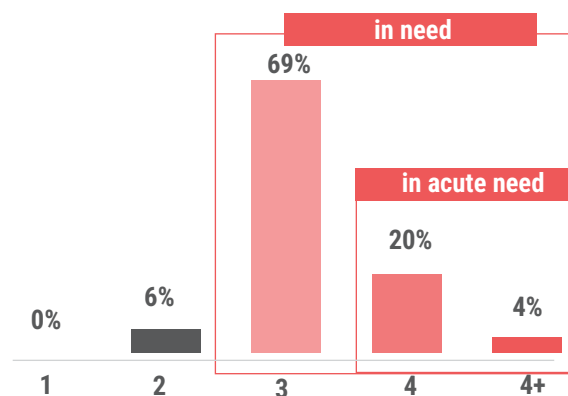


## REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

### HOW MANY REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS ARE IN NEED?

Percentage of refugee households in need, per severity phase<sup>1</sup>

**94%** of refugee households across Uganda were found to be in need (phase 3 and above), meaning they experienced a gap in at least one sector.



### OVERVIEW

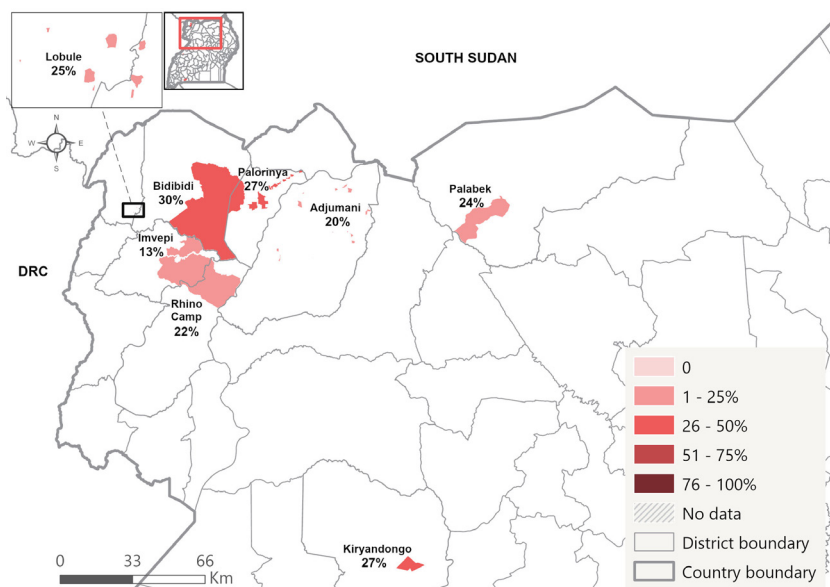
- Refugee households with a head of household aged 59+ (96%), and single-female-headed households (96%) showed the highest levels of need (phase 3 and above).
- The West Nile/North region showed the highest percentages of need for all refugee households at 98% compared to 92% in the Southwest.
- The Southwest region showed the highest percentages of refugee households in acute need at 28% compared to 24% in the West Nile/North.
- Shelter (70%), Food Security (46%) and Education (41%) were the sectors with the highest percentages of needs across all refugee settlements and Kampala.

*Note - For more details on the Multi-Sectoral Needs Index (MSNI) methodology, check out the methodology note [here](#). To see the MSNI bulletin for Host Communities in Uganda, please see [here](#). For more detailed findings, check out our other outputs [here](#).*

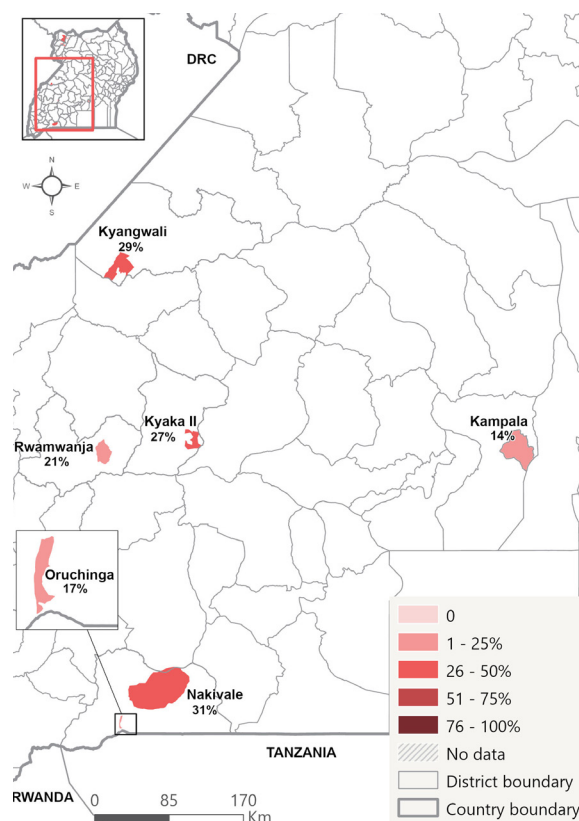
### WHERE ARE THE HOUSEHOLDS IN ACUTE NEED?

