



UGANDA PRESENTATION ON LOCAL INTEGRATION.

Presented by
Asimwe Douglas
Head of Refugee Protection in Uganda



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DEFINITION OF LOCAL INTERGRATION

- Local Integration is “a situation in which host and refugee communities are able to co-exist, sharing the same resources — both economic and social — with no greater mutual conflict than that which exists within the host community.”

What does it take?

Characteristics of successful integration

- Socio-cultural change permits them to maintain an identity of their own and adjust psychologically to their new situation.
- Friction between host populations and refugees is not worse than within the host population itself.
- Refugees do not encounter more discrimination than exists between groups previously settled within the host society.



Legal Framework

- Uganda is signatory to - 1951 UN Refugee Convention/1967 protocol, which provides for refugee protection
- Uganda is also signatory to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, by which refugees fleeing from conflict can be granted refugee status
- Article 195 of Uganda 1995 Constitution reaffirms Uganda's commitments to international humanitarian law.



Legal Framework

- Refugee function is a Centralised Government mandate/ Service and responsibility under the sixth schedule Art 189 of the Constitution.
- The 2006, Uganda Refugee Act guarantees refugee rights, protection and administrative matters for refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda.



Refugee trends in Uganda

- Uganda has consistently hosted refugees since the second World War; on an average of 150,000 refugees at anyone time.
- Polish refugees in Uganda: 1945 - 1951.
- Rwandese refugees: 1959 - 1994.
- Sudanese refugees at different waves from 1950s to-date



Refugee trends in Uganda

- Congolese refugees since the Lumumba era in 1960s to-date.
- Burundian refugees with different political upheavals at different times since 1960s.
- Others from Somalia, Eritrea, etc



Current Refugee Statistics



UGANDA

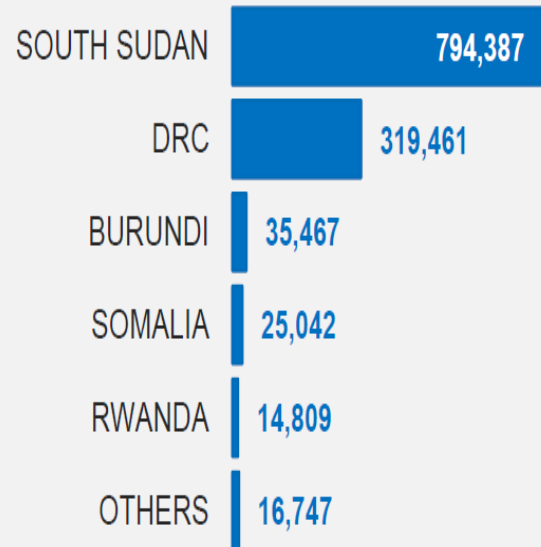
Refugees and asylum-seekers

January 2019

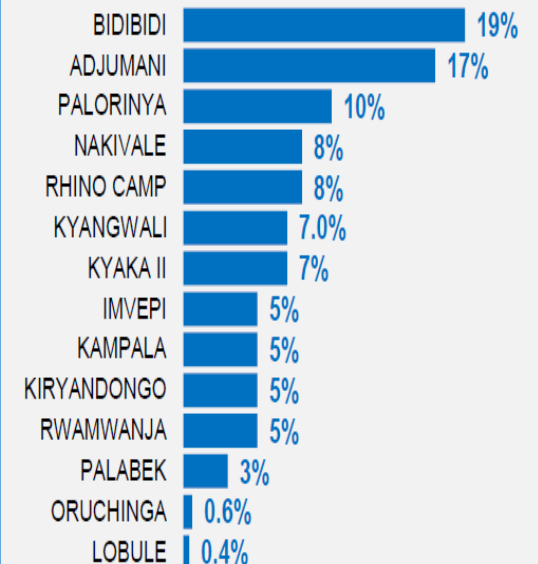
Total refugees and asylum-seekers

1,205,913

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



REFUGEES PER SETTLEMENT





Refugee hosting Areas/ Settlements

- Uganda historically hosted refugees in local settlements.
- The settlements offer a more permanent departure from the temporary 'transit camp'.
- Objective of the local settlement policy is to promote a degree of self-sufficiency for refugees coupled with freedom of movement
- Makes refugees economically and socially independent.



Why the large numbers???

- Conflicts are lasting longer than in the past – DRC, Somalia, etc
- Conflicts are occurring more frequently. In the past six years alone, six plus nations globally have seen new or reignited conflicts.



Why the large numbers???

- The rate at which aid agencies are funding “solutions” for displaced people have been on decline since cold war.
- Large numbers are staying in a state of persistent vulnerability.



What solutions for refugees in Uganda look like; “Durable solutions”

- Voluntary Repatriation, remains the most viable option. **Note, Conditions for return must be conducive for sustainable return.**
- Resettlement into a third country, done through close collaboration with the UNHCR and other international Humanitarian Organizations.
- Local Integration, where refugee planning, management and service delivery has been integrated into the overall NDP II



Existing opportunities for refugees local integration/self reliance.

1. Refugee policy in Uganda promotes self reliance/local integration through;
 - Agriculture
 - Business Activities.
 - Other Livelihood Activities/Income generating activities.

2. Strategic Initiatives
 - Inclusion of Refugees into the National Development Plan.(NDP II),Integrated Education and Health Refugee Response plans
 - ReHope Strategy.
 - Settlement Transformation Agenda(S.T.A) that has birthed DRDIP



Opportunities continued

Legal rights

- Right work
- Right to Education
- Right to Own property
- Free movement
- Access to Health
- Right to form and belong to non political associations
- Right to practice culture, religion etc

CHALLENGES FACED

- Sustainability of current Refugee Policy
- Increasing refugee populations against land scarcity and conflicts.
- Funding challenges and gaps.
- Environmental degradation.
- Security concerns
- Capacity issues.



CHALLENGES . . .

- Some refugees spend their entire lives in Uganda, raise families and consider it their home.
- Have not in the least been provided with the opportunity to legally become Ugandan.
- Refugee status has become a permanent limbo for such migrants — they are unable or unwilling to return to their home countries because of the persecution suffered there, but not permitted to integrate in their adopted home.
- Lack of citizenship results in many tangible consequences, such as the inability to vote or participate in the political

CONCLUSION

- Nothing in Ugandan law prohibits a recognized refugee from being considered to reside in Uganda for purposes of naturalisation under Sec. 16 of the UCICA.
- Also no legal bar to refugees meeting the requirements of language, good character, and intention to settle in Uganda.
- Refugees are fully capable of becoming naturalised citizens.



Recommendations

- Continued efforts to achieve lasting peace in countries with conflict as a lasting solution to refugees.
- International burden sharing in terms of open doors to refugees.
- Increased funding to refugee solutions.
- De-radicalisation of the world.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Thank you

“ For God and my Country”