

Uganda Overview

January to March 2019

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Glossary

DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
MP	Member of Parliament
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
NFI	Non-Food Items
WFP	World Food Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

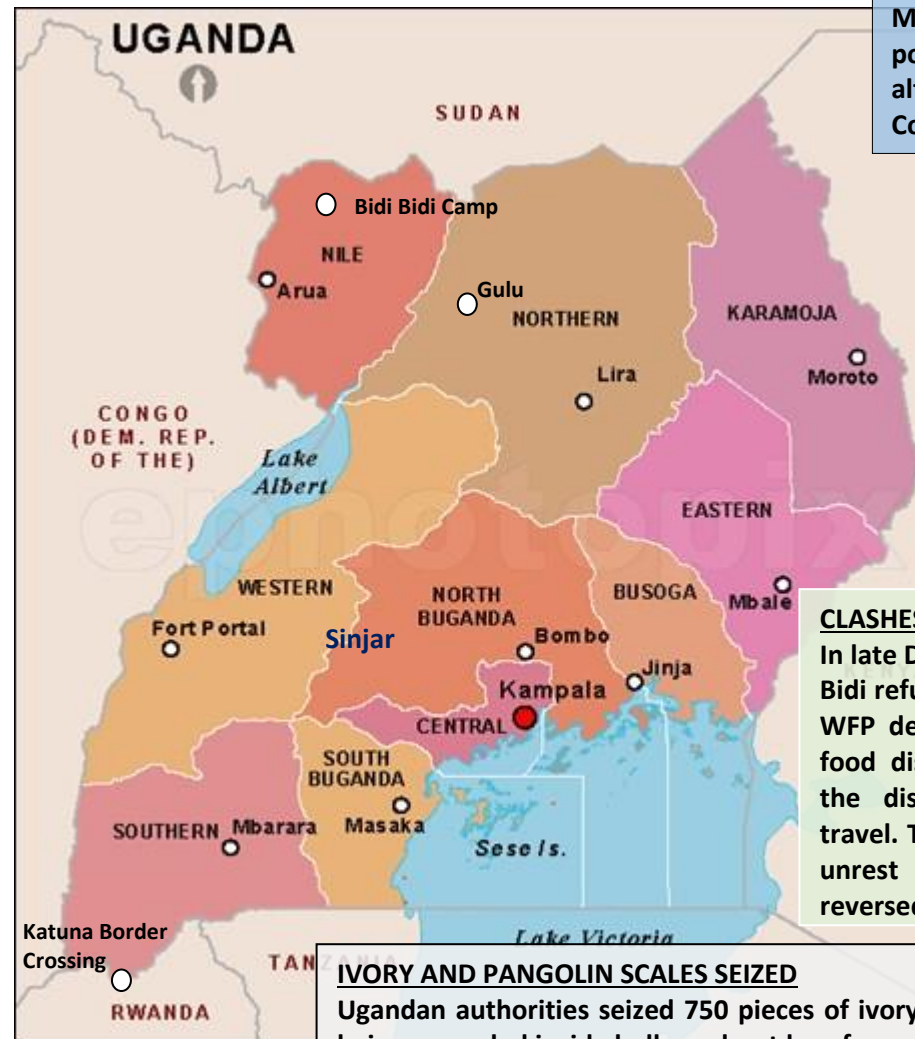
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Locations	Risk Level	Comment	Forecast
Kampala	Low	<i>Whilst recent demonstrations have been violent, risk levels in the city remain at Low. However, an escalation in political violence is a concern and could increase levels.</i>	<i>The constitution was changed in 2017 to remove an age limit on the presidency. Many fear that this will enable President Yoweri Museveni, who has been president since 1986, to maintain his grip on power and turn Uganda into an authoritarian state. Museveni attempts to crush any viable opposition and opposition protests are the main threats to stability in Uganda.</i>
Uganda outside Kampala	Moderate	<i>Whilst Uganda is largely unaffected by conflict, its involvement in the African Union force in Somalia means the threat of a terrorist attack is present. The country's proximity to the troubles in South Sudan, DRC and CAR means there is the threat of cross border conflict. There are also several militia/rebels operating across the borders. The main threats faced by international humanitarian workers are road traffic accident and crime. There are few inhibitors to reduce these due to a police force that has poor capacity and a poor reputation.</i>	<i>It is projected that the refugee population will reach to 1.73 million and people in need will be 4 million including refugees and host community by the end of 2019.</i>

