

Markets and livelihoods assessment - Lamwo, Uganda

February 2021

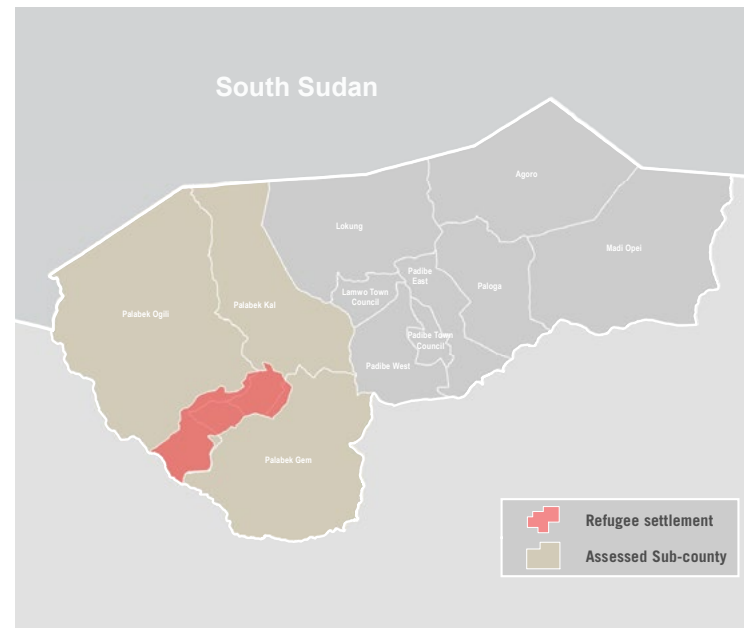


INTRODUCTION

Uganda currently hosts close to 1.47 million refugees¹, the largest refugee population in Africa. Most originate from South Sudan, but there are also significant populations from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and other countries in the region. **Despite Uganda's enabling policy towards refugees, which affords them the right to work, guarantees freedom of movement and allocates households (HHs) a plot of land on which they can grow crops to meet their needs or sell at the local market, in practice the majority of households remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.**² Given the protracted nature of their displacement, there is a growing recognition that challenges faced by refugees and the communities that host them cannot be met through a humanitarian lens alone.

In February 2021, REACH launched a rapid livelihood & markets assessment in the districts of Lamwo and Isingiro to identify which approaches and markets, agricultural and non-agricultural, provide viable opportunities for host and refugee households to compete in market systems and establish resilient and sustainable livelihoods. By providing up-to-date information on current barriers to inclusion into market systems, this situational overview seeks to inform partners and donors alike in their design of future programming in Lamwo. The findings for Isingiro district are detailed in a separate situational overview, which can be found [here](#).

Map 1. Lamwo district with Palabek settlement (red) and surrounding subcounties (yellow)



KEY FINDINGS

Household income



The majority (82%) of households in Lamwo reported not earning sufficient income to meet their basic needs. This proportion is only slightly higher among refugees (85%) compared to host community households (77%).

Agricultural livelihoods



Agriculture reportedly is the main source of livelihood for both refugee and host community households. Lack of access to land and low market prices are the main barriers preventing refugee households from increasing income / commercialization from these activities.

Collectivisation



There was a consensus among key informants (KIs) that efforts to collectivize farmers' produce in communal storage facilities would help improve market linkages, regulations and stabilize prices to the ultimate benefit of farmers, wholesalers and consumers.

Non-agricultural livelihoods



A large proportion of refugee households reportedly is either interested or currently engaged in non-agricultural livelihood activities. However, many assistance programmes currently seem focused on agriculture - suggesting there is room for an expansion of programming into other areas.

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METHODOLOGY

SAMPLING

To answer the research questions, REACH adopted a mixed-methods approach, conducting a household survey among both refugee and host community households complemented by semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs). A total of 476 structured interviews were conducted with refugee and host community heads of household (HoHs). Two hundred eleven refugee households were targeted using a simple random sampling (SRS) approach whereby GPS points were randomly distributed over the settlement area. Host community households were sampled using a single-stage cluster sampling approach. Cluster points were generated and distributed randomly across the sub-counties containing Palabek settlement. Six interviews were conducted at each of the cluster points for a total of 265 interviews. The sample provides findings significant at a 95% confidence level with a 7% margin of error for each population group, and this margin of error decreases to 5% with findings pertaining to the combined sample. Data was collected over two weeks, from 15 February – 1 March 2021.

Findings from the household survey were contextualised by data from semi-structured interviews. Key informants were divided into three groups: humanitarian and development assistance workers, local government officials, and civil society leaders. A total of 16 KIIs were conducted.

Type of key informant	Number of interviews
Humanitarian & development workers	5
Local government officials	6
Civil society leaders	5
Total	16

LIMITATIONS

- The findings presented here are only representative of refugees living in the settlement and the host community living in the sub-counties containing the settlement. They cannot be extrapolated to the district as a whole.
- Questions that are only relevant to a part of the population (e.g. beneficiaries' experience with previous livelihood programmes were only asked to those respondents) will have a lower level of confidence and wider margin of error.
- Many households may have experienced a loss of income and/or livelihood activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related government restriction policies. This should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings.
- Respondent bias (social desirability bias) is likely to have influenced the responses to some questions. Heads of households might have felt pressure to give answers that are socially acceptable.
- For host community data, the exact population size per cluster could not be obtained. Therefore, cluster points were generated at random across sub-counties. This approach is likely to bias the results in favour of rural settings, since these households have a more than random chance of being selected in relation to their population size within the sub-county.

