



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF)



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

A MORE COORDINATED, ACCOUNTABLE AND SUSTAINABLE
REFUGEE RESPONSE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
OF REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES



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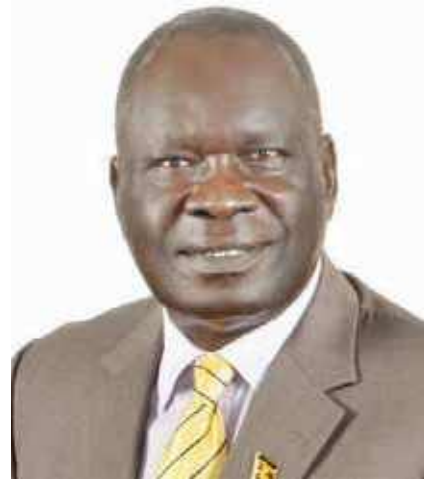
FOREWORD

Colleagues and Partners,
It is with great pleasure and profound gratitude that I extend my warmest greetings to all who have contributed to the success of the Refugee Response in 2023, and more so, the Global Refugee Forum and the collective efforts to address the plight of refugees worldwide.

As we reflect on the outcomes of the 2023 Forum, convened with Uganda's participation as a co-convenor country, we are reminded of the critical importance of international cooperation and solidarity in tackling the challenges faced by refugees globally. The Forum provided a unique platform for stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and forge innovative solutions aimed at improving the lives of refugees and host communities.

Uganda, a country with a long-standing commitment to refugee protection and inclusion, was honored to play a role in shaping the discussions and outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum. Through our own experiences, we have learned that refugees are not merely recipients of aid but are valuable contributors to our societies, bringing resilience, skills, and diversity that enrich our communities.

This 2023 Annual Report serves as a testament to our collective achievements and highlights the progress made in advancing the objectives set forth in this year. It is a reminder of the challenges that remain and the work that lies ahead. But it is also a testament to the power of collaboration and the potential for positive



change when we unite behind a common purpose.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who worked tirelessly alongside OPM/CRRF towards the success of the Global Refugee Forum, including governments, international organizations, civil society, host communities, and, most importantly, refugees themselves. Your dedication and commitment inspires us to continue our efforts to build a more inclusive and compassionate world for all.

Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to the principles of solidarity, compassion, and respect for the rights and dignity of all refugees. Let us make good the commitments we made at the Global Refugee Forum. In doing so, we honor our shared humanity and lay the foundation for a brighter future for generations to come.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Hon. Eng. Hilary Onok

Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees

“

Refugees are not merely recipients of aid but are valuable contributors to our societies, bringing resilience, skills, and diversity that enrich our communities.

”

UGANDA CO-CONVENORS THE 2023 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM IN GENEVA

Together with Columbia, France, Japan, and Jordan, Uganda co convened the 2023 Global Refugee Forum in Geneva.



UGANDA PREPARES FOR THE GRF CONFERENCE



The RT Hon Prime Minister with Government of Uganda officials, Ministers, Ambassadors, Development and Humanitarian partners at the Pre GRF Conference – November, 2023.

Message from the CRRF Director

Dear Partners and Colleagues,
As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the collective effort of all partners that have propelled the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to new heights. The 2023 Global Refugee Forum has once again demonstrated the power of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment to a more sustainable refugee response.

As partners, you have been instrumental in these achievements. Your dedication and support have not only provided vital resources but have also inspired transformative change in the lives of countless refugees. It was through your collaboration, commitment and support that Uganda was able to participate at the 2023 GRF as a co-convener country.

The accomplishments in 2023 are a testament to the extraordinary work of the CRRF team and the unwavering support of our partners. Each success story is a reflection of your commitment, expertise, and compassion.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to support refugees and strengthen our collaborative efforts. The challenges are immense, but with partners like you, we are confident that we can continue to make a meaningful impact.

Thank you for your incredible work, your partnership, and your belief in our shared mission. Together, we are making a difference, one life at a time.

Helen Bugaari
DIRECTOR CRRF



“
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”

1.0 Background

1.1 THE GCR AND THE CRRF IN UGANDA

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was endorsed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2018. It is a commitment by the international community to support refugees and host communities and has the following objectives: To ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third country solutions and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) is a multi-stakeholder coordination model focusing on humanitarian and development needs of both refugee populations and host communities. As part of the GCR, the CRRF provides guidelines

to implement the GCR objectives through a broad range of stakeholders.

Under the CRRF, all stakeholders of the response, including Humanitarian and Development actors work together in a more cohesive, predictable and effective approach to better support refugees and communities hosting them.

As a member of the United Nations General Assembly, Uganda contributed to the development of the GCR and CRRF in 2016 – 2018 and was among the first countries to pilot the implementation of the CRRF in 2017 with a view of harnessing a whole - of - society approach in responding and finding solutions to the refugee crisis.

1.2 MULTISTAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

In line with the whole of society approach outlined in the 2016 New York Declaration and because the task of hosting refugees is far reaching that no single country, community, organisation or department can achieve without the support of others, the rollout of the CRRF in Uganda is Government led, spearheaded by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), facilitated by UNHCR and guided by the participation of a wide range of stakeholders including Government (MDAs and Local Governments engaged in the refugee response), International and National Non-Government Organisations, representatives of UN Agencies, Development and Humanitarian donors, Refugee representatives, the Private Sector, International Financial Institutions, Academia and Faith leaders.

To achieve a more coordinated, accountable, and sustainable Refugee response, a Steering

Group was set up as a high level decision making body that supports application of the CRRF in Uganda. Its Terms of Reference were adopted at the first Steering Group meeting that sat on the 12th October, 2017.

Co-chaired by the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness, and Refugees and the Minister of Local Government, the Steering Group currently consists of 40 members. These include representatives from Government (MDAs and Local Governments engaged in the refugee response), International and National Non-Government Organisations, UN agencies, Development and Humanitarian donors, International Financial Institutions, Refugee representatives and the Private Sector with their representation decided through nominations from within existing structures. Attendance of the members is at the Heads of Agency level. The SG meets on

a quarterly basis to guide the coordination and implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

At the 1st meeting held on the 12th October, 2017, the SG made a decision to establish the CRRF Secretariat under the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, chaired by the Director; to give technical support to

the CRRF steering Group and support CRRF roll-out in Uganda through coordinated planning and resourcing, CRRF stakeholder engagement, and knowledge management.