1. Domestic News



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI TO STAND AGAIN

The Central Executive Committee of the ruling party National Resistance Movement (NRM) on 19 Feb 2019 endorsed President Museveni, who has been in power for 33 years, as the party's candidate in next presidential elections in 2021, although this still has to be confirmed at the party's National Delegates' Conference in Nov 2019.

TENSIONS BETWEEN UGANDA AND RWANDA

Relations between Uganda and Rwanda deteriorated further in 2019 after the Government of Uganda deported a Rwandan senior employee at the telecom company MTN in Jan. The countries continued to exchange mutual accusations of spying.

In Feb, Rwanda closed two of three principal border crossings with Uganda at Katuna and Cyanika. In March Rwanda reportedly destroyed all bridges crossing to Uganda at Katuna.

Rwanda accuses Uganda of harbouring Rwandan dissidents and harassing Rwandan citizens with arbitrary arrests and deportations.

CLASHES AT BIDI BIDI CAMP

In late Dec 2018, rioting took place in Bidi Bidi refugee camp in the Nile region after WFP decided to change the location of food distribution points. This increased the distance camp residents had to travel. The army deployed to contain the unrest and on 3 Jan 2019 the WFP reversed its decision.

INTERCOMMUNITY CLASHES

In Jan 2019 clashes took place over a boundary dispute between the Acholi and Madi communities in the Amuru and Adjumani districts, Nile and Northern regions respectively. In early Feb Police arrested several Acholi MPs during a protest in Gulu calling for resolution to the conflict.

IVORY AND PANGOLIN SCALES SEIZED

Ugandan authorities seized 750 pieces of ivory and thousands of pangolin scales being smuggled inside hollowed-out logs from neighbouring South Sudan. It is one of Uganda's largest seizure of wildlife contraband