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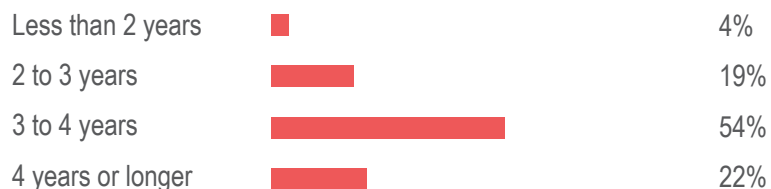
BACKGROUND

Lamwo is a district located in the far north of Uganda. It borders South Sudan to the north, Kitgum district to the east and southeast, Pader district to the south, and Gulu and Amuru districts to the west and southwest. It currently hosts approximately 54,523 refugees, most of whom live in Palabek settlement. The vast majority of these originate from South Sudan, with a small minority of Sudanese refugees as well. The district has a total host population of 143,800, of which approximately 41,900 live in the immediate vicinity of the settlement. Lamwo spans about 2,200 square miles, is sparsely populated and consists of 90% arable land, according to government sources.³ The region has a hot climate with two rainy seasons from March to June and from August to November. It should be noted that this assessment was carried out during the dry season, which could influence the responses to questions pertaining to market accessibility, as roads tend to be in relatively good shape during these months as compared to during the rainy season. Some livelihood activities are also mainly performed during the dry season, such as charcoal burning and bricklaying.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The vast majority of refugee households in Palabek settlement are displaced as a consequence of the South Sudanese Civil War. Starting near the end of December 2013, it spiralled into a protracted conflict leading to intense fighting and a mass famine that ravaged the countryside in 2017. An estimated 2.5 million refugees fled to neighbouring countries, mainly Uganda and Sudan.⁴ As a result, most refugee households in Palabek reported having arrived there three to four years ago (see figure 1).

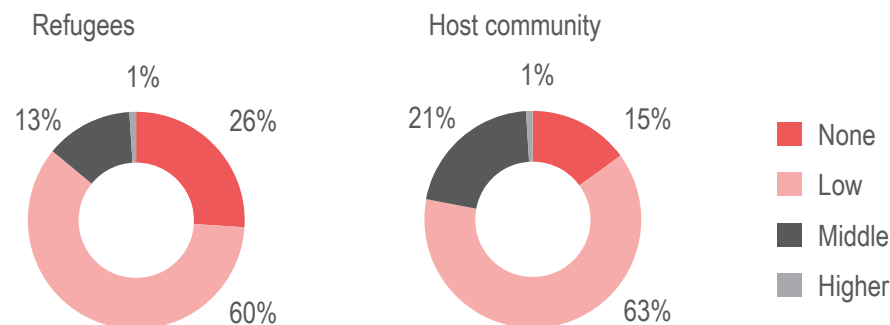
Figure 1. % of refugee HHs by reported years of displacement



The average household size in Lamwo was found to be seven, with no significant difference between the size of refugee and host community households. Two out of every three respondents in the sample were female, which was again roughly equal among refugee and host community households. It should be noted that in most cases this does not mean the household is headed by a single female. The majority of respondents (69%) reported to be married and most households included an adult male alongside the respondent.

Refugee HoHs seem to have received less formal education compared to host community HoHs. In particular, the proportion of respondents who reported having received no formal education at all is much larger among refugee households. This is likely due to a combination of the generally lower level of education attained in their home country as well as the education being interrupted as a consequence of displacement.⁵ However, the vast majority in both groups, 86% among refugee HoHs and 78% among host community HoHs, reported not completing secondary school. Figure 2 illustrates the differences between the two groups.⁶

Figure 2. % of HoHs by reported highest level of education reached



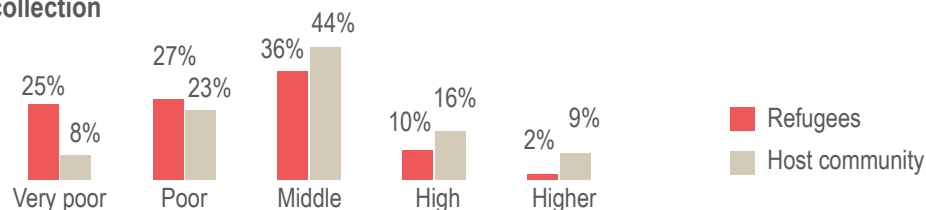
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A similar trend can be observed when looking at household income. Respondents were asked to report their household's average monthly income over the six months prior to data collection. The graph below shows **refugee households are more likely to fall into the very poor and poor categories.**⁷ Over one in four refugee households fall into the very poor category, indicating a combined household income between 0 and 50,000 Ugandan Schillings (UGX), compared to one in ten among host community households.

Figure 3. % of HHs by reported average income category over the 6 months prior to data collection



A large majority of households (82% overall) reported not having sufficient income to meet the basic needs of their household. This proportion was higher among refugee households (85%) than among host community households (77%). Basic needs were defined as all expenditures necessary for the well-being of all members of the household, including costs such as inter alia food, water, education, and healthcare (see figure 4).

Figure 4. % of HHs reporting insufficient household income to meet basic needs over the 6 months prior to data collection



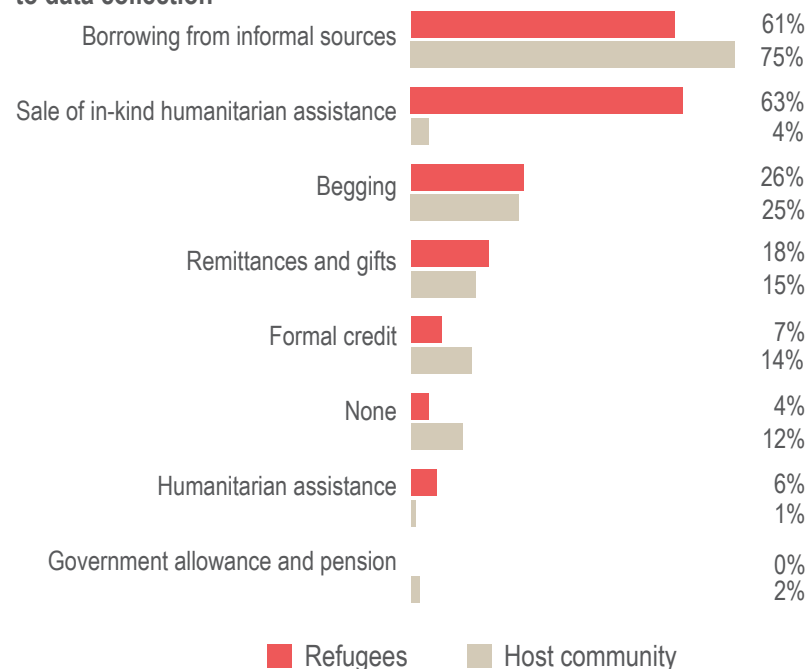
Households in Lamwo employed a range of coping mechanisms to deal with their lack of income over the six months prior to data collection. Data shows these differ significantly between host and refugee households. A majority, over 60% in both groups, reported borrowing from informal sources to get by. Refugee households, furthermore, frequently reported the sale of in-kind assistance as a means of acquiring cash. Importantly, a significant proportion in both groups,

over 20%, also reported begging for cash. Graph 5 below shows the differences between host and refugee households in terms the coping mechanisms used. A larger proportion of host community households reported borrowing from informal sources when compared to refugees, which might be the result of their extended social support networks. Furthermore, host community households are also more likely to report accessing credit via formal institutions. Key informants explained these services are hard or impossible to access for refugees as many institutions do not accept refugee cards as a form of identification.