Percentage of refugee households in acute need, per geographical area

#### West Nile/North Uganda









#### Southwest Uganda



## WHAT ARE THE NEEDS?

Percentage of refugee households in need per sector

Sector	Overall
 Shelter	70%
 Food Security	46%
 Education	41%
 WASH	38%
 Health	38%
 Protection	10%

The largest group of refugee households (29%) are in need in **2** sectors. The most common combination of sectoral needs among all refugee households in need is **Shelter** and **Food Security** (7% of refugee households). This combination of sectoral needs is higher in the West Nile/North region at 9%, compared to 5% in the Southwest region.

## WHO IS IN NEED?

Percentage of refugee households in need per administrative area and severity phase<sup>1</sup>

	1	2	3	4	4+
Overall	0%	6%	69%	20%	4%
Southwest Region	0%	8%	64%	23%	5%
West Nile/North Region	0%	2%	74%	21%	3%
Kampala <sup>2</sup>	2%	25%	58%	8%	6%

Notable regional differences were observed in the proportion of refugee households in need: 98% in West Nile/North, 92% in the Southwest, and 72% in Kampala. While West Nile/North has the highest overall proportion of households requiring assistance, the Southwest stands out with 28% of refugee households classified as being in acute need, compared to 24% in the West Nile/North, and 14% in Kampala. The high level of acute needs in the Southwest compared to the West Nile/North could be attributed to the recent influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is likely to increase.<sup>3</sup>

## KEY SECTORAL DRIVERS OF NEED

Three sectors account for the highest proportion of refugee households in need: Shelter (70%), Food Security (46%), and Education (41%).

**1 Shelter** needs were tied to the type of housing with 68% of refugee households living in inadequate shelters, typically semi-permanent shelters with grass roofs and bricks. The proportion of refugee households in need was highest in the West Nile/North region (85%), compared to 57% in the Southwest.

**2** In terms of **Food Security**, 46% of refugee households were classified as having a consumption level of 3 or higher according to the Household Indicator Convergence Matrix (HICM). This figure was higher among refugee heads of household with disabilities, at 59%. The West Nile/North region had the highest overall levels, with 53% of households at a consumption phase level of 3 or higher, compared to 42% in the Southwest.

**3 Education** needs were related to children not having attended formal school at any time in the 2023-2024 school year, combined with education being disrupted due to protection-related reasons. While the proportion of refugee households in need was similar in the Southwest and West Nile/North regions, at 44% and 42% respectively, it was notably lower in Kampala, at 24%.

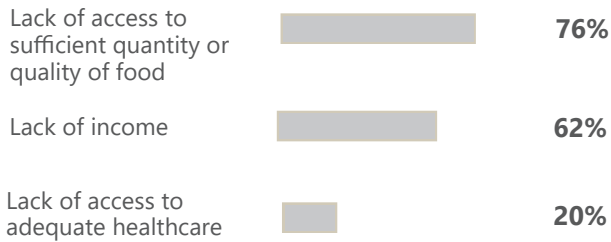
Percentage of refugee households in need by household characteristics and severity phase<sup>1</sup>

	1	2	3	4	4+
Overall	0%	6%	69%	20%	4%
HoH with disability*	0%	0%	59%	36%	5%
Single-female HoH*	0%	4%	65%	26%	4%
HoH aged 59+*	0%	4%	66%	26%	5%
Female HoH*	0%	4%	69%	23%	4%
Male HoH*	0%	10%	69%	16%	4%

Single-female-headed refugee households and refugee households with a head of household aged 59+ both show elevated levels of vulnerability at 96%, with 30% in acute need for both groups. Female-headed refugee households overall demonstrate a slightly lower proportion of acute need at 27%, while male-headed refugee households have the lowest levels of both overall need (89%) and acute need (20%) among the subgroups.

