

MENGO NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Urban community assessment
Kampala, Uganda - July 2018



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European Union
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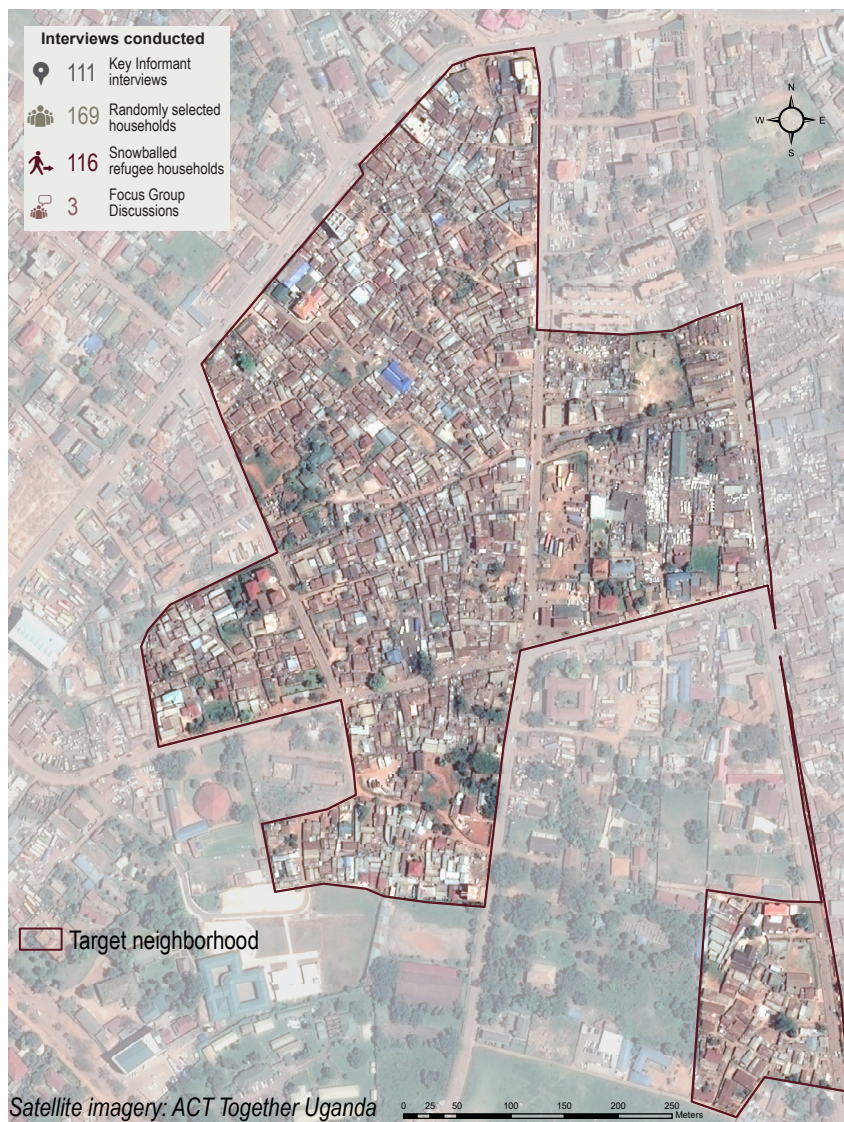


CONTEXT

Surrounded by countries facing political instability, Uganda is the primary destination for refugees from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, among others. In face of this influx, Uganda has introduced a progressive refugee-hosting policy,¹ allowing freedom of movement and the right to work to over 1.4 million refugees² settled within its boundaries. Large numbers of refugees seek opportunities in urban centres, and many make their way to Kampala, the capital city and political, social and economic centre of Uganda. Home to 1.5 million inhabitants,³ including approximately 100,000 refugees,⁴ the city of Kampala keeps attracting rural migrants and refugees. While vulnerable refugees, who have the right to access the same basic services as Ugandans, tend to settle in sub-standard neighborhoods across the city, the continuous influx of vulnerable urban dwellers is putting pressure on already overburdened basic services.