HARRASSMENT OF OPPOSITION MP

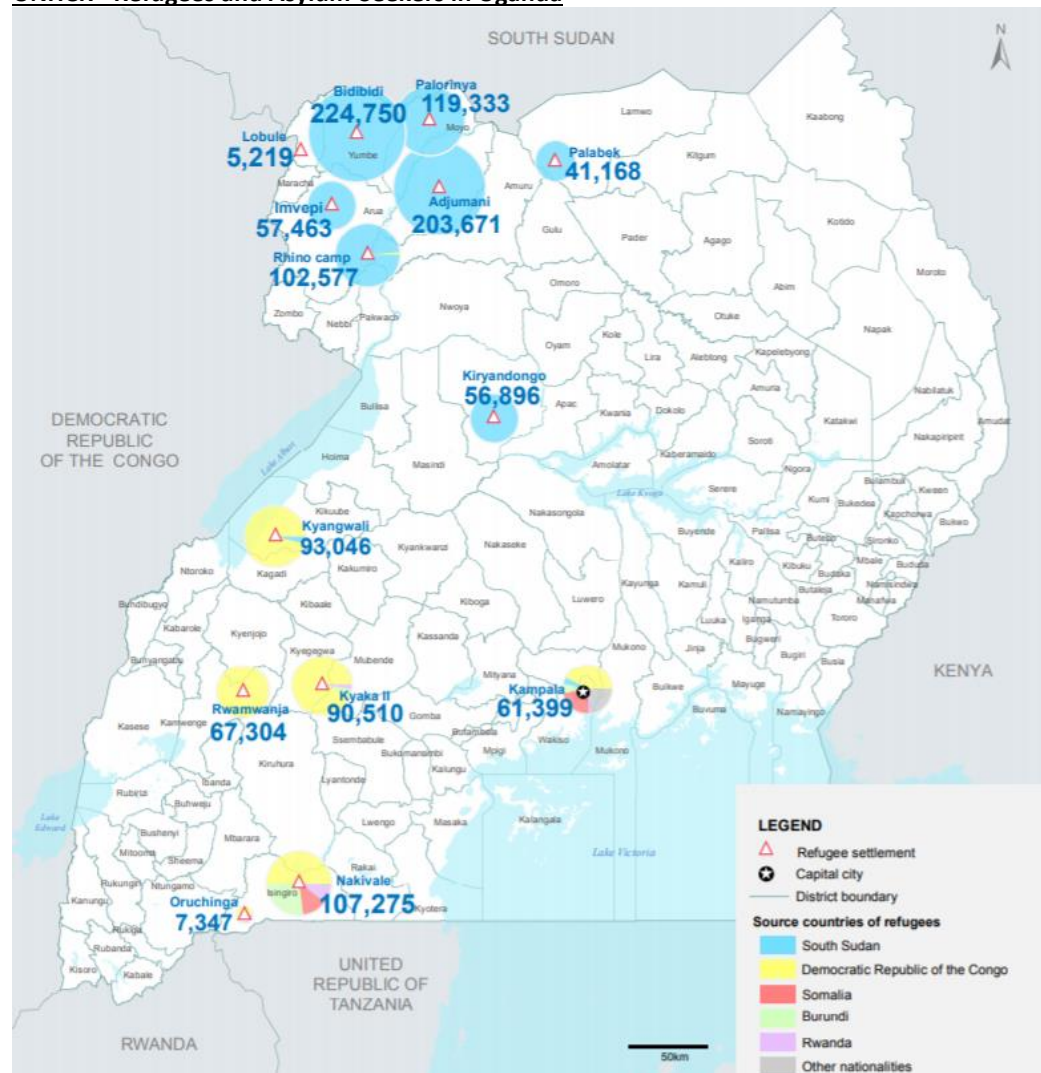
On 6 Jan 2019, government actions against MP Robert Kyagulanyi, a popular singer-turned-opposition MP known as Bobi Wine, continued when police blocked his annual concert. *Comment: The President's heavy-handed response to Kyagulanyi's popularity, especially amongst the young, suggests he sees Kyagulanyi as a real threat to his grip on power.*

BORDER DISPUTE WITH SOUTH SUDAN

In early Jan 2019, armed men, suspected of being South Sudanese soldiers, raised the South Sudan flag inside Uganda, 6km from the Uganda-South Sudan border. On 14 Jan the Government of Uganda reportedly issued a 72-hour ultimatum to take the flag down or military action would be taken. To resolve the border dispute, mediation is taking place between Uganda's local government and its South Sudan counterpart.

2. Humanitarian Situation

UNHCR - Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Uganda



OVERVIEW

Civil war in neighboring South Sudan, insecurity in the eastern region of the DRC, and political unrest in Burundi have contributed to the most recent waves of refugee influxes in the past few years. It is projected that the refugee population will reach **1.73 million** and people in need will be **4 million** including refugees and host community by the end of 2019.

Total number of Refugees: 1,239,912

S. Sudan: 808,554

DRC: 332,506

Burundi: 38,526

Somali Refugees: 27,899

Rwanda: 15,170

Other (Sudan/Ethiopia/Eritrean/Other): 17,257

<https://ugandarefugees.org/en/country/uga>

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68319>

About 92% live in settlements alongside the local communities, mainly in northern Uganda or West Nile. Urban centres are home to 8% of the refugee population, especially Kampala.

Through its Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), Uganda pursues a non-encampment policy to refugee protection and assistance. Refugees are provided with a plot of land for housing and cultivation and can settle alongside their host communities.

