Background

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), outlined in the Annex I of the New York Declaration adopted at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, seeks to establish a global model for a comprehensive response to any large movement of refugees. In Uganda, with its refugee hosting approach recognised as a global best practice, due to its advanced policies and strategies to protect and promote the rights of refugees as enshrined by international law, a comprehensive response is already being pursued under the leadership of government. Uganda is applying many of the principles set out in Annex I of the New York Declaration. The practical application of the CRRF in Uganda will inform the Global Compact on Refugees, to be adopted in 2018, to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world’s refugees.

The global objectives of the CRRF are to: ease pressures on host countries; enhance refugee self-reliance; expand access to third-country solutions; and support conditions in countries of origin for voluntary return in safety and dignity.

Roll-out in Uganda

Uganda’s refugee laws are among the most progressive in the world. The 2006 Refugees Act and 2010 Refugees Regulations entitle refugees the right to work, freedom of movement, access to Ugandan social services, including to identity documents, and the provision of land for housing and subsistence agriculture.

Uganda has included refugees in its second National Development Plan through the Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA). The Government’s STA, supported by the UN and the World Bank through the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) strategy, provides a clear entry point for a range of actors to support both the objectives of refugee self-reliance through development interventions and serves as a basis to support host communities.

Under the New York Declaration, UNHCR has been mandated to develop and initiate the application of the CRRF in support of nationally-led efforts.

CRRF in Uganda

Objectives

- Support Government policy and protect asylum space
- Support resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities
- Expand solutions, including third country options

Five pillars

1. Admission and rights
2. Emergency response and ongoing needs
3. Resilience and self-reliance
4. Expand solutions
5. Voluntary repatriation

As the chair of the UN Development Group and given its broad practice areas to promote a resilience-based development approach, UNDP is positioned to ensure a development perspective is mainstreamed during contingency planning, the on-set of emergencies and the transition to sustainable development pathways.

UNDP is a long-standing partner to government and communities in their efforts to build long-term resilience. UNDP has committed its support to CRRF roll-out and the Global Compact, and has seconded a staff member to the UNHCR-led CRRF Task Team.

In Uganda, UNDP focuses on two key areas: Inclusive and Effective Governance, and Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development to support the Government achieve its Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals by leaving no one behind. As such, UNDP plays a critical role in the building of resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities (CRRF pillar 3) through the ReHoPE strategy.

As a member of the CRRF Secretariat, UNDP leverages its effort for UN coordination and to ensure the UN’s development operations are aligned to the government’s refugee response and the national priorities under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, who also serves as the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General and the chair of the UN Country Team.
UNDP's Contribution

UNDP’s contribution to the CRRF is primarily through its *Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy for Refugees and Host Communities*, an integrated approach fully aligned to the ReHoPE that brings together UNDP’s areas of expertise in crisis response, disaster risk management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable and inclusive development, rule of law, institutional effectiveness to strengthen local governance and empowering women. The aim is to provide emergency support, while investing in durable solutions and enhancing existing national and local capacity to ensure they can adequately serve both refugee and host communities and transition to a sustainable development path, thus protect and enhance the asylum space.

UNDP has been on the ground in Northern Uganda since 2006, where it coordinated crisis prevention, recovery and peace building activities in the context of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration following the LRA insurgency. UNDP has since played a leading role in the implementation of successive Peace, Recovery and Development Plans. Currently, UNDP has offices in three districts across Northern Uganda (Gulu, Moroto and Yumbe).

**Building on existing skills and resources**

Recognizing the opportunity to expand existing livelihood practices, UNDP collaborated with UNHCR to establish semi-commercial fish farming, a first for Oruchinga refugee settlement, by bringing together its comparative advantage in livelihoods and skills development, natural resource management and strengthening social cohesion. Working with mixed refugee and host community groups, training, equipment and mentoring was provided and existing mechanisms, such as village savings and loan associations, leveraged to establish a sustainable community-led and managed business.

For more information, visit: [www.ug.undp.org](http://www.ug.undp.org)

Humanitarian-Development Nexus: UNDP in Action

**Facilitating dialogue:** UNDP supports the Office of the Prime Minister convene political and administrative leaders of refugee hosting districts to discuss challenges faced in the respective districts; identify approaches to enhance inclusion; and improve understanding.

**Engaging the private sector:** recognising the need to enhance private sector investment in refugee hosting districts, UNDP developed investment profiles of all refugee hosting districts, supporting the business case for investment and development in hosting districts.

**Supporting refugee settlement sustainable planning:** UNDP develops high-resolution base map of refugee settlements using UAVs (drones) and remote sensing technology to support refugee hosting districts conduct risk assessments and to make evidence-based development decisions that accounting for climate variations and environmental management. These complement the UNDP-supported hazard, risk and vulnerability profiles developed for all districts, to build national capacity for climate and disaster risk management.

**Providing livelihoods:** UNDP supports livelihoods in refugee settlements and host communities to improve self-reliance and resilience through micro-enterprise and skills development, vocational training, and value addition.

**Empowering youth:** UNDP introduced human-centred design approach to youth from refugee and host communities to turn challenges into opportunities, thereby creating local solutions, developing entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities, and improving social cohesion.

**Border security:** Refugees flee to Uganda through multiple entry points across the border. UNDP supports community policing effort in border districts to improve security and build the capacity of communities to respond to refugee influx.

**Quantifying Uganda's contribution to refugee hosting:** The Government of Uganda is contributing to refugee hosting through the provision of land and social service, in addition to refugee management and protection. However, its contribution is often undervalued, as it has never been quantified. UNDP supports analysis and reporting to address this gap, part of its efforts to build an evidence base.