"The banks and financial institutions should also begin recognizing the refugee cards [as a valid form of ID] because right now they do not allow us to use mobile banking."

- Representative of farmers' collective

Figure 5. % of HHs by coping mechanisms reportedly employed over the 6 months prior to data collection⁸



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Lastly, the number of members per household earning an income was assessed. Having multiple adult members earning an income can increase resilience as the loss of income in one area, for example due to a crop failing, can be cushioned by the income generated through the livelihood activities of other members. Overall, a **larger proportion of host community households (64%) reported having two or more members earning an income**. Among refugee households, this proportion is 48%. Importantly, refugee households who have been displaced for a longer period of time are more likely to have multiple members earning an income – indicating that refugee households are able to settle in an area and increase their livelihood activities, possibly by building and extending their network, as time passes.

Figure 6. % of HHs who reported two or more members currently earning an income



Figure 7. % of refugee HHs by reported number of members currently earning an income and years since displacement



■ One or 0 earning members
 ■ Two or more earning members

LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Lamwo's largely rural geography means households often live far from urban areas and are more confined to agricultural livelihood activities than those living in more densely populated areas. Despite Uganda's enabling policy towards refugees, key informants explained that the plot of land afforded to refugees, 30 by 30 meters including their shelter, is often insufficient to produce crops on a scale that could sustain the household. Moreover, there remain significant obstacles towards refugees acquiring access to more land since formal ownership is often prohibited and refugee households lack the means to hire.⁹ If we group and divide main livelihood activities according to agricultural versus non-agricultural activities, we find the proportion of households that considers an agricultural activity as their main livelihood is much larger among host community when compared to refugee households. The below graph shows this proportion to be over 90% among host community households versus 55% among refugee households (figure 8).

Figure 8. % of HHs reporting an agricultural activity as their main source of livelihood over the 6 months prior to data collection



Agricultural livelihood activities in this survey included farming for subsistence on one's own land, cash cropping on one's own land, livestock, forestry, paid agricultural labour on the land of others, and subsistence farming on hired land. The largest proportions of refugee households reported either farming for subsistence on hired land or performing paid agricultural labour on the land of others. Only a small proportion (4%) reported farming on their own land as their main livelihood activity. This does not mean only 4% used the land allocated to them for farming, but rather that most households did not consider this to be their main livelihood activity – likely due to its limited size and revenue that could be generated from it. By contrast, 79% of host community households reported farming on their own land as their main livelihood activity.

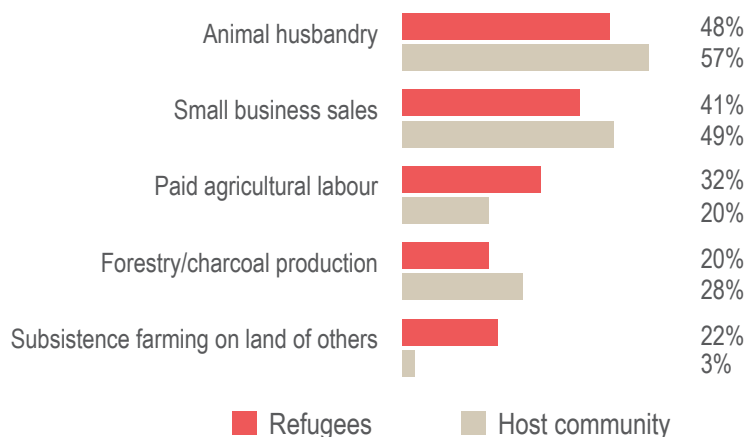
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The most commonly reported non-agricultural activities, in particular among refugee households, included small business activities (34%) and crafts (4%). According to enumerator's first-hand observation, small business activities often consist of market vending and petty business such as selling silverfish, tomatoes and other vegetables. Only a fraction of host community households considered this to be their main livelihood. However, since many households combine different activities, respondents were also asked to report any additional livelihood activities members are engaged in.

Figure 9. % of HHs by most commonly reported secondary livelihood activities¹⁰

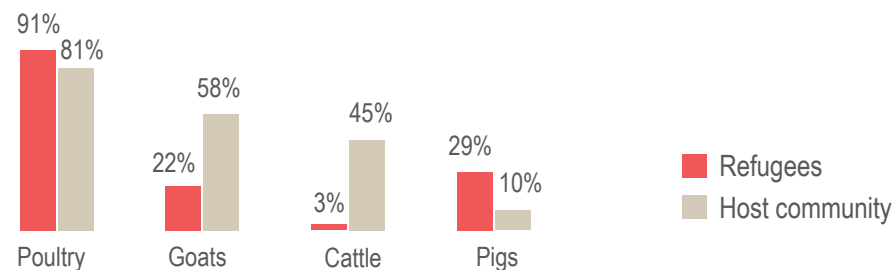


While respondents were able to select multiple response options, four out of the five most commonly reported secondary livelihood activities were agricultural. Animal husbandry is most often reported by both refugee and host community households. It should be noted that the definition of livestock activity here includes small-scale animal-keeping, which may involve only one or several animals such as chickens or a goat. Small business sales, as discussed earlier, were also very commonly reported among both groups. Forestry in most cases involved charcoal burning, a typical dry-season activity in the area performed by both refugee and host community households. There were some differences between host and refugee households as well, with refugee households more often reporting working on the land of others either for subsistence or pay.