To support the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and aid organisations to better localise and understand the needs and conditions of access to services for refugees and other vulnerable populations living in vulnerable urban neighborhoods, IMPACT Initiatives, together with ACTED, in the framework of their AGORA initiative, in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council and ACTogether Uganda, have undertaken an area-based multisector needs assessment in Mengo, along with eight other neighborhoods in Kampala, between February and June 2018.

Map 1: Overview of the neighborhood of Mengo and of the survey methodology used



Overview of Mengo neighborhood

Mengo is a vulnerable urban neighborhood in Kampala. It lies in Central Division. The neighborhood comprises 10 cells, the lowest administrative unit for urban settings in Uganda. It is home to vulnerable socio-economic population groups, including refugees.

KEY FINDINGS

Among the nine target neighborhoods covered by the assessment, Mengo has the highest concentration of refugees. Somalis represent the majority of refugees residing in Mengo, followed by Congolese. Ugandan-headed households are found to be slightly better-off in terms of income-earning than refugees, despite the common belief that foreigners, including refugees, are wealthier than locals. Female-headed households, which represent a third of households in Mengo, are more likely to be economically vulnerable than their male counterparts. The residents of Mengo reported relatively similar challenges regarding access to services, regardless of their gender or status. Nearly a third of respondents reported that services available to Mengo residents are of poor quality. Overall, the demand for basic services including schools, public health centres and shared sanitation facilities is growing, putting pressure on already overburdened services.

Insecurity is commonly reported as a concern affecting the whole community, followed by the lack of income opportunities. Partly due to its central location within Kampala, the neighborhood of Mengo is particularly exposed to issues of evictions compared to other neighborhoods.

¹ Grandi praises Uganda's 'model' treatment of refugees, urges regional leaders to make peace
J. Clayton for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), January 2018

² While this report was being edited, a verification process of the refugee registration figures undertaken by the Office of the Prime Minister and the UNHCR was on-going.

³ Uganda National Bureau of Statistics, National Census, 2014

⁴ Office of the Prime Minister, Refugee Information Management System database, 2018

METHODOLOGY

To measure the dynamics of access to and delivery of basic services in the neighborhood of Mengo, the assessment comprised several phases.

Phase 1: Key Informant Interviews with service providers

The first phase of data collection aimed at mapping the supply of basic services commonly used by residents of Mengo, located both inside and outside the neighborhood. On 13th February 2018, 111 Key Informant interviews were conducted with service providers, including education and health care facilities, as well as shared and public water sources and sanitation facilities. Key informants were people who were especially knowledgeable on the services targeted by this survey.

Phases 2 and 3: Household surveys with host communities and refugees

The second and third phases of data collection aimed at assessing access to services and socio-economic characteristics of refugees and host communities residing in Mengo. During Phase 2 undertaken on 14th March, 169 household interviews¹ were administered to randomly selected households (HHs), including all population groups residing in Mengo. This random household sample captured 33 refugee households, 56 female-headed households and 103 female respondents. In order to collect more information about refugees specifically, the same survey was administered to 116 refugee households residing in the target neighborhood, and identified through a snowballing technique during Phase 3, on 4th April. In total, 149 refugee households were interviewed in Mengo, either during phase 2 or 3.

Phases 4 and 5: Focus Group Discussions

Findings from phases 2 and 3 provided information about where specific nationalities of refugees were most likely to be located among the neighborhoods covered by the assessment. As the majority of refugees who resides in Mengo comes from Somalia, the research team collected qualitative information about conditions of living and access to services for Somali refugees, with 2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted during phase 4, on 3rd May, with men and women separately. Each FGD gathered 8 participants who have been identified among refugees residing in Mengo with the support of community leaders and facilitators. During the 5th phase of the assessment, the research presented and validated the key findings with community leaders of the target neighborhood during one FGD, conducted on 19th June 2018. During this exercise, community leaders shared their visions to prioritize needs and future interventions in Mengo.

Limitations

Findings from the household surveys are meant to illustrate the specific situation of various population groups residing in Mengo, including refugees. The use of a snowballing sampling technique to identify refugee households during phase 3 implies that results from this sample should be considered as indicative whereas findings from the random household survey conducted during phase 2 are representative of the whole population of the neighborhood, with a 90% confidence level and 10% margin of error.