Terms of Reference of the CRRF Secretariat were adopted. The CRRF Secretariat was then set up as a technical arm of the CRRF Steering Group under the Office of the Prime Minister.



2.0 2023, THE GRF YEAR

Launched by UNHCR in December 2019, the Global Refugee Forum is the world's largest international gathering on refugees which takes place every 4 years.

The GRF is a central arrangement of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), an instrument to achieve the objectives of the GCR. It is an opportunity to take stock of progress in implementing the GCR, mobilize support for refugees and host communities, and to exchange good practices and lessons learned in applying the new approach. At the Global Refugee Forum, Member States and other stakeholders announce pledges and commitments in the spirit of International responsibility and burden sharing and to make the objectives of the Compact a reality.

On 13-15 December 2023 in Geneva Switzerland, the 2nd GRF took place with Uganda as one of the co-convenor countries alongside Columbia, France, Japan, Jordan and Niger.

The co-convenorship was a recognition of our commitment to provide a safe haven for those fleeing from conflict and persecution. It was also a recognition of Uganda's championing role in implementing the CRRF.

Uganda's co-convenorship was guided by the following theme: "Uganda, the world's model for the refugee response: Let's make it sustainable". This highlighted the country's

successes and commitments in providing opportunities for refugees but also drew attention to the need for additional resources and support to sustain Uganda's model. In preparation for the co-convenorship, a set of thematic areas to prioritize engagement and support were identified. These included; Increasing resilience and self-reliance: Empowering refugees to secure their own livelihoods. Addressing environment, climate change and energy challenges.

Transition Management:

Pathways to Sustainable Responsibility Sharing. Localizing the Refugee Response: Strengthening the role and impact of local and national responders. Securing durable solutions for refugees.

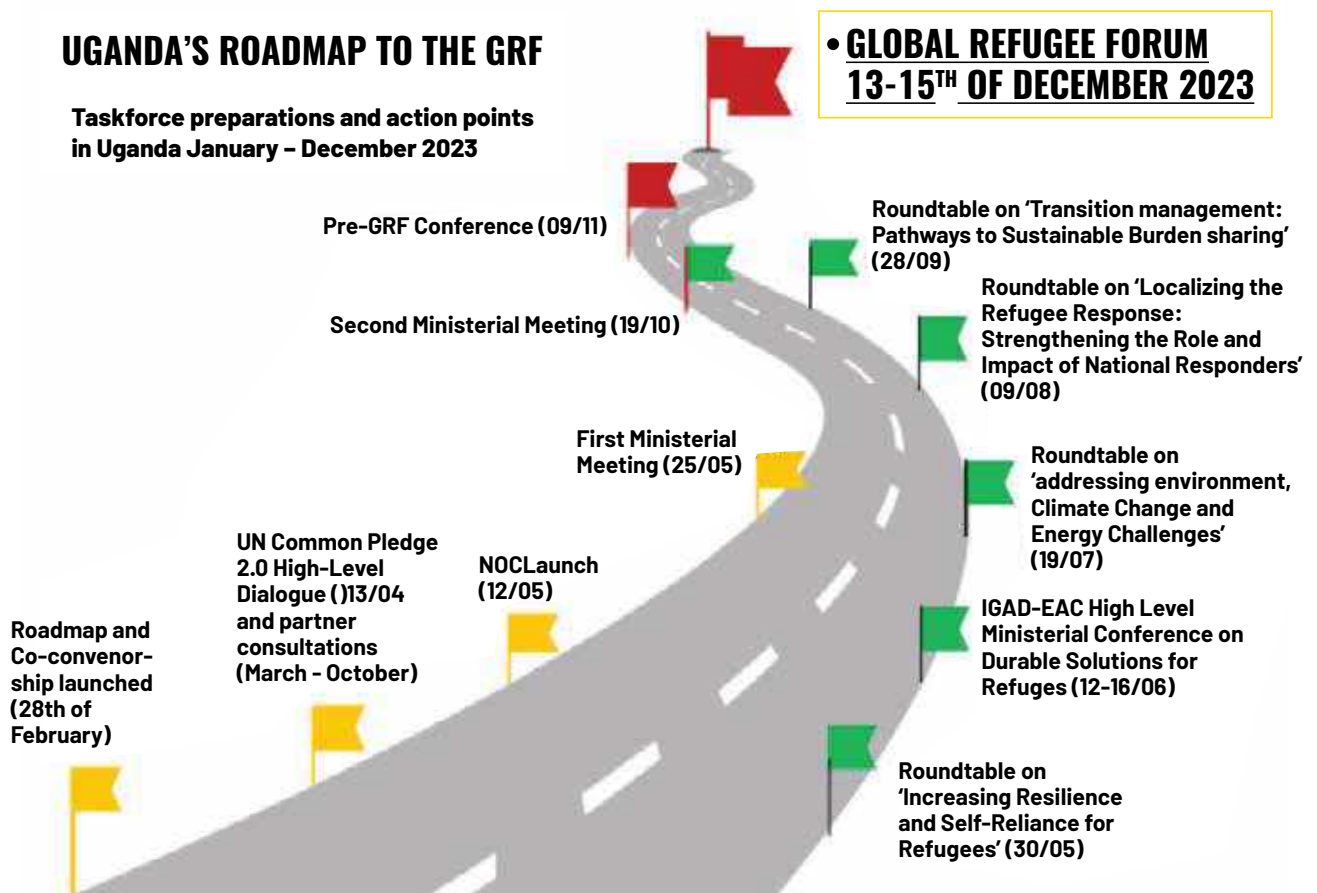
Uganda's preparatory process for the GRF was highly consultative, involving Round Table engagements with the participation of multiple stakeholders under the 5 thematic areas. The engagements involved participation of government MDAS, Development Partners, Humanitarian Partners, Donors, International Financial Institutions, Host communities, Refugees, Civil Society, as well as the Private Sector. It was from the Round table engagements that Uganda's commitments were derived. With overwhelming support from all the partners, Uganda successfully Co-convened the 2nd Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

“

It was also a recognition of Uganda's championing role in implementing the CRRF.

