



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER

WORLD REFUGEE DAY SUPPLEMENT 2016

Theme: "We stand Together With Refugees".

STATEMENT BY HON.ENG.HILARY ONEK, MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY 20TH JUNE 2016 IN KYAKA 11 REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, KYEGEGWA DISTRICT.

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today 20th June 2016, Uganda joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Refugee Day under the theme "With Refugees".

Uganda has demonstrated commitment towards the protection of refugees since 1942 in line with international conventions that govern the protection and management of refugees. Today the refugee population in the country stands at **538,252** as of 1st June 2016 and the number of new asylum seekers keeps on increasing day by day. This trend is not about to end and as Government we will not relegate our obligations. This makes Uganda the 3rd largest host of refugees in Africa and 8th in the World. The country has earned international recognition for its generosity and hospitality towards the management of refugees. During the visit of the Pope to Uganda early this year, he praised Uganda for its good refugee policy. At the recently concluded World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, Uganda took the lead in showcasing the good refugee management practices and policy which the whole World is now very eager to learn and follow.

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen, our resolve to maintain a favorable asylum space notwithstanding, we do recognize that the refugee situation in Uganda is protracted and requires a development nexus to the humanitarian component.

It's against this back ground that we have decided to undertake deliberate steps to address the challenges associated with this protracted refugee situation. The following are some of these steps:

- Inclusion of the refugee issues in the National Development Plan 11through Development of the Settlement Transformation Agenda with 6 pillars namely:
 - Land management** - To ensure that settlement land is managed in a way that is efficient and sustainable.
 - Sustainable Livelihoods** - To foster sustainable livelihoods for refugees and host communities, and thereby contribute to socio-economic growth.
 - Governance and rule of law** - To ensure that settlements are governed in a way that respects the rights and obligations of refugees and promotes the rule of law among refugees and host communities.
 - Peaceful co-existence** - To create an enabling environment for refugees to live in safety, harmony and dignity with host communities, and together contribute to social cohesion and national development.
 - Environmental protection** - To protect and conserve the natural environment in and around refugee settlements.
 - Community infrastructure** - To progressively enhance economic and social infrastructure in refugee hosting areas, in accordance with local government plans and systems. All partners in the refugee protection regime should align their interventions to the six pillars.
- Partnering with the UN family under the Rehope frame work to include creative approaches to livelihoods for the refugees

- and host community
- Developing the Refugee Policy that will guide the implementation of these plans.
- Putting in place a legal frame work that allows refugees to access gainful employment without requiring worker permits.
- Ensuring that refugees move freely and have access to all services as provided to nationals.

These actions by Government will continue to require support from the international community. Uganda as emphasized by todays theme has already demonstrated that "its together with refugees" therefore the international community is equally urged to demonstrate its togetherness with the refugees by supporting these initiatives. I call specifically for support to the NDP 11 component of refugee protection, i.e. The Settlement Transformation Agenda.

Uganda will continue to play its pivotal role in the region by advocating for peace in the region through the various bilateral and multi-lateral foras available.

To the refugees we are "together with you" and you should be "together with us". You are therefore called upon to be conscious of your rights and obligations, short of which the law will firmly deal with you.

To our hosts the districts, now than ever before, you should include refugee protection and management in your district development plans if you are to attract resources to fill in your development gaps.

UNHCR, our advocacy for the refugee protection regime in the Country should go a notch higher to attract more resources in the development agenda. The Country operation is funded at 20% this year and this falls far below the actual needs.

UNHCR should therefore together with all other international NGOs build capacity for local NGOs to respond to humanitarian requirements in the Country. As a Country, we envisage that in two years' time 50% of the implementing agencies should be local NGOs

As I conclude, I take this opportunity to thank the;

- District local authorities in the refugee hosting districts.**
- The donor agencies represented by their missions in the country.**
- The UN agencies mainly UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, IOM, UNFPA, WHO and other UN agencies.**
- Implementing and Operational partners involved in refugee assistance programmes in the Country.**

Your support to the Country operation is well appreciated.

As we celebrate this year's World Refugee day, I call upon all of you, to appreciate that refugees can be used as a vehicle for economic transformation of areas that they stay in and therefore let us all work towards tapping into the migration dividend of hosting refugees as we support efforts towards their eventual repatriation.

I thank you
FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY



Hon. Eng. Hilary Onok
Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees



Mrs Christine Guwatudde Kintu
Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister



Hon. Musa Eweru
Hon. State Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees



Mr. David Apollo Kazungu
Commissioner for Refugees

Today 20th June 2016, Uganda joins the rest of the world to commemorate World Refugee Day, with the theme #WITH REFUGEES.

The Refugee Population.

To date Uganda is home to 538,252 refugees and asylum seekers drawn from countries of South Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Rwanda and the Central African Republic as shown in the table below:

Country of Origin	Asylum Seekers	Refugees	Total
South Sudan	45,000	450,000	495,000
Somalia	10,000	100,000	110,000
Democratic Republic of Congo	5,000	50,000	55,000
Ethiopia	2,000	20,000	22,000
Eritrea	1,000	10,000	11,000
Burundi	1,000	10,000	11,000
Rwanda	1,000	10,000	11,000
Central African Republic	1,000	10,000	11,000
GRAND TOTAL	76,000	702,000	778,000

Achievements in Refugee Protection and Management.