DEMOGRAPHICS

22,200

Estimated number of inhabitants in Mengo²

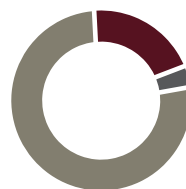
3.9

Average number of people per household

33%

Of households are headed by a female.

Proportion of households by reported status:



77% National residents

20% Refugees

3% Foreigners and migrants³

62% of refugees residing in Mengo come from Somalia and 23% come from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁴

Most common reasons reported by households for choosing to settle in Mengo:⁵

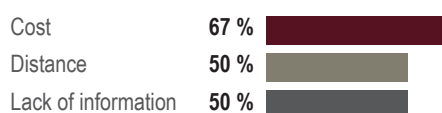


ACCESS TO SERVICES

Perception of quality and accessibility of services:



Most common barriers to service accessibility reported by households who reported access is difficult:⁵⁻⁶



PRIORITY NEEDS

Based on the research findings, community leaders from the neighborhood of Mengo identified key priorities to improve living conditions in the community:

- Improvement and expansion of the drainage and sewage system
- Improvement of the routine garbage collection system and sites
- Stock public health centres with medical supplies
- Increase the number of schools and vocational centres
- Support the creation of small businesses for low-skilled residents
- Installation of street lighting to improve security at night

¹ The survey questionnaire has been contextualised from the Urban Multi sector Vulnerability Assessment Tool (UMVAT), introduced in 2017 by the Stronger Cities Consortium.

² Uganda National Bureau of Statistics, National Census, 2014

³ Foreigners are respondents who define themselves as non-nationals without the refugee status. Migrants are respondents who define themselves as nationals who have been long-term displaced from other locations in the country.

⁴ These findings are drawn from the snowballed refugee household survey. The use of this sampling methodology implies that findings are indicative only.

⁵ Respondents could give multiple answers to this questions, therefore the total exceeds 100%.

⁶ Due to a small sample size, results for this indicator are indicative.

EDUCATION

Existing education facilities accessed by Mengo residents:

5	Nursery schools	Key Informants for education facilities reported that lack of school material was the main challenge for schools, followed by overcrowded classrooms .
7	Primary schools	
6	Secondary schools	

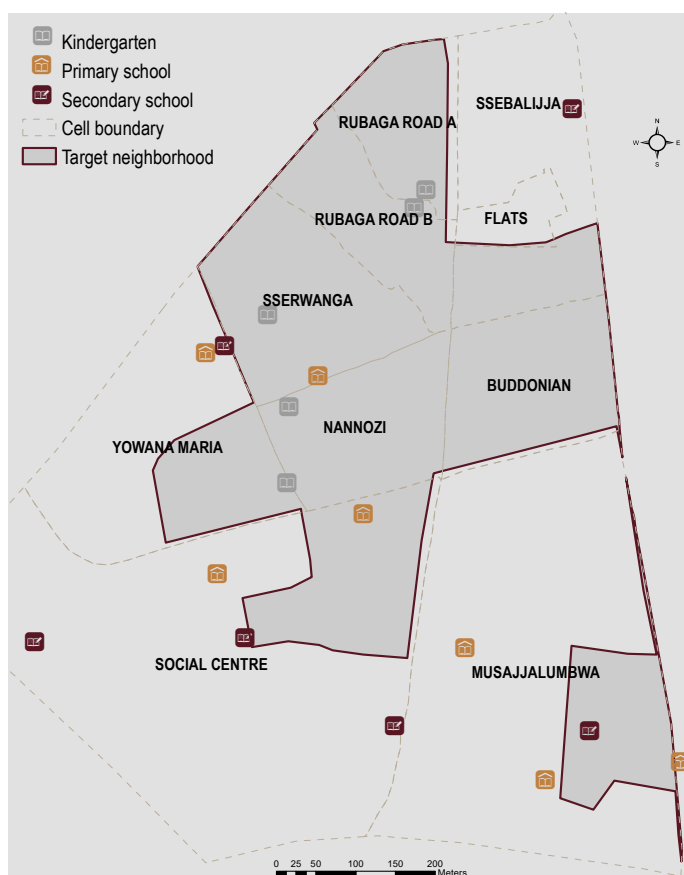
School attendance:

26% of school-aged children (7-17 years old) residing in Mengo were not attending school, as revealed by the random household survey. Refugee-headed households reported that **40%** of children of the same age group were not attending school.¹ **Inability to pay school fees** was the most common reason given by both households and Key Informants for education facilities to explain school non attendance and drop-out.