Agriculture remains a key source of livelihood for most households. Over 90% of host community households and 73% of refugee households reported growing crops during the previous agricultural season. Among refugee households, 38% reported doing so for subsistence rather than income, while among the host community, only 15% of households reported this. Key informants also explained that, due to the disparity in access to land, there are notable differences in the types of crops grown by both groups. While refugee households mainly grow vegetables which mature fast and can be sold in the short term at the market, host community farmers are often engaged in growing perennial cash crops such as cotton, simsim, cassava and tobacco. The in general higher perishability of produce grown by refugee households further inhibits their ability to scale up as they frequently lack access to adequate storage facilities and have to sell produce before it spoils.

Similar trends are observed for the keeping of livestock. While both refugee and host community households frequently reported keeping animals – 86% among host community versus 65% of refugee households – the types of animals differ. Animals which do not require land to graze, such as chickens or pigs, are reportedly kept more often by refugee households, while cattle, sheep and goats are mostly kept by host community households. It should be noted that of the households that reported keeping livestock, nearly 60% reported keeping more than one type of animal. This proportion was notably higher among host community households (52%) compared to refugee households (32%). Aside from animals constituting an important capital asset for a household, keeping more than one type of animal can increase resilience as it protects the household from the impact of losing animals through livestock diseases or otherwise.

Figure 10. % of animal-keeping HHs by reported type of animals kept¹¹



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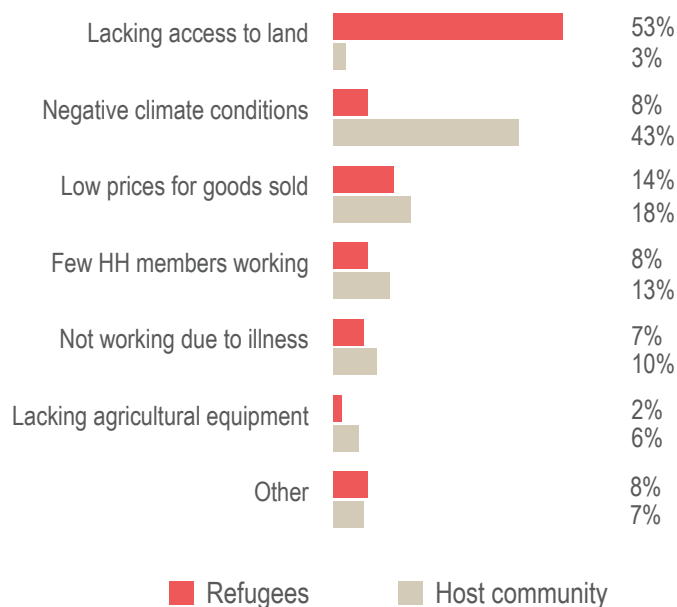
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LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES

Both refugee and host community households reportedly face a number of challenges in their access to resilient and sustainable livelihoods. Key informants reported that Lamwo district suffered severe rains last year, resulting in flooding and spoilage of large portions of the harvest. This explains why the majority of host community households cited negative climate conditions as the main reason for their households' lack of income to meet basic needs. Importantly, however, this was not the same for refugee households, who reported a lack of access to land as the primary reason. It follows that when a refugee household only has access to its land allocated by the government, and this land is in itself insufficient to sustain the needs of the household, other obstacles such as climate conditions, low prices, or a lack of equipment become challenges of secondary nature.

Figure 11. % of HHs by main reported reason for not earning sufficient income over the 6 months prior to data collection



Households who reported growing crops reported similar challenges to increasing the yield and/or commercialization of agricultural activity. Aside from the larger issues such as climate and access to land, low market prices for produce were consistently reported as the third greatest barrier to increasing household income, and the primary challenge for households that reported engaging in trade in the marketplace.

Figure 12. % of HHs growing crops by most commonly reported challenges to increasing income from agriculture over the six months prior to data collection

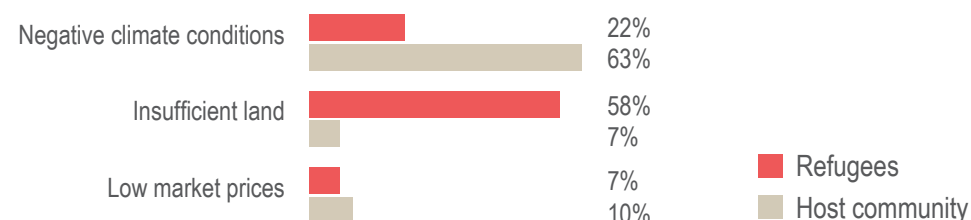
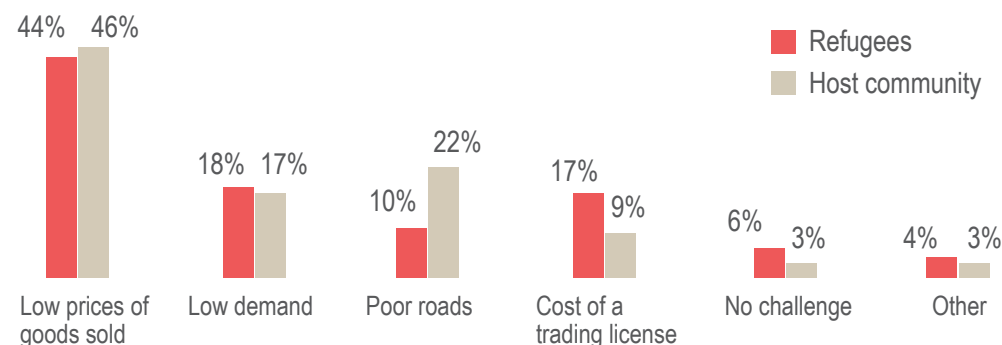


Figure 13. % of HHs engaged in trading at the marketplace by most commonly reported challenges



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Key informants, including local government officials, humanitarian and development workers, and civil society representatives, also frequently raised the issue of low prices for produce. They explained that, because refugees lack access to land to cultivate on a larger scale, they often lack linkages to markets and wholesalers and, as a result, are dependent on wholesalers visiting them at their homes in the settlement. This reportedly impacts the farmers' bargaining power, as most produce consists of perishables which may get spoiled shortly after harvest. Farmers felt under pressure to accept unfairly low prices and said that this discourages them from investing in or expanding their agricultural activities. Multiple key informants reported a lack of regulation as a key issue in the market; some cited examples of middle men bringing rigged scales into the settlement, while others mentioned adulteration of produce by the farmers themselves when selling to wholesalers – in the form of adding sand or water – as a problem.

