



**UNFPA**

**UGANDA**



**FROM HUMANITARIAN  
RESPONSE TO RESILIENCE**

## Background

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Uganda is one of the top ten countries in the world that hosts the largest number of refugees. As of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017, the number of refugees arriving in the country had reached 1,381,207 more than at any time in the country's history. Eighty six percent of the refugees are women and children below 18 years . UNFPA plays a leading role in ensuring access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services; preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV); and empowering women, adolescent girls and young people in refugee hosting districts.



## Why life-saving SRH services are critical

Humanitarian crises heighten women and girls' vulnerability to gender-based violence, unwanted pregnancy, HIV infection, maternal death and disability especially as a result of delivering without the help of a doctor or midwife, early and forced marriage, rape, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. Humanitarian response must therefore never neglect the special needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls.

Since 2013 UNFPA has been working closely with the Government of Uganda, sister United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other partners to ensure that sexual and reproductive health is integrated into emergency programming.

### Our mission in the humanitarian response:

- To ensure that women of reproductive age affected by the conflict and other emergencies have access to quality reproductive and sexual health services, including essential and emergency obstetric and neonatal care as well as HIV prevention information and services.
- To ensure that systems are established to protect women and girls affected by the conflict and to provide care for gender based violence survivors.
- To ensure that young people access age appropriate sexual and reproductive health and information to empower them make healthy life choices and achieve their full potential.

## Situation in numbers

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507 women and adolescent girls die every day from pregnancy and child birth related causes in conflict/disaster affected countries around the world

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**1,381,207**  
refugees in Uganda (1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017)

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82% of Uganda's refugee population are women and children under 18 years

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61% of population are under 18 years.

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In every emergency situation, 1 in 5 women are likely to be pregnant.

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## Maternal health

Pregnancy and child birth are a leading cause of death and illness among women of childbearing age. When a crisis strikes, skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care often become unavailable, exacerbating the vulnerability of pregnant women .

Basic needs for family planning and reproductive health care and safe childbirth are also rarely met.

To ensure that every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe, UNFPA:

- Supports health facilities in humanitarian settings to provide high quality Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence services including family planning, antenatal, delivery and postpartum care, Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV prevention and clinical management of rape that are responsive to the needs of refugees and host communities.
- Supports community pregnancy mapping and referral to care to ensure increased attendance of ANC and skilled care.
- Supports the recruitment of midwives to boost the Human Resource for Health in health facilities serving refugees and host communities.
- Procures and distributes dignity kits to new mothers to increase facility based and clean deliveries. These kits contain menstrual pads, soap, underwear, slippers, a baby shawl and other supplies required based on particular circumstances or cultural context.
- Provision of medical tents to support maternal health services like ante natal and post-natal care.
- Strengthening of the referral/ambulance system to increase access to Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care at referral health facilities in a timely manner.
- Distributes dignity kits to meet the specific hygiene needs and maintain health and dignity of women and girls. These kits contain menstrual pads, soap, underwear, as well as other supplies required based on particular circumstances or cultural contexts.



## Young people

Young girls and boys are particularly vulnerable as conflict breaks down protective social and cultural norms. UNFPA ensures that the potential of every young person is fulfilled by:

- Establishing and equipping of youth spaces in settlements to ensure that young people have access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health information and services.
- Identifying and skilling peer educators and community volunteers to carry out community outreaches and mobilization for Sexual and Reproductive Health services.
- Engaging young people in games and drama activities as a way of occupying them productively while disseminating information and services on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.
- Supporting the development of innovative solutions in skills building, business training, mentorship, health services and information, incubation, financing and resourcing to respond to development challenges among most vulnerable refugee youth (both in and out of school) at different levels.



## Prevention and Response to GBV

Women and girls in conflict areas find themselves more at risk of Gender-Based Violence triggered by loss or displacement of the family heads and the economic challenges in the settlements. To prevent and manage the consequences of sexual and gender violence, using the SASA! Methodology:

- UNFPA has established safe spaces to provide adolescent girls and women in humanitarian settings with livelihood skills, psychosocial counselling for Gender Based Violence, access to SRH information and referral to services. Establishment of such spaces is increasingly recognized as a good practice for emergency response and recovery, and a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls .
- Supports the identification of survivors and their access to psycho social and medical services including referral to legal care in all settlements.
- Uses Minimal initial Service Package guidelines to supports the training of health workers in clinical management of rape.
- Provides post-rape kits to health centres serving refugees and host communities.



## Coordination

To ensure a coherent response to emergencies, UNFPA seeks to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response by ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnerships:

- UNFPA is co-leading with UNHCR the Gender Based Violence (GBV) working group under refugees response.
- Health sector: UNFPA is lead agency in Sexual Reproductive health sub sector.
- Protection sector: UNFPA participates in meetings as co-lead of GBV Working Group.
- UNFPA participates in the inter-agency meetings organised by UNHCR and Office of the Prime Minister.
- UNFPA also participates in the different coordination meetings at district and national levels.

## Where we work:

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- Adjumani;
  - Arua;
  - Lamwo;
  - Moyo;
  - and Kiryadongo districts
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## Our implementing partners and districts:

- Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
- Ministry of Health
- International Rescue Committee
- Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACODE)
- CARE International
- Refugee District Local Governments (Adjumani, Arua, Moyo, Lamwo and Yumbe)

## Support to our humanitarian response provided by:

- UN Central Emergency Fund
- UNFPA Core Resources
- UNFPA Non-Core Resources
- UNFPA Emergency Response Funds
- Drought Response Emergency Funding
- US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
- Norway Government
- Japan Government

### Funding sources ( 2013-2017)

Donors	Amount (USD)
UN Central Emergency Fund	3,826,295
UNFPA Core Resources	2,211,752
US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration	2,075,000
UNFPA Emergency Response Funds	585,389
Norway Government	435,000
Japan Government	100,000

### Resources invested in humanitarian response since 2013

UNFPA Core Resources	2,211,752
UNFPA Non Core Resources	7,021,684
Drought Response Emergency Funding	282,989
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>9,516,425</b>



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