Share of education expenses in households' budget:

27%	Of households reported education as their largest expense.
20%	Of households were willing to spend more on education costs. ²

Map 2: Location of education facilities used by residents of Mengo:



¹These findings are drawn from the snowballed refugee household survey. The use of this sampling methodology implies that findings are indicative only.

²Households declaring they would prioritise education or health expenses if they benefited from an additional amount of 200,000 UGX. It is equivalent to 54 USD. www.xe.com, as of 16th July 2018.

HEALTH

Most commonly used health care providers by households:³

Public Health centre	53 %
Private Health centre	40 %
Hospital	27 %
Pharmacy	15 %

38%
Of health centres **had no professional doctor** among their staff according to Key Informants.

Most commonly reported issues in accessing health care for households:³

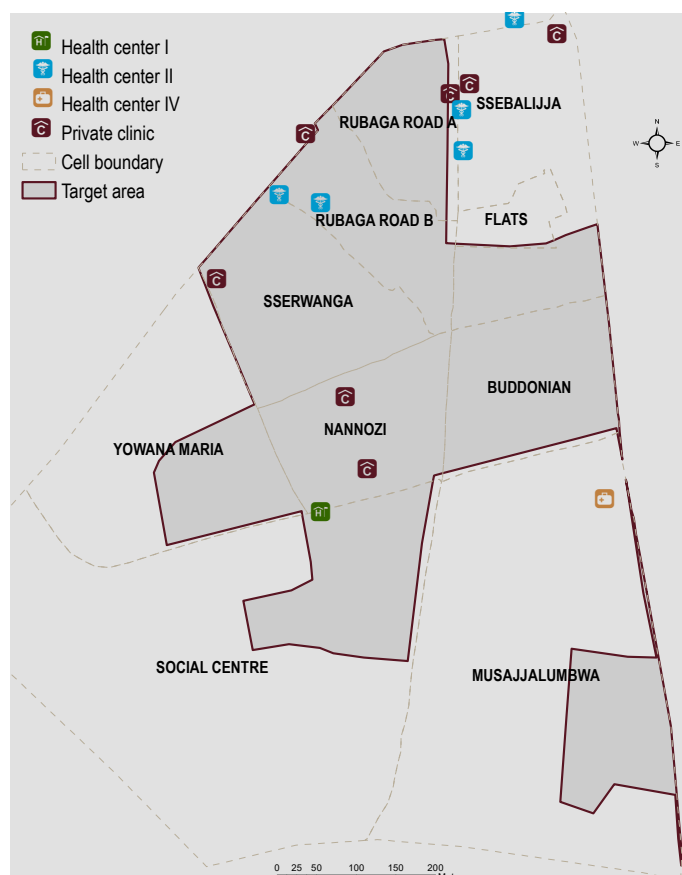
Cost	62 %
No medication	54 %
Distance	29 %

Somali refugees who participated in FGDs reported **language** as a major barrier to access health care although they reported the quality of health care they get is better in Uganda than in Somalia.

Importance of health expenses in households' budget:

88,000 UGX	Average household expenditure for medical care in the last 90 days ⁴
10%	Of households were willing to spend more on health care. ²

Map 3: Location of health facilities used by residents of Mengo:

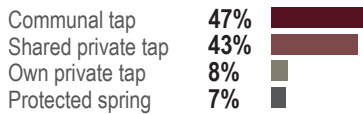


³ Respondents could give multiple answers to this questions, therefore the total exceeds 100%.

⁴ 1 USD = 3,688 UGX and 1 EUR = 4,328 UGX, xe.com as per 16nd July 2018

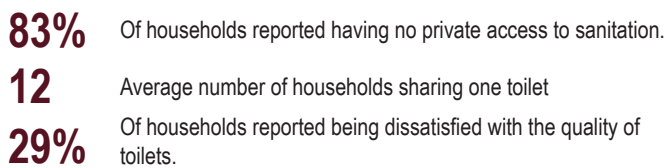
WATER AND SANITATION

Primary drinking water sources used by households:¹

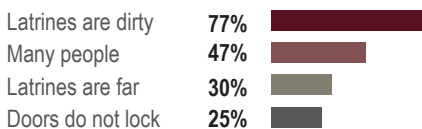


9% of households reported that the quality of these water sources was not good enough to drink. **58%** of communal taps were constructed directly by the community, according to water points Key Informants.