“One significant challenge is the low prices of the produce and cheating by the middle men, most times these people come to the various homes with a very low price for a particular product and do not give the farmers any chance of bargaining.”

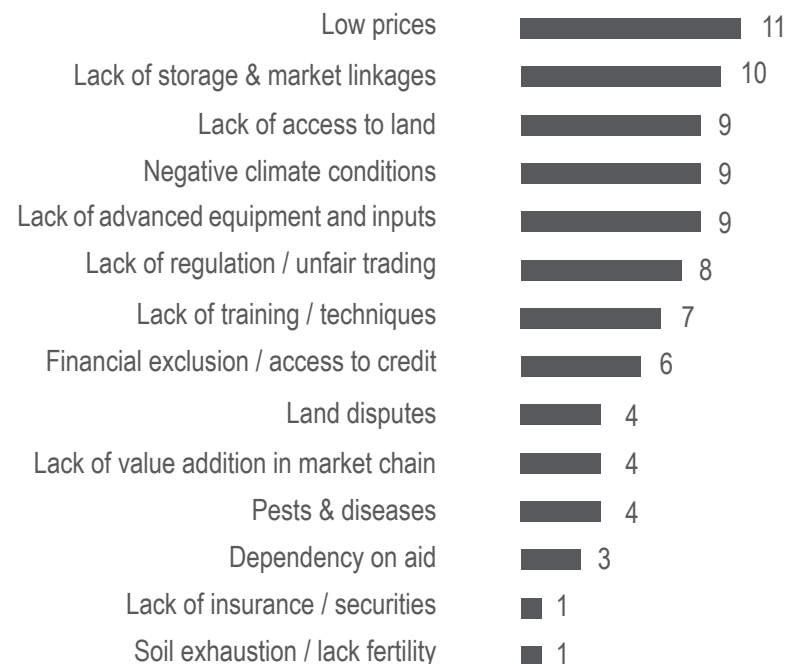
- Representative of a farmers' collective

Figure 14 on the right illustrates the number of key informants who mentioned specific challenges faced by farmers trying to increase income from their activities. **Key informants expressed the view that if farmers were better able to collectivise their produce and band together to use communal storage facilities, it would be easier to connect wholesalers with farmers, regulate trading, and provide farmers with up-front and up-to-date information on market prices.** According to key informants, this would increase farmers' confidence in their ability to fetch prices that make their efforts worthwhile. In turn, this can form the basis for increasing yield and commercialization as farmers might be more willing to take a risk on hiring land or procuring the necessary inputs.

“One challenge is the current inadequate market, that is a lack of storage facilities and low prices farmers get from middle-men. Farmers are often manipulated by the middle men and are paid less for their product. The unit price is very low and below the cost of unit production; thus, most farmers do not break even on their investment.”

- Local livelihoods non-governmental organisation (NGO) worker

Figure 14. Number of KIs mentioning challenges for farmers (n = 16)



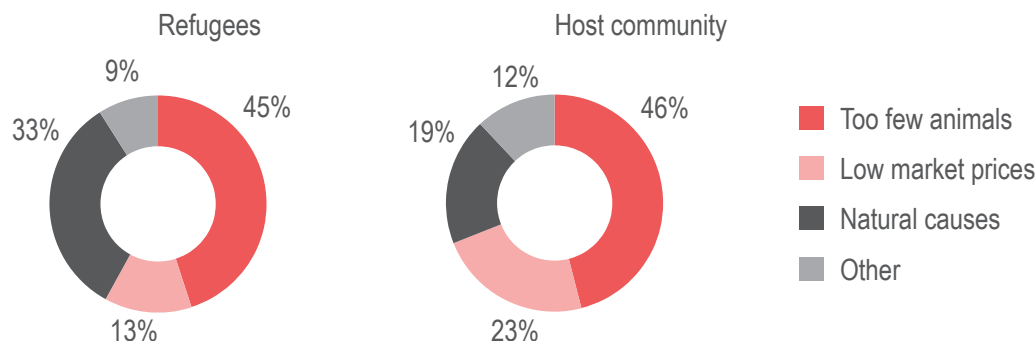
When asked about challenges in increasing income from animal husbandry, households in both groups reported the same top three challenges. Nearly half of the households that are currently keeping animals reported their main reason for not earning sufficient income was not having enough of them. The proportion of households citing insufficient income from animal husbandry due to natural causes such as diseases or droughts was much larger among refugee households, indicating that refugee households are more severely impacted by these events, often due to challenges in accessing veterinarian services.

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Figure 15. % of animal-rearing HHs by reasons reported for not earning sufficient income



"The high costs of veterinary medicines and inaccessibility of these services are problematic for farmers. There are no artificial insemination services in the community, which leads to the death of many animals [artificial insemination (AI) is a powerful tool to increase conception rates while preventing injury and limiting the spread of certain diseases and sterility due to genital diseases]."

- Local government official

NON-AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES

Although over 90% of host community households considered an agricultural activity to be their main source of livelihood, a significant proportion of refugee households (44%) reported a non-agricultural activity as their main livelihood. In fact, many key informants expressed that, due to the lack of access to land among refugees, there was a perception that more gains could be made by focusing on non-agricultural activities.

