



The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) helping refugees board trucks to the Kisoro transit centre at the Bunagana border – URCS.

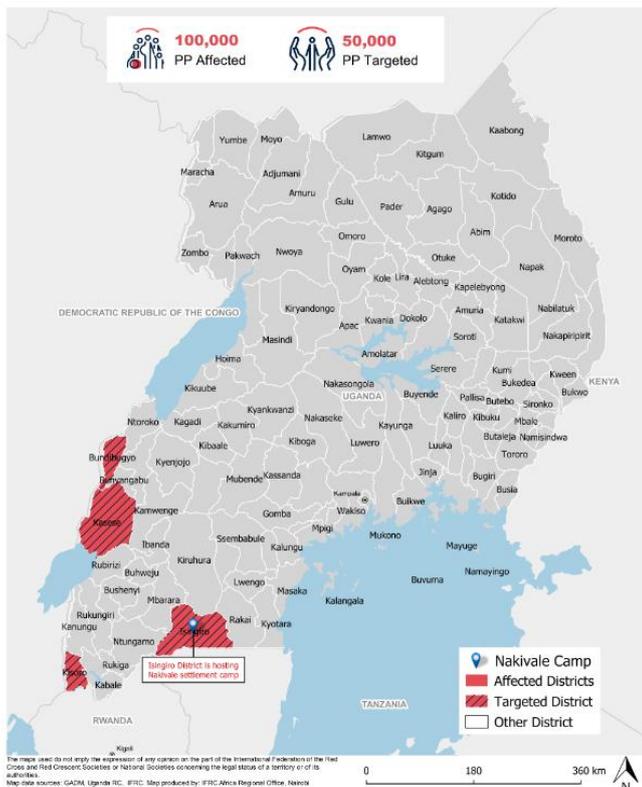
<p>Appeal No: MDRUG045</p>	<p>IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 3 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 5 million</p>	
<p>Glide No: CE-2022-000195-UGA</p>	<p>People affected: More than 100,000 people - refugees and host communities</p>	<p>People to be assisted: 50,000 people</p>
<p>DREF allocation: CHF 500,000 (DREF loan from Response Pillar, of which CHF 409,283 released on 27 May 2022 – MDRUG045)</p>	<p>Appeal launched: 27 June 2022</p>	<p>Appeal ends: 30 June 2023</p>

SITUATION OVERVIEW



Uganda - Population Movement

24 June 2022 • MDRUG045 • CE-2022-000195-UGA



The situation at Bunagana Market on 20 June, and in the town centre as more refugees from DRC continue to remain in the communities – URCS.

the numbers are not at this stage confirmed but it is estimated they could have increased to over 100,000 people, putting a significant strain on host communities.

This rapid and large-scale influx of refugees has put tremendous pressure on the basic social services in the settlements where refugees are hosted, impacting education, food, shelter, health and nutrition centres, and WASH infrastructure.

The refugees are received at several collection points, transit, and reception centres across the country. They are registered and provided with basic protection services and humanitarian assistance pending their relocation to refugee settlements. Besides those registered at the camps, there is a large number of additional refugees still living with host communities in Bundibugyo and Bunagana.

The influx of refugees has created a large gap in terms of shelter. The transit centres are designed to host refugees for a maximum of five days, but the situation has forced longer stays. Refugees have arrived with few belongings and there is an urgent need for emergency shelters and essential household items.

The transit centres and camps are already congested and lack sufficient health, water, and sanitation facilities raising the risk of disease outbreaks if no immediate actions are taken with regard to health, hygiene, and sanitation. Their basic shelter and WASH infrastructure need to be upgraded to comply with the minimum humanitarian standards at the receiving locations. Refugees face numerous protection issues; including cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), separated families and unaccompanied

Families fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are arriving in Uganda traumatised and without possessions, in the hope of reaching safety. However, they find themselves in another humanitarian crisis as there is insufficient shelter to house them, and overcrowded centres lack water and sanitation, forcing people to camp out in the open putting their safety and health at risk.