Access to sanitation reported by households:

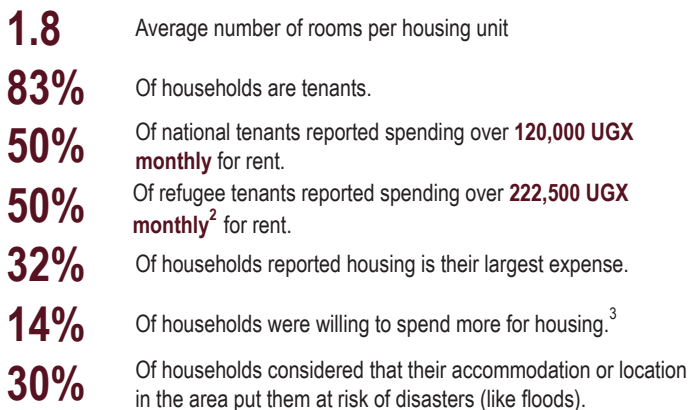


Most common issues with sanitation reported by households¹:

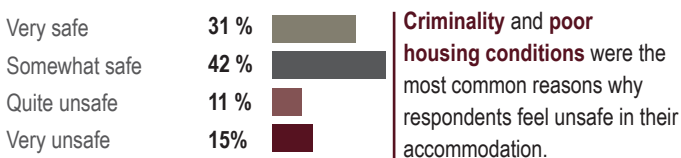


HOUSING LAND AND PROPERTY

Housing conditions reported by households:



Perception of housing safety reported by households:



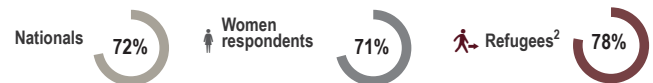
27% of households considered that forced evictions are common in Mengo. **14%** reported they have been directly threatened of eviction in the year prior to the assessment. Lack of awareness of tenancy right is a major cause of evictions according to community leaders.

¹ Respondents could give multiple answers to this questions, therefore the total exceeds 100%.

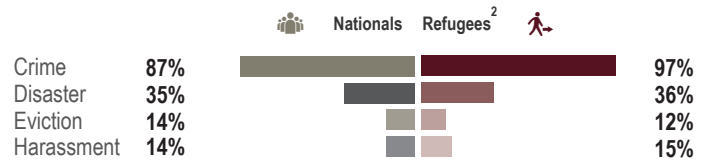
² These findings are drawn from the snowballed refugee household survey. The use of this sampling methodology implies that findings are indicative only.

PROTECTION & SOCIAL COHESION

Proportion of respondents who declared they feel safe:



Most common reasons why respondents reported feeling unsafe:¹⁻⁴⁻⁵



Dynamics of social cohesion reported by respondents:⁴



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Challenges to access legal entitlement reported by respondents:⁴

43 % of national respondents reported that obtaining official documents is difficult, while **36%²** of refugee respondents shared this opinion.

Among respondents who reported that obtaining official documents is difficult⁵, **76%** mentioned lengthy procedures as a major barrier, and **53%** reported that the process is costly.

Challenges to access justice reported by respondents:⁴

36 % of national respondents declared accessing justice is difficult, while **39%²** of refugee respondents shared this opinion.

Among respondents who reported that access to justice is difficult⁵, **59%** mentioned costly procedures as a major barrier, and **37%** reported that they fear going to court.

³ Households declaring they would prioritise expenses for accommodation if they benefited from an additional amount of 200,000 UGX. It is equivalent to 54 USD. www.xe.com, as of 16th July 2018.

⁴ These indicators reflect the respondents' perception rather than this of the household they belong to. For this reason, these indicators relate to the gender or status of respondents, rather than this of the head of household. Women and refugees include respectively 103 and 149 respondents.