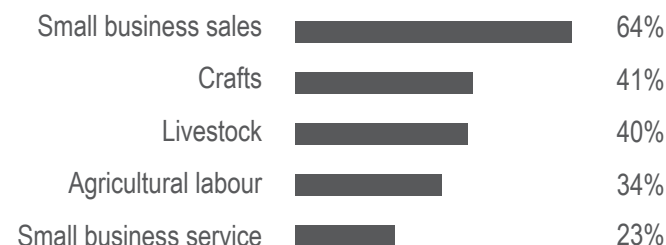
Common non-agricultural activities in the area as reported by key informants were petty businesses selling convenience goods, stone and sand mining, brick-laying (in the dry season), and *boda* driving.¹² More skilled labour such as carpentry, hairdressing, motorcycle mechanics, welding and construction were also frequently cited. Most key informants felt these activities were the same for both the refugee and host communities, with refugee households more likely to engage in

them. It should be noted that of these, only small business sales was frequently reported (23% overall) as a main livelihood strategy in the household survey. This could mean that either these activities are not performed as frequently as perceived by key informants, or that households do not earn a sufficiently large enough income from these activities to report them as their main source of livelihood. Furthermore, household data shows a notable disparity between male and female refugee respondents, whereby 40% of female respondents reported small business sales as the main livelihood activity versus 18% of male respondents.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In the household survey, respondents were asked how many members were currently not earning an income but could work if given the chance. **Nearly all households (93%) in both groups reported having one or more members currently seeking work.** When asked what type of work they preferred to look for, both refugee and host community households most often reported small shops, crafts, livestock husbandry, agricultural labour, and small service businesses such as salons, tailors or restaurants.

Figure 16. % of underemployed HHs by reported type of work sought¹³



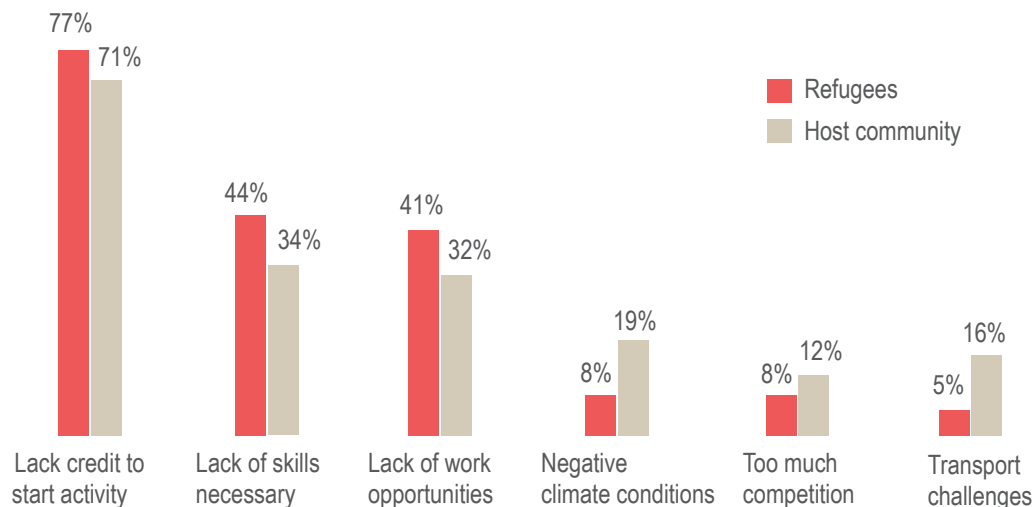
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Lack of credit, inadequate skills and few work opportunities were the most commonly reported challenges in finding a job by households who reported having members seeking work. Among the host community, negative climate conditions were also reported as a challenge by one in five households where members were reportedly seeking work – indicating this is a significant challenge, as this applies mainly to agricultural labour which provides employment for 90% of host community households. Importantly, refugee households were more likely to cite transport challenges as an obstacle for employment. This is likely the result of living in a more rural setting and having little access to means of transportation in a context where work opportunities are often found at longer distances from the home. In Palabek settlement in particular, poor roads and long distance to the nearest town Kitgum have long challenged refugee households.¹⁴

Figure 17. % of underemployed HHs by most commonly reported challenges to finding preferred work¹⁵



TYPE OF SUPPORT NEEDED TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

The household survey also assessed the type of support households see as most useful in a) finding a job in their preferred sector, and b) for increasing income or yield from agricultural activities such as crop cultivation or animal husbandry. For household where members were reportedly seeking work, the types of support most commonly reported can help address some of the challenges reported earlier in figure 17.

Figure 18. % of underemployed HHs by most commonly reported type of support to find work

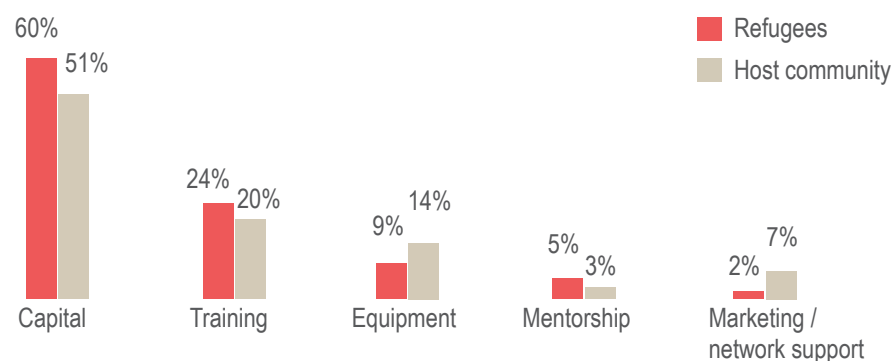


Figure 18 shows capital was most often reported as the most useful type of support in finding work. Sixty percent of refugee households whose members were seeking work and 51% of host community households reported this. This is likely because capital is a cross-cutting resource that supports all activities previously reported as preferred types of work. Household members who wish to start a small business, sell crafts, procure livestock or start a small service business often reported they lacked capital to initiate the activity. They might need to purchase stock, material or inputs including agricultural inputs such as seeds, animal feed or animals themselves. The slightly higher proportion of refugee households reporting the need for capital may be explained by the host community's access to capital from formal institutions or their ability to borrow from informal sources. Furthermore, refugee households are more likely to report wanting to start small businesses which may require starting capital.

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Roughly one in four households also reported training as the most useful type of support. Among households with members currently seeking work, almost one-quarter of refugees and one in five host community households reported needing training. This matches with the second-most often reported challenge in finding work: a lack of necessary skills. A lack of training can be a particular barrier to households wishing to engage in certain forms of skilled labour such as carpentry, mechanics, welding, but also agricultural activities such as cultivating specific crops or more effective rearing of animals. Importantly, however, key informants raised several examples of trainings conducted without leading to a positive outcome such as sustainable employment or enhanced income, in particular when few post-training efforts are made to link graduates with markets for their goods.

