ECHO, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Austria and Sweden.

Uganda was one of the first countries to adopt the CRRF framework, which has since been accompanied by a number of policies, frameworks and strategies, including five sector response plans covering education, health, water and environment, jobs and livelihoods as well as energy. Refugee management has been integrated into Uganda’s National Development Plan (NDPIII) and a corresponding Action Plan and Strategic Direction. A CRRF Secretariat and a Steering Group have been established, together with a Refugee Engagement Forum and a District Engagement Forum.

## 4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's humanitarian allocation to Uganda in 2024 is focused on multi-sectoral and life-saving assistance to address displacement-related needs. Organisations with a strong focus on addressing food insecurity, nutrition, WASH and protection concerns through integrated programming in the refugee response will continue to be prioritised. Sida's humanitarian allocation will be provided as programme-based funding to provide the partner organisations with flexibility to prioritise the interventions needed to respond to the most urgent needs, including those in Karamoja, as well as the flexibility to shift priorities in the event increased numbers of new arrivals, and to ensure partners can leverage Sida's support with other funding sources to holistically address the multisectoral needs of the refugee populations.

PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)	
		2024	2025
AAH	Food Security, Nutrition, WASH	8,000,000	-
NRC	Protection, Education, WASH, Food Security	9,000,000	-
UNHCR	Multisectoral (Protection, WASH, Shelter, Health, Education)	11,000,000	-
WFP	Food Security, Nutrition	10,000,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2023		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING <sup>1</sup>	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
AAH	3,000,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## 5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Despite an enabling policy environment, an expansive CRRF architecture and including substantial amounts of development funding in refugee hosting areas, tangible impact on the ground remains limited. Transition of services from short-term humanitarian funding to nationally managed systems has been slow as evidenced by nearly all refugees still being eligible for humanitarian food and cash assistance. Government investments in the social sectors remain

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<sup>1</sup> Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

low and development interventions have not been commensurate with the extent of the reductions in humanitarian assistance. As a result, humanitarian funding is still used to cover most of the short, medium- and long-term needs of refugees and host communities.

Humanitarian-development nexus coordination remains inefficient and needs to be strengthened, based on complementarity, recognising the different mandates and comparative advantages of different actors involved in the refugee response. Focus should be on exploring how development approaches could complement humanitarian funding to avoid stretching humanitarian programming.

Sida should through dialogue, programming and financing continue supporting the implementation of the CRRF by supporting the integration of refugees in national planning and development programming, in alignment with the NDPIII and other relevant strategies and frameworks. Efforts to support the transition strategy (in progress) for integrating humanitarian-funded services within the sectors of health, WASH and education into national systems, should be explored, as should scaling-up of livelihood programming, in order to support the transition from emergency food assistance to resilience and self-reliance. On the humanitarian side, unearmarked and programme-based funding to humanitarian partner organisation could provide building blocks for stronger nexus collaboration, while multi-year humanitarian funding in line with the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2022-2025 might be considered to enhance predictability and sustainability. Building on cash-based interventions, recognising the multiplier effect of cash on local economic development and linkages to social protection, should be considered as well as exploring new funding modalities, including the potential role of private sector engagement in refugee hosting areas and in what ways the guarantee instrument could be utilised in refugee hosting areas.

A majority of Sida's contributions within the bilateral strategy are currently being implemented in refugee hosting areas. Sida should continue exploring ways of frontloading development funding into refugee hosting areas, with particular focus on social protection, financial inclusion, employment and livelihood opportunities, health systems strengthening, environment as well as GBV and SRHR. Sida should also explore ways of building on the humanitarian support, by working with multi-mandated organisations and topping-up existing humanitarian partnerships with development funding. The operationalisation of a new strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Uganda will be an important process in this regard.

The Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, co-convened by Uganda, provided an opportunity for a more streamlined, well-coordinated and sustainable refugee response in the country. Sweden matched a number of Uganda's thematic priorities through a number of multistakeholder pledges, but the overall outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum with regards to the Uganda refugee response are not yet visible.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.