The high rate of dependency of refugees in Nakivale settlement (67%) highlights the risk for refugees to become dependent on humanitarian assistance if interventions do not adequately focus on sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

South Sudanese and Congolese asylum seekers are granted refugee status on a prima facie basis, while refugees from other nationalities undergo Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews with the Refugee Eligibility Committee, an inter-ministerial body.

KEY DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW

Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/65982>

Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67314>

Survey of refugees and humanitarian staff in Uganda https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Grand_bargain_Uganda_03_2019.pdf

KEY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Uganda hosts a high number of refugees and despite the range of origins, and the varying lengths of displacement, they face similar challenges and humanitarian needs. Across all sectors of in need households, host community and refugees, the highest proportions are in the environment and energy sector (93% of host community and 89% of refugee households), and the next highest are in the protection sector (66% of host community and 67% of refugee households).

Food Security: At national level, 18% of refugee households were found to have low food consumption score (poor or borderline). 60% of refugee households reported insufficient access to food in the 7 days prior to data collection and 72 percent reported non-governmental assistance to be the primary source of food. The global acute malnutrition rate is above 10% and over 40% of women and children are anaemic.

Livelihood: At least 80% of refugees live below the international poverty line of US\$1.9 per day. According to the 2018 joint inter-agency MSNA, 26% of refugee households reported relying on humanitarian aid as a coping strategy to support family members. 51% of refugee and 14% of host community households are in need of livelihood support, with the highest percentage among refugee households in West Nile (55%). For non-farm livelihoods limited business support services, micro-credit and vocational skills training opportunities are key barriers to earning an income outside of agriculture.

Shelter & NFI: About 217,000 new refugee arrivals expected through to 2020 will need household NFIs and emergency shelter support, as well as accommodation on shelter and agriculture plots in settlements. The modality for NFI deliveries may transition from in-kind kits to cash-based support, depending on the market economies and other context-specific parameters. In some refugee settlements in the West Nile, there is a need to focus on the continued relocation of refugees from flood-prone areas to higher ground.

Protection: Limited capacities of border authorities, as well as shortfalls in coordination creates delays and backlogs in registration and issuance of documentation. 103,000 refugees have been identified as persons with specific needs as of June 2018, many more will require targeted protection services and support by the end of 2020. Among them are unaccompanied and separated children, women, and older persons at risk, persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions, and persons suffering from trauma. Psychosocial interventions for trauma survivors require significant investments, especially for refugees who were directly or indirectly exposed to extreme violence, lost family members or witnessed the destruction of their homes. The 2018 joint inter-agency MSNA highlights teenage pregnancy, defilement, child neglect, corporal punishment, mistreatment and neglect of fostered children as common amongst all population groups. With a weak community child protection system, children are struggling to cope and to adapt to the new circumstances in the country of asylum.

Education: More than 60% of refugees are under the age of 18 and out of this population 53% of the primary schooled aged children and 92% of the secondary aged children are out of school. 22% of children are enrolled in grades lower than expected for their age. Early marriage and pregnancy lead to girls dropping out of school, unlikely to ever to return. Financial constraints are among the main hindrances to educational enrolment and retention in schools, with parents compelled to cover the costs of school materials, school uniforms and examination fees. Low enrolment and attendance, and high dropout rates among children and youth can also be attributed to language barriers.

WASH: Nearly one third of refugee settlement households lack single family latrines. Water deprivation affects 62% of those living in host communities and 69% of refugees living in Uganda for more than five years.

Health: The 2018 joint inter-agency MSNA revealed that 51% of refugee and 17% of host community households were categorized as people in need in the health sector. Both refugee (55%) and host community households (44%) reported lack of drugs at health facilities as the biggest challenge in accessing health services. There is need to expand family planning, adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH), cervical cancer screening and comprehensive HIV/AIDS services.