The conflict in the North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the eastern part of the DRC has intensified since late March 2022, triggering the large-scale displacement of refugees into Uganda. Up to 26 May, Uganda had received [over 41,018](#) new arrivals fleeing the violence from DRC.

From 10 June, the IFRC has seen a further increase in people crossing the border due to an escalation in violence in the DRC. Families have been forced to flee with limited or no possessions and can be seen camping on the streets, in schools, markets, and on the open grounds of border towns Bundibugyo and Bunagana. Due to the sudden increase in people crossing, not all have been registered and, hence,

minors and many more all arising due to the magnitude of the displacement and growing vulnerabilities, and strained basic social services in refugee-hosting communities. The level of trauma is high among the current refugee population and additional psychosocial assistance is needed. Some families have been displaced three or four times, thereby, leading to a continuous cycle of displacement in settlements.

The government, UNHCR, and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) have been mainly engaged in providing shelter, WASH, and protection assistance. The IFRC launched a [DREF](#) of CHF 409,293 on 13 April to provide the URCS with the resources to support the refugees. To complement this support, Belgium Red Cross-Flanders and the Austrian Red Cross

provided additional WASH support as part of the Humanitarian Protection (HP1) project. Shelter support was also provided through the ECHO Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) as a consortium led by Netherlands Red Cross. The ICRC is providing additional support for the URCS-led Restoring Family Links (RFL) response. With the large-scale escalation of refugee numbers, the initial scaled-up Movement response has quickly become insufficient given the severe humanitarian situation. Additional resources are needed to address the humanitarian needs and dignity of refugees.

Based on assessments and their ongoing response, the URCS is requesting an urgent scale-up in support of rapidly responding to the worsening situation for refugees.



Bunagana Town on 20 June – showing an urgent need for improved shelter and essential household items – URCS.

TARGETING

This Emergency Appeal aims to scale up activities that are being carried out by the URCS to respond to the increased caseload of refugees and their urgent humanitarian needs.

Based on current figures, there are about 37,052 refugees registered by UNHCR (Kisoro holding/transit centre, Bundibugyo, Kasese, and Nakivale settlements). It is estimated by the URCS and reported by district government offices that there could be up to 62,948 refugees still not registered who are living within the host communities in and around Bundibugyo and Bunagana who, at this time, are not receiving basic humanitarian assistance.

From this analysis, the operation will target up to an estimated 50,000 people with direct support to refugees and, in addition, up to 100,000 refugees and host communities through outreach programmes. The target locations will be those currently hosted in three transit camps in Kasese, Kisoro, and Bundibugyo and those staying with host communities. As the situation evolves, the URCS will continue to support the targeted refugees as they move from transit camps to the Nakivale settlement camp or others.

Community engagement and accountability, as well as protection, gender, and inclusion standards, will help further refine the targeting methodology, with attention to the particularly vulnerable and/or the most at-risk groups, including women, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.

The withdrawal of support by some responding organisations at the transit centres leaves the URCS with a higher caseload, particularly since they are leading on WASH intervention in the camps.



Hygiene and sanitation volunteers attached to the URCS operation ensure that the facilities are well-kept as part of hygiene promotion measures benefiting refugees – URCS.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

The response areas for this scale-up through the Emergency Appeal will be in the provision of shelter and essential household items, water, and sanitation. These core areas of the response will also be complemented with health and hygiene promotion, first aid, ambulance services, protection, and migration activities including psychosocial support.

IFRC is appealing for CHF 3 million to deliver in the following areas:

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Shelter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50,000 people supported with emergency shelter and essential household items. - Targeted support to safeguard livelihoods - where families have crossed the border with livestock. - Protection services, especially for the most risk-exposed groups, and ensuring their safety and access to opportunities, is essential to meet the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100,000 people reached with the provision and management of water supply and sanitation facilities (bathing and latrines construction and management) in camps and host communities. - 100,000 people reached through health and hygiene promotion, also targeted support through first aid, ambulance services, psychosocial first aid, and menstrual hygiene of women and girls.