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Below is a description of Uganda's roadmap to the 2023 GRF.



The Preparatory Process was consultative and highly participatory.





3.0 CRRF STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

THE IGAD - EAC REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES



To effectively address the highly dynamic refugee context unfolding in the region, there was need for a comprehensive understanding of regional realities that drive the refugee situation and initiatives being carried out at regional level.

Officiated by the RT Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Ugandan Minister for East African Affairs, the IGAD – EAC high level Ministerial Conference on durable solutions for Refugees was held from 13th to 16th June, 2023. The conference was convened by the Government of Uganda in its capacity as co convener of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum with support of IGAD and EAC secretariats.

It was well attended by Ministers from the EAC Partner states and IGAD member states.

At the end of the conference, good practices, lessons learned and recommendations for durable solutions were documented and Ministers present signed the Munyonyo Declaration on durable solutions which focused on;

- Addressing the root causes and drivers of forced Displacement
- Fostering the HDP Nexus to bridge transition gaps
- Nurture the government led CRRF whole of society approach in refugee management
- Mobilize financial and technical resources for sustainable reintegration of Returnees
- Advocate for increased access to resettlement and alternative pathways for refugees
- Mobilize Adequate and predictable funding for Humanitarian and Development needs.

3.1 MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON REFUGEES WITH THE HON. MINISTER FOR RDPR, UNHCR COUNTRY REP AND THE CRRF DIRECTOR AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON CRRF



Hosted by the Hon Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, the consultative meeting with members of Parliament provided an excellent platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and Learning on the GCR and its CRRF in Uganda as well as the upcoming GRF and Uganda's commitments. During this engagement, participants discussed challenges of hosting large numbers of refugees and possible durable solutions to the refugee crisis.

The meeting was graced by the UNHCR Uganda Country Representative, Technical Officers from Ministries, Departments and

Agencies involved in the refugee response, key refugee actors including Humanitarian Agencies and Development Partners.

By the end of the 2 days' engagement, there were firm commitments from all participants to further cooperation and collaboration. The meeting concluded on a positive note with a shared vision of making Uganda's refugee response sustainable. Members of Parliament proposed to have a regional Parliamentary Forum on Refugees where they will continue to have more engagements such as this at regional level.

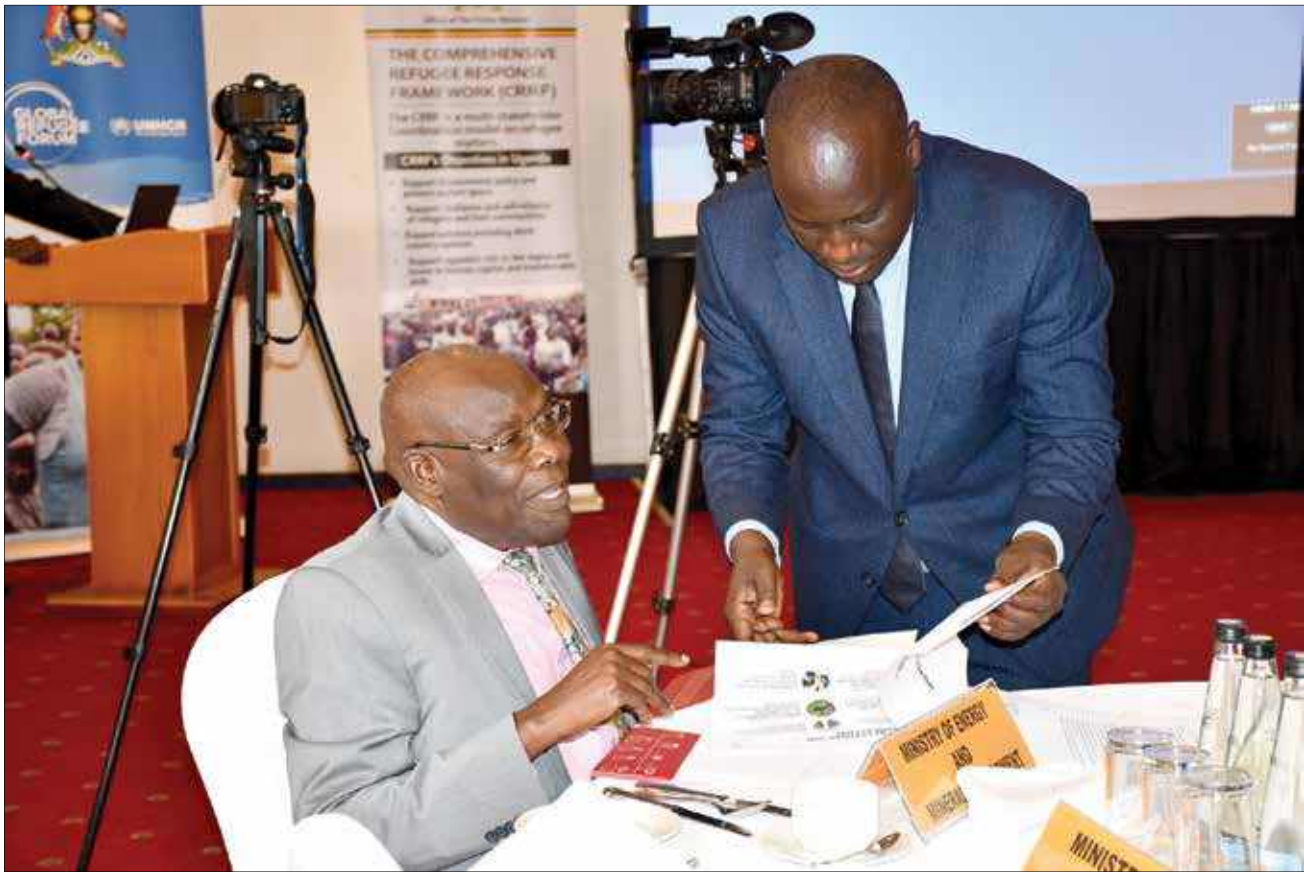
Members of the Parliamentary Forum on Refugees deliberating during the consultative meeting on CRRF



Left to right; The Hon MRDPR, the Chairperson, Parliamentary Forum on Refugees, The UNHCR Uganda Country Representative and the CRRF Director at the Consultative meeting with Members of Parliament

UGANDA'S 2023 GRF PLEDGES WERE ENDORSED BY THE RESPECTIVE LINE MINISTRIES





4.0 THE NOVEMBER HIGH LEVEL PRE GRF CONFERENCE (PREPARING FOR THE DECEMBER 2023 GRF)

In the wake of the 2023 GRF, Government of Uganda, in partnership with national and international stakeholders, organized a Pre-Global Refugee Forum Conference where the RT Hon Robinah Nabanjja announced Uganda's pledges across the 5 thematic areas of "Increasing Resilience and self-reliance for refugees" "Addressing environment, climate change and energy challenges", "transition

management: Pathways to sustainable burden sharing", "Building up and strengthening durable solutions", and "Localizing the refugee response: strengthening the role and impact of local and national responders".