The government of Uganda has made the following significant achievements in refugee protection and management.

- Refugee protection and management is now fully incorporated into the National Development Plan (NDP 11).
- Government of Uganda together with UNHCR has successfully coordinated the Burundi influx in the country and to date 15,294 Burundian refugees granted prima facie status have been settled in Uganda.
- A functional Refugee Appeals Board is now fully operational.
- 134,826 South Sudanese refugees have been settled in Uganda in Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo districts, in 2016.
- The 2016 Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Regulations under the Ministry of Internal Affairs made a waiver on fees relating to work permits for refugees gainfully employed in Uganda.



L-R, Mr. Gordon Lakidi (Vice Chairman Refugee Appeals Board), Ms. Scholastica Nasinyama, (Secretary) Hon. Eng. Hilary Onok (C), Dr. Deborah Mulumba (Chairperson, Refugee Appeals Board) and Mr. Anthony Namara (Member Refugee Appeals Board)

- The Uganda Registration Services Bureau is now issuing birth and death certificates free of

charge to recognized refugees in Uganda.

Improvement in Staff accommodation has been undertaken in Kyangwali, Nakivale and Kyaka 11 refugee settlements with five blocks of staff accommodation renovated. In Rhino Camp, Arua two blocks of staff accommodation were renovated and one block of staff accommodation constructed at Ocea reception Centre.

In Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, 02 blocks of staff accommodation and one office block were renovated. Five blocks of two units each including accommodation for police have been constructed.

With support from UNHCR, an airstrip was rehabilitated and commissioned in Adjumani district.

There have been 11 health centers (5 health center 11s and 06 health center 111s) built in refugee hosting districts, 26 blocks of classrooms built for primary schools in refugee hosting districts.

Government of Uganda together with the European Union has developed a project on Mixed Migration Flows to address the root causes of irregular migration and displacement in Africa to be implemented in the districts of Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo.

Biometric verification using the government Refugee Information Management system has been completed in Kamwenge, Adjumani, Arua and Koboko.



Above: Verification and profiling exercise for South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani district using government owned database called the Refugee Information Management System, (RIMS).

- With support from UNDP, Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems Project (SCIEWS) and the Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) awareness activities on climate change issues are being piloted in Kamwenge and Adjumani.



Above: US Ambassador Deborah R. Malach, Hon. State Minister of Refugees, Hon. Musa Eweru, Settlement Commandant, Kiryandongo and other officials in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



The UN Refugee Agency

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WORLD REFUGEE DAY SUPPLEMENT 2016



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representative to Uganda Neimah Warsame

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, marks World Refugee Day each year on June 20th, to shine a light on the courage and resilience of families forced to flee war or persecution. And each year UNHCR seeks to find a glimmer of hope in the global statistics we publish to show that the world is finding solutions to help heal the trauma refugees are living through on a daily basis. But this year the hopeful signs are hard to find.

Today, the number and complexity of the world's conflicts means that we have entered an unprecedented level of forced displacement. More than 60 million people have been uprooted from their homes. With each day comes another refugee tragedy, of children, mothers and fathers losing their lives in a desperate bid to escape violence.

Against this tragic backdrop, divisive political rhetoric on asylum and migration issues, and disturbing levels of xenophobia, are together threatening the international agreements which protect those forced to flee war or persecution.

Instead of burden sharing, we see borders closing, instead of political will there is political paralysis. And humanitarian organisations like UNHCR are left to deal with the consequences, while at the same time struggling to save lives on limited budgets.

2016 is a watershed moment for the refugee cause. As wars spiral out of control, this must be a year to take collective responsibility and action to end the conflicts which force people to flee and also to help the millions of people whose lives have been destroyed by this violence.

Yet there is cause for hope. Around the world, we are seeing outpourings of generosity, people opening their homes and their hearts to people requiring assistance.

In few places is this more visible than in Uganda. At a time when the country is hosting record numbers of refugees, Uganda continues to offer safety to our neighbours in need from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia and elsewhere.

Uganda's approach to refugee management and protection is an inspirational model, and an example to other countries not only in the region but across the world.

Ugandans understand that refugees are not beggars, competitors for jobs or terrorists. Refugees are people like you and me, who through no fault of their own, have had their lives turned upside down and destroyed by violence.

But we also understand that Uganda cannot tackle the refugee crisis alone. World leaders can no longer watch passively as so many lives are needlessly put at risk. We must be smart about finding solutions to help refugees and host communities.

Uganda is leading the way. Through the settlement policy, where refugees live in villages side by side with Ugandans, refugees are given the opportunity to make the most of their talents and make positive economic contributions to their communities. By integrating refugees in the National Development Plan through the Settlement Transformative Agenda, Uganda is leading the global paradigm shift in integrating development with humanitarian response.

In return, as a guiding principle, 30% of the refugee response in Uganda is going towards assisting Ugandan host communities, ensuring infrastructure developments are being carried out in line with local district development planning.

We commend Uganda and the Ugandan host communities for your outstanding generosity and for standing #WithRefugees today and every day.

In September, the United Nations General Assembly will meet to discuss refugees and migration. We will present a petition containing signatures from across the world in support of refugees.

Please visit **www.withrefugees.org** and the #WithRefugees hashtag on social media and help us send us a message to world leaders that the time to act is now.