“Partners should always link the refugees or the people they have trained to the supplier. For example, the partners can train the community on liquid soap making, provide all the materials for the first round of the practice, and after that leave the groups without any connection to where the materials are bought for the business, which ends up failing. Then they blame the community, yet it is their fault for not linking the community to the supplier.”

- Local community leader

Lastly, equipment involves tools necessary to engage in certain crafts such as carpentry or mechanics. The fact that fewer than one in ten refugee households cited this as the most useful type of support indicates other challenges such as a lack of training constitute a primary barrier for many. Equipment can also include agricultural inputs such as hoes, spades, ploughs etc. for those seeking to engage more in agricultural activity.

For households interested or already engaged in crop cultivation and livestock rearing, the survey asked them what would be the most useful type of support for increasing income and/or yield from those activities. These results are displayed in graphs 19 and 20 on the right.

Figure 19. % of HHs by most commonly reported useful type of support for growing crops

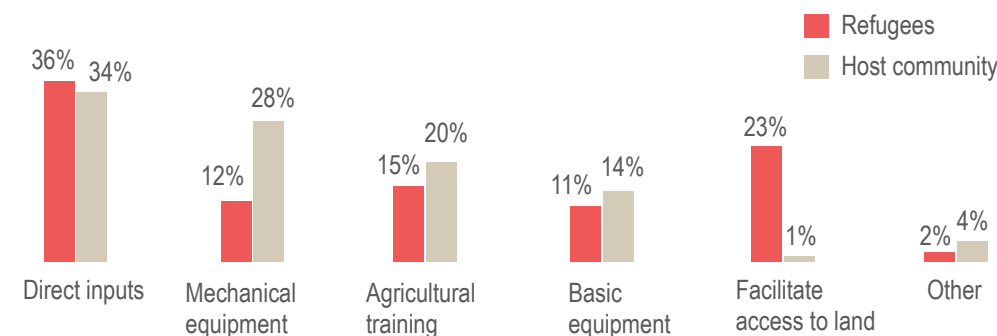
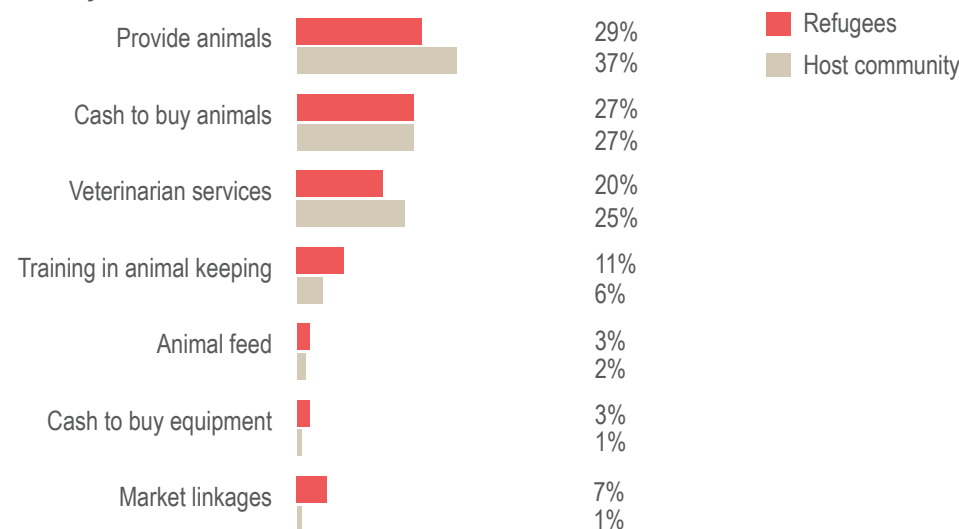


Figure 20. % of HHs by most commonly reported useful type of support for animal husbandry



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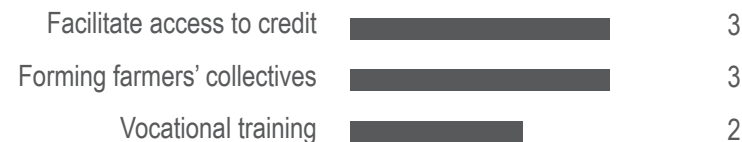
The provision of direct inputs, such as quality seeds and fertilizer, was seen by the largest proportion of both refugee and host community households as the most useful type of support to enhance crop production. There was some difference in response between refugees and the host community households; since the latter tend to have access to larger tracts of land, they are more likely to request mechanized support such as tractors, but also oxen and ploughs, to cultivate their land. Training on agricultural techniques was frequently selected by both population groups, and key informants who represented farmers' collectives also raised this as an important type of support. In particular, techniques as line-planting and inter-cropping short-term with long-term crops were mentioned as useful techniques.¹⁶ Facilitating access to more land is also reportedly seen as key, particularly among refugees. Key informants suggested this could be done by forming mixed farmers' collectives that bring together host and refugee farmers which provide refugees with the means to hire land, or by otherwise incentivizing host community households to rent out their land to be cultivated by refugees. In this arrangement refugees may, for example, have access to better-quality seeds through assistance programmes, which could benefit the host farmers too.

"They should educate people on the aspect of inter-cropping long-term crops with short-term crops so in case one fails the other can maintain the farmers."

- Representative of farmers' collective

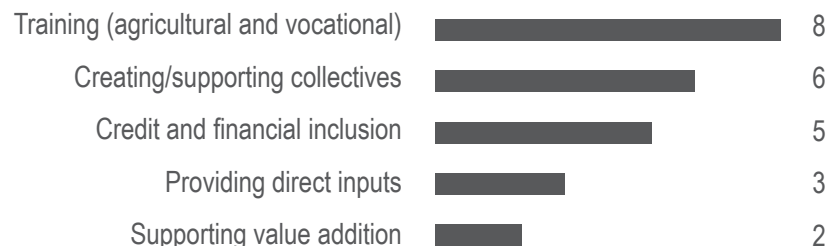
For increasing income from livestock, it should be noted most households currently engage in animal husbandry on a small scale. Therefore, the provision of more animals or cash to buy animals was most often selected as the most useful type of support. The type of animals, however, can be relevant since refugee households who do not have access to land for grazing may not be able to maintain cattle or goats on a larger scale. For them, key informants suggested, animals such as poultry and pigs may be more useful. Representatives of farmers' collectives and the refugee welfare council suggested similar types of support as those reported in the household survey.