The conference took place on the 9th of November 2023 at Speke Resort, Munyonyo.

Uganda prepares for the GRF Conference Uganda



The RT Hon Prime Minister with Government of Uganda officials, Ministers, Ambassadors, Development and Humanitarian partners at the Pre GRF Conference – November, 2023.

At this conference, Government of Uganda and its partners demonstrated collective commitment in creating sustainable solutions for refugees and host communities and it

provided a platform for humanitarian and development partners to announce their matching commitments towards the refugee response in Uganda.



5.0 UGANDA AT THE 2023 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM IN GENEVA

Together with Columbia, France, Japan, and Jordan, Uganda co convened the 2023 Global Refugee Forum in Geneva.



The RT Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja led the Ugandan delegation of 33 members including Ministers and technical people from line ministries to the December 2023 GRF in Geneva.

At the Global Refugee Forum, The RT Hon Prime Minister made a key note address during the opening plenary session and announced Government of Uganda pledges to the International community;

Government of Uganda Pledges at the 2023 GRF;

Securing Durable Solutions for Refugees.

- The Government of Uganda pledges to support peace-building processes and negotiations that will lead to voluntary repatriation of refugees back home

- The Government of Uganda pledges to provide opportunities to all refugees to access electronic Conventional Travel Documents and birth certificates by 2027 to foster socio-economic rights and the rights of the child

Increasing Resilience and Self-reliance for Refugees and Host Communities

Uganda pledges to create up to 300,000 viable economic opportunities for refugees and host communities by 2027 by including refugees in agricultural value chains, increasing agricultural production and productivity, enabling private sector investments, promoting graduation and market systems development approaches, increasing access to formal and non-formal vocational skills training, promoting the development of market relevant skills and employment creation.

Addressing Environment, Climate Change and Energy Challenges

The Government of Uganda commits to include refugees and their specific situations in its nationally-determined contributions and adaptation plans in order to effectively reduce the carbon emissions from deforestation and to enhance access to safe, clean, and affordable energy in refugee hosting districts by 2027.

Localizing the Refugee Response

The Government of Uganda pledges to include localisation provisions in strategies and frameworks for the refugee response to strengthen the role of national and local responders and gradually achieve the Grand Bargain commitments by 2027

Transition Management; Pathways to Sustainable Burden Sharing

- The Government pledges to continue managing and integrating the infrastructure and services specifically in health, education and water aligned with the government requirements in a phased approach.
- The Government commits to put in place a transition Strategy and guidelines to facilitate coordinated transition planning and management.

As a Co-convenor, Uganda was highly visible at the GRF and drew increased attention through various bilateral engagements and side events in which Uganda took part.



These included;

Education for refugees and displaced persons side event where the Minister of State for primary education;

- Shared Uganda's inclusive approach
- Called for development funding into the education sector to support implementation of this approach.

Peace Building and conflict Prevention;

- Chaired by the MRDP&R
- Discussed the importance of peace building and conflict resolution to enable voluntary return of refugees

Agriculture and Food Security at which the State Minister for Agriculture called for;

- Urgent support from donors to ensure self-reliance of refugees

Climate Action and Finance where the Minister of State for water and Environment;

- Called for enhanced investment in environment to mitigate deforestation
- Called upon donors to invest in clean energy sources for refugees and host communities.

At the District Coordination side event, the Minister of state for local government;

Supported by UNHCR, Uganda organized her side event on District Coordination where we presented the innovation of meaningful involvement of Refugees and host communities currently under the District Engagement Forum (DEF) and Refugee Engagement Forum (REF).

At the District Coordination side event, the Minister of state for local government;

- Advocated for enhanced investment into local actors who are the 1st responders
- Urged donors to support host communities who share their resources with the displaced persons

The IGAD Support Platform side event:

- Moderated by the MRDP&R
- Focused on advocating for regional joint efforts to find durable solutions for refugees.

Through the side events, Uganda's refugee response experiences were highlighted and additional funding by donors to Uganda advocated for.



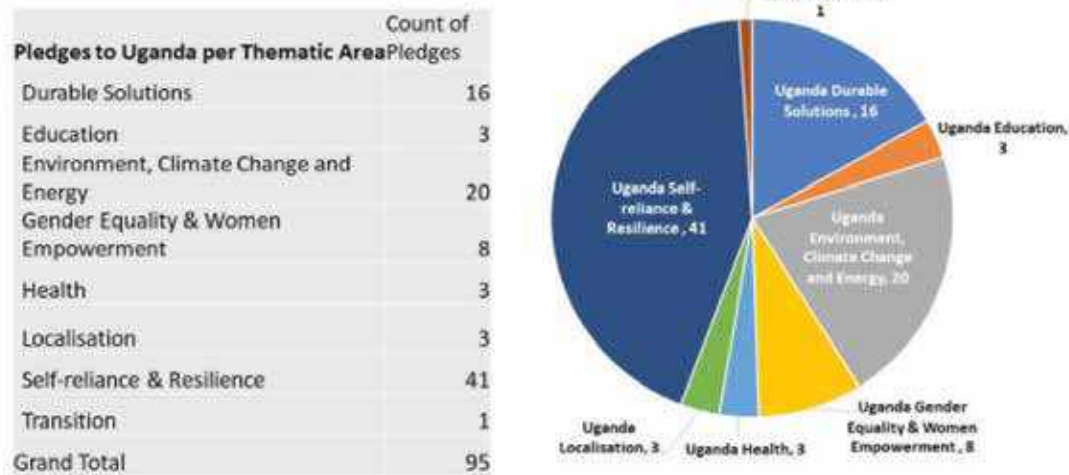
The State Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees representing Uganda at the IGAD Support Platform side event 2023 Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland



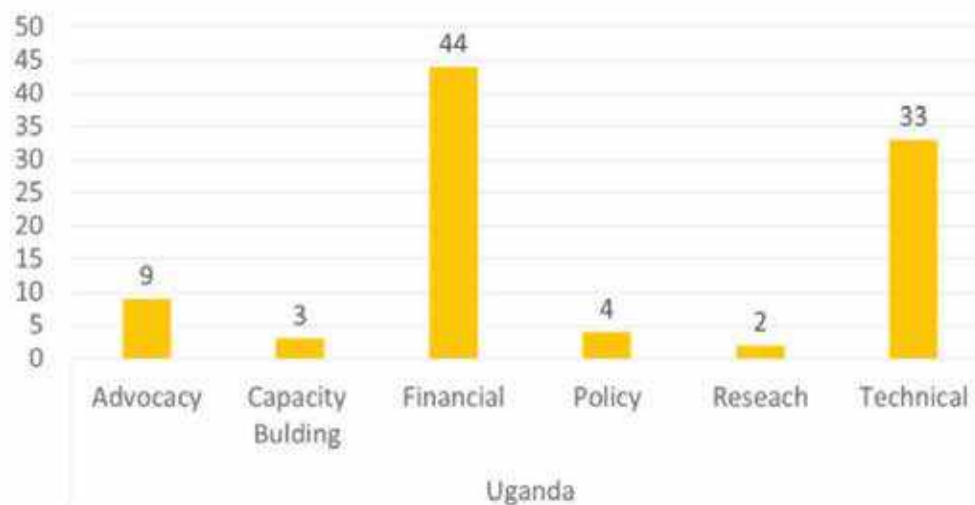
The MRDPR, the MSRDPR, MSLG, State Minister for Primary Education with the Ugandan delegation at the GRF in Geneva.

5.1 The Global Refugee Forum; Outcomes for Uganda

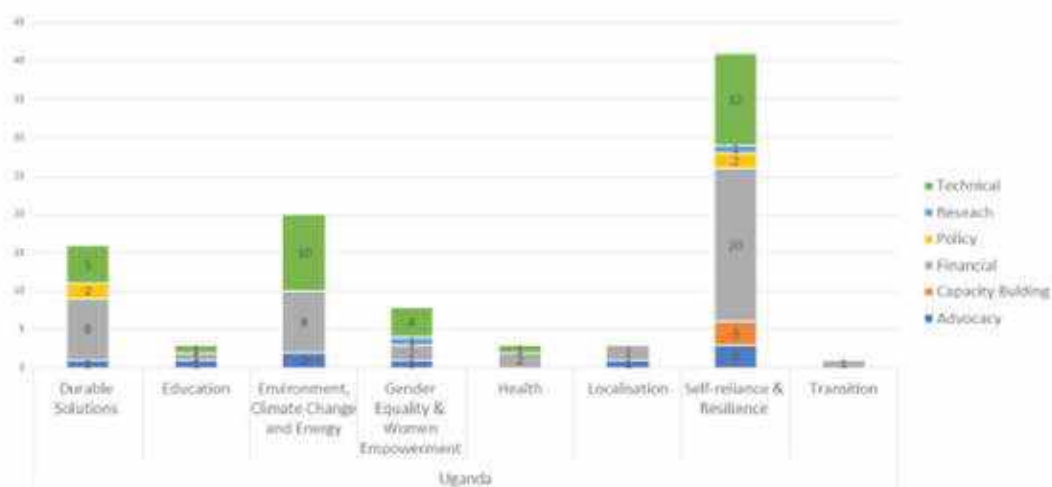
Pledge Outcomes by Thematic Area



Pledge Outcomes by Category



Pledge type received per Thematic Area



6.0 CRRF NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 CRRF STEERING GROUP MEETINGS

Given the busy GRF year, the CRRF Steering Group sat two times in 2023 and major decisions and recommendations were made to shape the GCR/CRRF implementation in Uganda.

The 19th Steering group meeting hosted the Burundian delegation that visited Uganda and attended the SG to benchmark on the processes for Uganda.



6.2 NNGOS/INGOS ENGAGEMENTS

National and International NGOs continued to provide critical humanitarian, development and peace-focussed programmes throughout 2023 in the face of mounting humanitarian challenges. NGOs intervened to assist newly arrived refugees from DRC and South Sudan across all core sectors. The restricted humanitarian funding environment continued to present substantial challenges, with NGOs often having to revert to internal funding to maintain critical services.

Advocacy has been a critical component of NGO's response to humanitarian and development challenges, including working to raise the profile of the Uganda crisis and advocate for the international community to

maintain and expand its commitment to the CRRF and the global best-practice established by the Uganda model. NGOs have also been leading advocacy for improving the coordination infrastructure and implementing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through implementing a transition strategy from humanitarian to development funded programmes and infrastructure.

6.3 DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' GROUP MEETINGS

The CRRF Development Partners Group (DPG) supports the implementation of Uganda's CRRF Vision of 'a coordinated, accountable and sustainable refugee response for socio-economic transformation of refugees and host communities by 2025'.



Throughout 2023, CRRF DPG supported coordination among partners active in the refugee response in order to strengthen the humanitarian - development nexus, shared best practices and analyses and discussed policy issues with regard to refugees and host communities. Through regular meetings, the CRRF DPG ensured coordinated engagement of development partners at the CRRF Steering Group and at the Pre GRF conference.

6.4 REFUGEE ENGAGEMENT FORUM (REF)

The REF is a well-established national arrangement of the CRRF in Uganda, bringing together refugee leaders from all settlements across the country. The REF continues to be a model for refugee inclusion in decision-making worldwide. In the course of 2023, the REF met three times, and discussed a diverse set of issues, ranging from climate change to self-reliance and transition of education and health services.