ENABLING APPROACHES

The response activities are enabled through coordination and National Society development. The IFRC will also provide support through surge and longer-term HR to support the URCS in implementing the appeal – this will include operations, finance and logistics, and technical areas where needed. The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Coordination and partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate engagement and coordination with Participating National Societies and the ICRC in the design of the response, leveraging the expertise and resources available through a Red Pillar approach, and ensuring alignment with relevant external actors, including the government's policies and programmes, development actors, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>IFRC Secretariat services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IFRC will facilitate an effective Federation-wide response, with support from the Juba Country Cluster Delegation and Africa Regional Office.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>National Society strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and organisational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that the National Society has the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform. - Volunteer duty of care will be emphasized through appropriate management services, provision of equipment, training, and an insurance package.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After the end of the 12-month Emergency Appeal timeframe, preparedness and response activities will continue under the IFRC Country Plan, which will show a holistic view of ongoing emergency response and longer-term programming tailored to the needs of the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This process aims to streamline activities under one plan while still ensuring the needs of those affected by the crisis are met.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN-COUNTRY

Uganda Red Cross Society



The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) enjoys an excellent working relationship with the Government of Uganda fulfilling its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities. This is made possible by its very strong network of structures countrywide through its 51 branches, 44,138 volunteers, and 220 staff coordinated through its headquarters in Kampala.

The uniqueness of the URCS to mobilise and deploy volunteers in record time across all the corners of the country has continued to make the National Society well-placed to provide immediate support to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Its neutrality has won strong community acceptance with the National Society becoming a preferred partner of choice by others, such as UNHCR, in this response, leading on both the provision of safe water and sanitation in all of the transit centres. The National Society has unlimited access to the border working with security personnel to evacuate those fleeing, including the injured.

IFRC Membership coordination

There are four participating National Societies in-country providing bilateral WASH and logistical support to the URCS since the start of the operation: The Netherlands Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Belgian Red Cross Flanders.

The IFRC Secretariat plays an essential role in ensuring effective coordination within and outside the Movement and providing operations management, coordination, logistics, finance, and reporting technical and financial support to the URCS through the IFRC Juba Country Cluster Delegation. The IFRC disaster management delegate provides technical support together with health and finance delegates in-country. The IFRC has also provided a surge operations manager who is overseeing implementation. For this Emergency Appeal, a Surge Delegate will be based in Kisoro and an Operation Manager will be based in Kampala to ensure streamlining of all multilateral and bilateral support. To ensure good accountability, the IFRC secretariat will deploy a CEA expert to ensure URCS engagement with the community.



The URCS at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Rubondo, positioned Ambulance Standby Services – URCS.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

In this response, the ICRC will advise on overall safety and security support to the Movement partners. Since the beginning of this crisis, the ICRC has been working with the URCS in the areas of Protection/RFL and evacuation of war-wounded (WW) and plans to maintain this including water and sanitation. The IFRC is in regular coordination with the ICRC Country Delegation for Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The IFRC Head of Country Cluster Delegation engages in cooperation with the ICRC. **For this response, Operations Coordination meetings are held every two days, (the frequency may change with the situation) and are attended by the IFRC, ICRC, and the in-country Participating National Societies.** This platform ensures strong coordination and effective technical support to the URCS and complementarity, as well as ensuring a harmonised response plan.

External coordination

The URCS is a core member of the WASH sector for refugee operations, together with Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), a national non-governmental organisation. In this response, the URCS is taking the lead on the provision of safe water and the installation of sanitation facilities. There are daily coordination meetings with UNHCR and external partners. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, alongside the Government of Uganda, is coordinating all responding agencies. There are 19 agencies, including the Kisoro District Local Government, UNHCR, and I/NGOs currently responding to the refugee crisis in Uganda but with very limited resources. From the first notice of the influx of refugees, there have been emergency coordination meetings chaired by UNHCR and held at the transit centres and district offices comprising the Regional Disaster Officer, district officials, the URCS, ICRC, IFRC, CAFOMI, Save the Children, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and government security team.

Contact information

Reference documents

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Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Operations Update no.1](#)

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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