Figure 21. # of KIs from the civil society (n = 5) reporting the types of support most useful for supporting agriculture and animal husbandry



Other key informants, such as those working to strengthen livelihoods in Lamwo as part of the local government or humanitarian and development organisations, were asked to describe the programmes they were currently implementing and the challenges they faced. The types of programmes currently being implemented in Lamwo seem to match broadly with the needs and preferences reported in the household survey. Qualitative data shows that organizations are already working to form farmers' collectives, provide loans, and conduct trainings on new agricultural techniques. Vocational training as well as training in agricultural techniques were mentioned by eight out of eleven key informants as a type of support programme currently being implemented. Forming farmers' collectives and supporting them with inputs, training or storage facilities were also mentioned by six out of eleven key informants. Finally, five key informants also described programmes that provide credit and seek to improve financial inclusion through financial literacy trainings.

Figure 22. # of KIs (n = 11) reporting the type of livelihood programmes implemented in Lamwo



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Importantly, however, **key informants explained that one of the biggest challenges was ensuring buy-in and participation from farmers.** Particularly when introducing modern farming methods that run counter to traditional methods, key informants explained that techniques are not always adopted after demonstration, inputs and equipment are often sold for immediate cash, and machines supplied for value addition, such as those removing husks from rice, fall out of use due to a lack of maintenance. **The necessary follow-up by extension workers (those who implement trainings and visit beneficiaries in the settlement) providing those inputs and running the demonstrations is often not possible due to a lack of funding and understaffing.** Eight out of eleven key informants mentioned the lack of coverage of extension services as a main challenge. These services reportedly tend to be underfunded, and extension workers often lack the fuel and means of transport necessary to ensure a comprehensive coverage of their area. Importantly however, despite many refugee households expressing an interest in non-agricultural livelihood activities, the majority of organizations appear to be focused mainly on supporting agriculture. Most of the programmes described by KIs were focused on agriculture. One notable exception to this is Don Bosco, a technical institute that provides a wide range of vocational trainings in Lamwo. Nonetheless, based on the information provided by KIs, more organisations that seek to support non-agricultural livelihood activities for refugees may be needed to respond to the needs and preferences of refugees.

CONCLUSION

This assessment sought to investigate the humanitarian-development nexus to identify which approaches and markets, agricultural and non-agricultural, provide viable opportunities for host and refugee households to engage competitively with market systems and establish resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

The findings indicate that the majority of households in Lamwo (82%) do not earn sufficient income to meet their basic needs. Among refugee households, this proportion is even higher, with 85% reporting they did not earn sufficient income over the six months prior to data collection to meet their basic needs. The majority of both host and refugee households reported they rely on agriculture as their main source of livelihood. However, the lack of access to land in particular among refugees remains a primary challenge for increasing income or commercialization from this activity. Both host community and refugee households reported a lack of market linkages and low prices for produce as other key challenges. There was a consensus among key informants that efforts to collectivize farmers' produce in communal storage facilities could help improve market linkages to wholesalers, better regulate trading, and help stabilize prices to the ultimate benefit of farmers, wholesalers and consumers.

Finally, partially due to the lack of access to land, a significant proportion of refugee households is interested or is already engaged in non-agricultural livelihood activities. Although they would benefit from support to initiate or expand these activities, much of the assistance programmes described by key informants are currently focused on agriculture – suggesting there is a scope for pivoting or expanding programmes in other directions to align more with beneficiary preferences.

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NOTES

1. 1,462,164 individuals as of 24 March 2021, according to [figures published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\) and the Government of Uganda](#).
2. [Uganda's refugee policies: The history, the politics, the way forward](#). The International Refugee Rights Initiative (2018).
3. [Lamwo District Investment Profile](#). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & Uganda Investment Authority (2019). Last accessed on: 24/03/2021.
4. [South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda now exceed 1 million](#). UNHCR (2017).
5. [Education budget brief South Sudan](#). United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2020).
6. Respondents were asked to report the highest form of education they had reached. Low = incomplete primary, complete primary, or incomplete secondary school. Middle = completed secondary, completed or incomplete vocational training, incomplete university, incomplete professional degree. Higher = completed university or completed professional degree. The chi-squared test returned a result of $< .05$, indicating that the distribution differences between host and refugee household respondents are not due to randomness in the sample and can be extrapolated to the population with a 95% confidence level and 7% margin of error.
7. Households were asked to report their average monthly income over the six months prior to data collection. To ease response and analysis, a total of seven income categories were defined based on the distribution of household income data previously collected as part of the Vulnerability and Essential Needs Analysis (VENA). These income categories included 0 – 20,000 UGX, 20,001 – 50,000 UGX, 50,001 – 100,000, 100,001 – 300,000, 300,001 – 500,000, 500,001 – 1,000,000, and above. The bottom two were then recoded as very poor, 50,001 – 100,000 UGX was classified as poor, 100,000 – 500,000 UGX as middle, 500,001 to 1,000,000 UGX as high and above as higher.
8. Respondents could select multiple options. Percentages might not add up to 100%.
9. [Owned Spaces and Shared Places: Refugee Access to Livelihood and Housing, Land, and Property in Uganda](#). REACH (2019).
10. Respondents could select multiple options. Percentages might not add up to 100%.
11. Respondents could select multiple options. Percentages might not add up to 100%.
12. In East Africa, the term boda refers to a motorcycle or bicycle taxi.

13. Question asked only to refugee and host community households who reported having one or more members seeking work (n = 403). Respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may not add up to 100%.

14. [Uganda refugee response monitoring: Settlement Fact Sheet: Palabek](#). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2018).

15. Respondents could select multiple options. Percentages might not add up to 100%. (n = 403)

16. Line-planting is a technique for growing seeds in a straight line particularly useful for crops such as corn, squash or certain vegetables which grow better in single rows as their long vines or roots need space to crawl. Inter-cropping is the cultivation of two or more crops simultaneously on the same field to maximise utility of resources available on the land.

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).