The sessions organized by and with partners to the REF underlined the crucial role refugee leaders play in communicating far-reaching strategies and plans to refugees affected by these processes. The presentation and discussion of the graduation model and the implications these proposals have on refugee population facilitated by OPM and WFP as well

as the discussions initiated by the Northern Umbrella for Water and Sanitation (NUWS) on the willingness and ability of refugees to pay for water in the course of transition of water supply systems are examples in point. Government and partners are invited to engage with the REF and use the forum as a unique opportunity to discuss ideas with the leaders of all refugees in Uganda. Through these engagements, Refugees made pledges towards the 2023 GRF. The refugees pledged to; Support actions and interventions towards environmental protection and restoration for refugees and host communities by planting 7.5 million trees around households and woodlots by 2027.

Continue advocacy to all refugee parents to enrol children of school going age to early childhood development, primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions and actively participate in education and embracing cost – sharing and monitoring children's performance at school.

Use their skills, knowledge, and available assets to engage in on – farm and off- farm income- generating activities to improve on household income.

Refugee leaders pledge to encourage community members to champion positive mind set change and actively participate

in capacity building, skilling and entrepreneurial training programs for both youth and adults.

The REF is co-chaired by OPM (Department of Refugees) and UNHCR. Throughout 2023, activities of the REF have been financed by partners including UNHCR, U-LEARN, Oxfam, and GIZ.

At the SG, the REF was represented by Peter Gift and Neema Bazungu.



6.5 DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT FORUM (DEF)

The DEF brings together technical and political leadership (Chief Administrative Officers and District Chairpersons) of all refugee hosting districts to;

- Enhance representation of the Refugee Hosting Districts in the SG decision making platform through regular elections and rotational representation
- Ensure the linkage between the CRRF National Arrangements and the district local governments including feedback mechanisms.
- Provide space for peer-to-peer support and benchmarking and learning among the refugee hosting districts.

- Provide recommendations and undertake advocacy on strategic and operational matters in the refugee response.

In the two meetings held in 2023, the DEF focused on the areas of transition management, the DEF's role in advocacy and strengthening the feedback mechanisms from host communities to the Steering Group and vice versa as well as making DEF an effective body for joint planning and coordination.

The District Engagement Forum is supported by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



The District Engagement Forum is supported by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

6.6 INTER-SECTOR DIALOGUE

The CRRF Secretariat organizes Inter-Sector dialogue meetings for MDAs coordinating the implementation of Sector Response Plans. In the year 2023, two meetings were held on 17th – 18th April, 2023 and 21st – 22nd November, 2023. Various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies participating in Uganda's refugee response came together and shared implementation experiences, lessons learnt, and developed joint positions ahead of the Steering Group meetings.

The Inter sector dialogue held in April focussed on preparations for the 2023 GRF. Discussions centred around organising multi stakeholder Round Table engagements to come up with policy recommendations that would later culminate into Uganda's 2023 GRF pledges. During the Inter - sector dialogue

held in November, implementation status of the various sector response plans was presented and discussed and MDAs shared their achievements, challenges and priorities for 2024, with regard to implementation of their plans.

As a result, there was improved inter - sector coordination leading to increased joint actions on implementing government led programs in the refugee response.

A joint overview of key highlights for each sector response plan was shared at the Steering Group Meeting held on 28th November 2023.

In 2024, the CRRF Secretariat will continue to facilitate knowledge transfer among the various sector response plan secretariats;



Representatives of MDAs during the 2nd Inter sector dialogue held from 21st – 22nd November, 2023

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTOR RESPONSE PLANS

7.1 EDUCATION RESPONSE PLAN

The ERP I was implemented between January 2018 and June 2021. It ended in June 2021 and a second ERP was developed to further the progress made among refugee populations and host communities. The ERP II is fully aligned with the Human Capital Development Program of the National Development Plan III. The purpose is to provide equitable and inclusive quality education for refugee and host community learners and to strengthen systems for improved service delivery. The plan was endorsed by the Top Management of the Ministry of Education and Sports on 17th February 2023.

The ERP II is a follow up to the ERP I and aims to ensure that 690,540 children, adolescents and youth from refugee populations and host communities have access to sustainable quality and inclusive learning opportunities. It also addresses gaps identified in the first phase of the plan.

Main Achievements of the Plan

- A number of policies were approved by Cabinet to improve access, equity, and quality of education e.g TVET Policy and Physical Education and Sports Policy
- The number of learners accessing UPE increased to 8.5 million
- Construction of infrastructure like Seed schools, technical schools
- In FY 2020/21, the Government grant aided 51 primary schools, bringing the number of government schools to 68 in the refugee-hosting districts

Challenges

- Inadequate funding: 42% unfunded at the end of ERP I
- Inadequate number of teachers
- No budget for construction and rehabilitation of primary schools
- Low retention in primary schools and limited transition to secondary and postsecondary Education
- Funding gap and inadequate multi-year funding



commitment leading to uncertainty in the implementation and sustainability of some interventions

Priorities for 2024

- Coding and grant aiding 38 community primary schools
- Recruitment and posting of teachers in primary and secondary schools
- Comprehensive assessment of Community schools in the settlement
- Cause a steering committee meeting to disseminate the physical verification and monitoring of ERP activities
- Review and revision of ERPII Plan
- Comprehensive assessment of Community schools earmarked for grant Aiding and also align with the coding framework

7.2 HEALTH SECTOR INTEGRATED REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

Ministry of Health developed the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP) and established the steering committee to oversee the implementation of the Plan. Ministry of Health participated in several coordination meetings nationally and on the sub-national and district level.



2023 Achievements

Through the Ministry of Health, UCREEP bought and distributed 440 Laptops to different health facilities in RHDs to enhance service provision at the different service care points including OPD, IPD, MCH, Laboratory etc.

Through UCREPP, Ministry of Health;

- Bought non-communicable disease drugs, Hydroxyurea for Sickle Cell Disease for RHDs
- Procured 220 Motorcycles to enhance service provision more especially in Surveillance, Mental health and psychosocial support and Gender Based violence and violence against children
- Bought 1 ambulance for each RHDs & they will reach districts next month

Main Challenges

- Language barrier between health workers and the refugees
- Gender based violence and violence against children information generated from the community by Para-social workers to CDOs does not get to the Health management information systems



- Silo planning more so the Health implementing partners

Priorities for 2024

HSIRRP II development workshops
Ground breaking of the pending infrastructure in the RHDs.