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

### Top-3 Self-reported challenges (multiple choice)



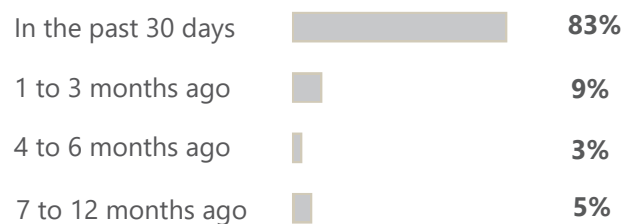
**62%** of refugee households had **received humanitarian assistance** in the 12 months preceding the assessment.

**50%** of **refugee households** receiving aid in the last 12 months reported feeling that aid agencies do **not** take community opinions into account when providing support.

### Top-3 Self-reported preferred humanitarian assistance (multiple choice)



### Last time refugee households received any aid, of those who reported receiving aid in the last 12 months prior to the survey:



Whereas the MSNI results indicated that Shelter and Food Security were the priority needs in Uganda, with 70% and 46% of refugee households classified as in need respectively for those sectors, refugee households' hierarchy of self-reported priority needs differed, with the most prominently reported need being Food Security, Livelihoods, and Health. The discrepancy regarding Shelter as the top MSNI priority may be explained by refugee households' normalization of their living conditions. Given that their neighbours likely share similar shelter types, these conditions may not be perceived as a significant challenge, despite their severity according to the MSNI. These are findings that should be carefully considered when planning humanitarian assistance.

### Refugee households per length of stay in their current location:



## METHODOLOGY

Quantitative data collection was conducted between July 26th and October 2nd, 2024. A total of 11,357 household surveys were completed across all 13 refugee settlements—Kyangwali, Adjumani, Imvepi, Palabek, Rhino Camp, Palorinya, Nakivale, Kyaka II, Kiryandongo, Oruchinga, Rwamwanja, Bidibidi, and Lobule—as well as four divisions within Kampala: Rubaga, Makindye, Central, and Kawempe. The surveys covered both the refugee and host communities. Stratified random sampling was used to sample both refugee and host community households in refugee settlements, refugee-hosting districts, and four divisions with high refugee concentrations in Kampala. This sampling approach was based on a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%, ensuring statistical representativeness across the two population groups and per location (refugee settlements, refugee-hosting districts, and urban divisions). Challenges in Lobule related to refugee mobility, driven by livelihoods constraints, hindered data collection efforts, resulting in a higher margin of error (5.5%) compared to other locations (5%).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### THE MSNA WAS CONDUCTED IN COORDINATION WITH:



### FUNDED BY:



### WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

The humanitarian community of Uganda, including the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector (WASH) working group, Food Security working group, Livelihoods and Resilience Working Group, Shelter working group, Accountability to Affected Populations working group, National Refugee Protection working group, Health and Nutrition working group, Education working group, Cash-based Intervention technical working group, Child Protection sub sector working group, Jesuit Refugee Service, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Refugee Law project, the World Food Programme, the Assessment Technical Working Group (ATWG), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Inter-Sectoral Working Group (ISWG), the Ministry of Water and Environment, Relon, and Charter 4 Change.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The different levels of severity can be broadly defined as follows:

- Severity level 1: Living standards are acceptable, at a maximum showing some signs of deterioration and/or inadequate access to basic services. No or minimal (risk of) impact on physical or mental well-being.
- Severity level 2: Living standards are under stress. Minimal (risk of) impact on physical or mental well-being or stressed physical or mental well-being overall.
- Severity level 3: Degrading living standards, with reduced access to/availability of basic goods and services. (Risk of) degrading physical or mental well-being.
- Severity level 4: Collapse of living standards. (Risk of) significant harm to physical or mental well-being.
- Severity level 4+: Indications of total collapse of living standards, with potentially immediately life-threatening outcomes (increased risk of mortality and/or irreversible harm to physical or mental well-being)

Further details can be found in the methodological note.

<sup>2</sup> While Kampala is not a region, it is treated as one in this analysis to provide meaningful geographical comparisons across Uganda.

<sup>3</sup> Comparing UNHCR Uganda Factsheet from [April 2024](#) to [October 2024](#) shows an increase in refugees coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) into the Southwest of Uganda.

\*These aggregations were conducted post-sampling and are therefore not statistically representative of the broader population.

**About REACH:** REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).