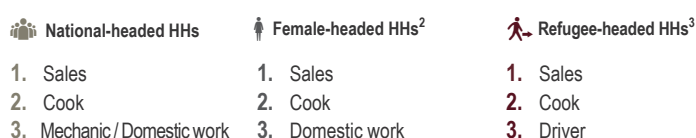
⁵ As the sample sizes for this indicator are small, results are indicative.

\$ INCOME

Half of households reported earning below the following amount per week, in UGX:¹



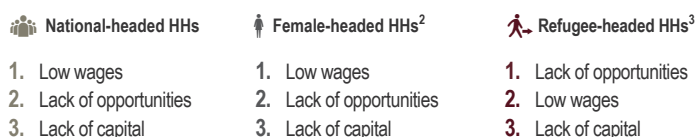
Most common sources of income reported by households:¹



Proportion of households which reported earning no income:¹



Most common barriers to work reported by households:



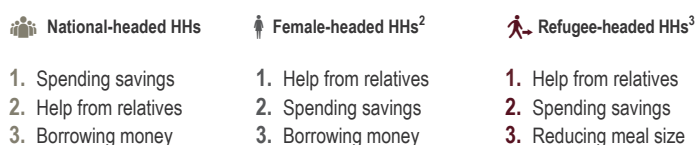
Proportion of households which reported they can not afford basic services:



Proportion of households which reported resorting to one or more coping strategies to mitigate against lack of income:

	Average number of coping strategies	Low use of coping strategies (1-2)	Medium use of coping strategies (3-4)	High use of coping strategies (5+)
National-headed HHs	1.9	60%	25%	3%
Female-headed HHs ²	2.3	59%	30%	5%
Refugee-headed HHs ³	2.4	56%	33%	7%

Most common coping strategies used by households:



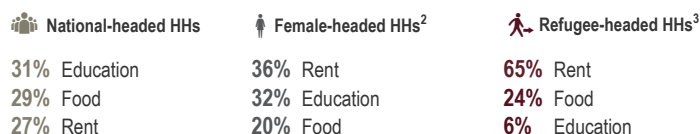
¹ In the month prior to the assessment

² Female-headed households represent 33% of the total random sample in Mengo, with 57 cases. Due to small sample size, these findings are indicative only.

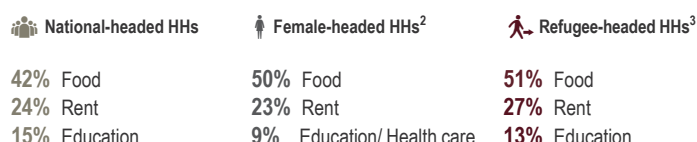
³ These findings are drawn from the snowballed refugee household survey. The use of this sampling methodology implies that findings are indicative only.

\$ EXPENDITURE

Proportion of households which reported the following expenses as their largest expenditure:



Proportion of households which reported the following expenses as their second largest expenditure:

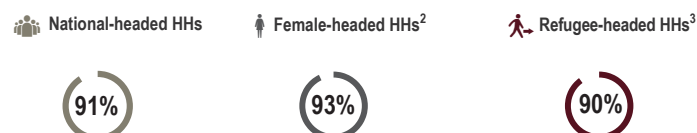


Specific considerations regarding refugee households:

FGDs with Somali refugees revealed that they feel they are charged more than nationals for basic expenses and to access services, being asked for example to pay higher rents than nationals or being frequently asked bribes for accessing assistance or services. Host communities shared similar information in FDGs. Both groups reported that Somali refugees are perceived as wealthier than Ugandans, which explains that refugees are charged more for basic services.

NGO ASSISTANCE

Proportion of households reporting a need for assistance:



Most common challenges faced by the community in Mengo reported by households:



Preferred modes of assistance reported by households:

Direct cash assistance and a combination of in-kind and cash assistance are the modes of support that were reported the most by households residing in Mengo. Respectively **67%** and **58%** of households mentioned these types of assistance among their preferred modes of assistance.⁴

Challenges for access to assistance reported by refugees:

Somali refugees who participated in FDGs reported that their community faces discrimination for access to assistance. According to them, their lack of capacity to speak the local language is a major obstacle to access assistance, and they reported refugee-aid initiatives target primarily refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

⁴ The total percentage exceeds 100% as respondents could give multiple answers to the question.