7.3 JOBS & LIVELIHOODS INTEGRATED RESPONSE PLAN

The Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan was adopted by the CRRF Steering Group in April 2021. First launched on 4 October 2022 in Yumbe for the district of Yumbe, Terego, Madi-Okollo, and Koboko and on 6 October 2022 in Gulu for the districts of Obongi, Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Lamwo. The two events were presided over by the Hon. Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations, Col. Rtd. Charles Angola Mac-Odwogo Okello. In the South West, the JLRIP was launched in Mbarara presided over by Hon Sarah Mateke, the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs. Launching the JLRIP was to spread awareness about the response plan in refugee hosting districts and on board district political and technical leadership, local and international NGOs, as well as the private sector on how the JLRIP will guide their interventions to promote resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities.

Main Achievements

- JLRIP Mapping: 92 projects from 55 partners
- Launched and disseminated JLRIP in Western Uganda (Aug 2023)
- Formed and operationalised the JLRIP Secretariat and conducted JLRIP steering committee meetings on quarterly basis.

Main Challenges

- Funding gap for implementation of the JLRIP in all the 13 RHD
- Low private sector attraction to livelihoods interventions in RHDs
- Limited alignment of partner interventions into JLRIP

Priorities for 2024

- Secure funding for the implementation of the JLRIP and spearhead co-creation of new livelihood projects with partners and ensure alignment.
- Strengthen the integration of the JLRIP into District Development Plans and



Budgets and dissemination to all refugee settlements

- Development of Self-reliance measurement framework and minimum livelihood investment package for self-reliance promotion

7.4 WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR RESPONSE PLAN

Designed to provide comprehensive planning for both refugees and host communities within the context of Water and Environment Sector



Main Achievements

- Increased coordination of partners in the sector refugee response
- Improved field monitoring and evaluation of sector interventions in refugee hosting districts in Uganda
- Enhanced supply of safe water supply to a national average of 17 litres per person per day



Main Challenges

- Funding gap to implement WESRRP
- Inadequate logistical and resources (financial and human) to coordinate the implementation of WESRRP
- Increased demand for water and environment resources due to increased refugee population e.g., faecal, and solid waste infrastructure constraints in all refugee settlements

Priorities for 2024

- To secure funding for the implementation of approved project design on faecal and solid waste management facilities in refugee hosting districts (Central and Mid-western Uganda)
- To organise the first quarterly monitoring meeting of the national WASH strategy to ensure effective implementation of WASH interventions in refugee hosting districts
- To disseminate the reviewed WESRRP and M&E Framework to all sector players

7.5 ENERGY SECTOR RESPONSE PLAN

After extensive multi-stakeholder consultations and a participatory development process, the Sustainable Energy Response Plan was adopted by the CRRF Steering Group in December 2021. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja launched the Sustainable

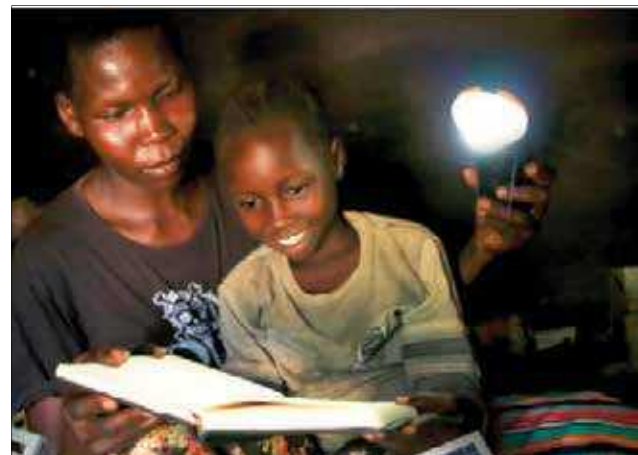
Energy Response Plan (SERP) for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda on 25 August 2022 in Kampala. The five-year plan is estimated to cost close to \$290 Million with two strategic objectives: Development of sustainable and practical energy solutions that lead directly to increased access to clean, affordable and reliable energy for refugee and host communities; and enhance capacity, mobilize resources and strengthen systems for effective coordination and management of energy programs targeting refugees and host communities. The Focal person from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) has been engaged in CRRF events throughout 2023.

Main Achievements

- Implementation has not yet started
- Main Challenges
- Delayed recruitment of refugee coordinator
- Delayed formation of the Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of SERP
- Delayed formation of the SERP Secretariat

Priorities for 2024

- Recruitment of Refugee Coordinator
- Formation of the SERP Steering Committee
- Putting in place SERP Secretariat



8.0 CRRF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS:

Celebrating the strength and courage of Forcibly Displaced Persons

On 20th June, 2023, the CRRF Secretariat joined the rest of the World to honor the strength, courage and resilience of forcibly displaced persons, build empathy and understanding and celebrate those that have committed to host the refugees in safety and dignity.

The CRRF Secretariat joined the celebrations to; reiterate Uganda's position on hosting refugees with a call to the international community for increased responsibility sharing and to inform stakeholders about the December 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

National celebrations for the World Refugee day in Uganda were held in Lamwo District where a number of refugees, mainly from South Sudan are hosted. The theme for the year was "Hope away from home."



The UNHCR representative in Uganda – Mathew Crentsil planting a tree during the world Refugee day in Lamwo



CRRF Secretariat Staff represented at the World Refugee Day Day celebrations

9.0 DISSEMINATION OF CRRF STEERING GROUP DECISIONS;

In 2022, the CRRF Steering Group recommended that the CRRF Secretariat prioritizes the dissemination of decisions and recommendations to the grass root stakeholders of the refugee response in the Refugee Hosting Districts as a feedback mechanism from the SG to the RHDs and vice versa.

To that effect, the CRRF Secretariat undertook the dissemination exercise in the 12 Refugee Hosting Districts of Adjumani, Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi okollo, Terego, Obongi, and Yumbe.

The dissemination activity took place from 10th to 20th December, 2023 and it involved onboarding and participation of various district officials both technical and political, staff of OPM, Sub County chiefs and Local Council Members of the host communities, Refugee Leaders and Partners, both development and operational.

The exercise aimed at;

- Introducing stakeholders to the New York declarations on the Global Compact of Refugees and the CRRF in Uganda. (GCR



objectives, CRRF Pillars and the Strategic Direction)

- Increasing stakeholder awareness of the CRRF implementation, activities and progress in Uganda. (CRRF national arrangements Including the inclusion of refugees into National and District Planning and District coordination among others)
- Disseminating the CRRF Steering Group decisions and recommendations for the period 2017 – 2023 and show casing the District Engagement Forum and its activities.



The dissemination team together with Kiryandongo District officials during the dissemination exercise of the CRRF SG decisions

- Discussing Uganda's priority areas for the response as presented at the 2023 GRF.

The dissemination exercise resulted into;

- Increased district stakeholder awareness of the GCR and CRRF application in Uganda.
- Increased awareness of the District Engagement Forum activities
- Increased awareness of the CRRF implementation mechanisms and the roles and obligations of District Local governments in the refugee response.
- Increased awareness of Government of Uganda Priorities for the refugee response.

9.1 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING THE DISSEMINATION EXERCISE;

- During the dissemination exercise, host districts visited agreed that refugee issues require concerted efforts.
- A major concern raised was the need to involve host districts at the initial stages of designing and implementation of sector response plans for easy integration of the plans into district plans.
- Participants emphasized the need for affirmative action for refugee host districts – requested for allocation of more resources to refugee hosting districts given the numerous challenges they face as result of hosting refugees.
- Host communities expressed the need for zoning off areas in the settlements to work as production areas where a mini industrial hub could be established to enhance self-reliance for refugees. They concurred that such arrangements would make the refugees more productive and curb instances of theft by refugees from host communities. This, they agreed would foster peaceful co existence. Districts like Kyegegwa had earmarked land for the same and they called upon government to support such arrangements
- District officials raised the need to have a census for all partners operating in districts, evaluate them and harmonize with Internal affairs and OPM to have Partners become more accountable to the districts where they are operating.
- Participants requested that the Aid Management Platform be cascaded to district level to enable districts analyze the financial support going to specific districts.
- District officials urged the government to lift the ban on recruiting teachers to allow an improvement of the teacher pupil ratio given the high turnover. This would improve the quality of education.
- Districts requested for harmonization of Refugee Data at national level for proper planning purposes in order for Refugee Hosting Districts to benefit from more allocation of national resources by government due to the additional number of refugees.
- Ministry of energy and Mineral Development should connect refugee settlements to national grid and involve RHDs in the institutional frameworks of the Energy Response Plan.
- Refugee leaders requested OPM to continue lobbying for complimentary pathways including university scholarships for refugees as one of the durable solutions.
- On the issue of livelihood services to the refugees, they requested that OPM should request partners to give 50/50% instead of 30% to nationals and 70% to refugees
- All the West Nile districts requested that the process of developing the transition strategy and guidelines be expedited to clarify issues and guide the process of transition.
- RHDs requested that OPM should push for the localization agenda and local partners should be empowered to take on implementation in the refugee response



The dissemination of the CRRF Steering Group Decisions was well attended by both Political and Technical representatives of refugee hosting districts.

10.0 CHALLENGES OF THE CRRF IMPLEMENTATION IN UGANDA

- Increasing numbers of new arrivals in 2023, with dwindling resources remains a major challenge to the CRRF implementation in Uganda. It exerts immense pressure on overstretched government and host community resources. Maintaining the level of service delivery with dwindling resources becomes a challenge
- Underfunding of Response Plans undermines the achievement of targets for the response plans
- Uganda's protracted refugee situation calls for continuous humanitarian support, undermining the humanitarian development transition principle.
- Failure to track resources invested in the refugee response creates room for duplication in some areas and underserving others.

10.1 OUTLOOK TO 2024

- Strengthen coordination of self-reliance and resilience interventions for Refugees and host communities
- Champion the rollout of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy in refugee hosting districts to strengthen private sector engagement
- Support the Energy Sector Response Plan with the setup of a secretariat
- Support review of the Water and Environment Response Plan
- Operationalize the IGAD/EAC Ministerial conference declarations
- Development and roll out of the localisation strategy
- Development and roll out of the transition framework
- Establishment and operationalization of the HDP Nexus platform
- Strengthening CRRF resource mobilisation and partner coordination
- Fast tracking and monitoring implementation of the 2023 GRF pledges.

11.0 CRRF SECRETARIAT STAFF

The CRRF is a government-led, multi-stakeholder approach to supporting refugees and host communities. These characteristics are mirrored in support to the CRRF Secretariat as a coordinating body. The CRRF Secretariat is part of the Office of the Prime Minister, supported by a broad range of partners;

- Office of the Prime Minister: Provides office space, Office rent, support structures, maintenance of cars etc.
- UNHCR provides core funding to the Secretariat in the framework of a Public Partnership Agreement (PPA). In addition to this, UNHCR seconded a Senior Protection Advisor to the Secretariat.
- On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

(BMZ), GIZ supports the CRRF Secretariat through the secondment of a Knowledge Management Advisor, funding for the District Engagement Forum, and key strategic processes such as development of the Transition and Localisation agenda.

- Building on previous strategic exchange, UN Women joined the group of partners seconding staff to the Secretariat and supports the Secretariat with a Gender Analyst.
- World Food Program supports the CRRF Secretariat by seconding a Livelihood Officer at the Secretariat.

The secretariat team is composed of 09 national staff contracted by Office of the Prime Minister and 04 international staff seconded from UN Agencies.



12.0 FUNDING MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 2023 ACTIVITIES AT THE SECRETARIAT

The CRRF Secretariat is dependent on financial support from various partners including Government, Donors, UN Agencies and INGOs for its day to day activities and operations.

The CRRF Secretariat core operational budget for 2023 was covered by UNHCR. While this budget covers organization of SG meetings, staff costs, vehicle maintenance, fuel,

stationary, office supplies and travel costs, it is not sufficient to cover other key activities relevant to the effective implementation of the CRRF in Uganda.

In 2023, additional support was provided by various partners including BMZ through GIZ, EU, JICA, U – LEARN, IGAD, UNHCR, UN WOMEN, and others. This support made 2023 a successful year.

