

NEW ARRIVALS

Table 1: Reported number of new refugee arrivals from settlements in Uganda, in the two weeks prior to data collection, by number of KIs

District	Location	No new arrivals	100 or less new arrivals	Between 100-200 new arrivals	Between 200-500 new arrivals	Between 500-1000 new arrivals	More than 1000 new arrivals	Total
Adjumani	Adjumani Town	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
Arua	Arua City	4	3	1	2	0	0	10
Gulu	Gulu City	2	3	1	0	0	0	6
Hoima	Hoima City	0	7	2	0	0	0	9
Kabarole	Fort Portal City	2	6	0	0	0	0	8
Kiryandongo	Kiryandongo Town	0	4	1	0	0	0	5
Kitgum	Kitgum Municipality	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Koboko	Koboko Municipality	1	4	0	0	0	0	5
Mbarara	Mbarara City	1	4	0	0	0	0	5
Moyo	Moyo Town	1	3	0	0	1	0	5
Mubende	Mubende Municipality	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Yumbe	Yumbe Town	0	3	2	0	0	0	5
Total		14	44	8	3	2	0	71

The majority of KIs reported that they had noticed newly arrived refugees from the settlements in their urban location in the two weeks prior to data collection (57). **Most KIs noted they had observed between 0 and 100 new arrivals** in their location (44), indicating that movement has been relatively limited. In most locations, there is some degree of consensus between the KIs, for example in Kitgum, Hoima, and Mbarara. However, some locations are showing somewhat conflicting data, particularly in Moyo and Arua. A comprehensive assessment would have to be done to verify the real migration flows.

REASONS FOR MOVEMENT

All KIs who reported an influx of refugees from the settlements were asked what reasons were driving this movement. KIs were able to give multiple reasons. **The majority of KIs reported that both employment opportunities and changes in the GFA were driving the movement to urban centres.**

In all locations, movement of refugees from the settlements already occurred prior to the GFA changes. This is also reflected in the reasons for movement reported by the KIs, which include access to services and livelihoods. The pre-existing movement makes it **hard to know to what extent the movement observed in the two weeks prior to data collection was driven by GFA changes**, and to what extent other drivers played a role.

Graph 1: Most commonly reported reasons for refugee movement to urban centres, by number of KIs



NEEDS UPON ARRIVAL

Graph 2: Most commonly reported urgent needs of newly arrived refugees in urban centres, by number of KIs



The 57 KIs who reported influxes of refugees in their location were additionally asked if newly arrived refugees had any immediate needs. Overall, **47 KIs reported that newly arrived refugees in their location had urgent needs**. In terms of the kinds of needs that newly arrived refugees were reported to have, the most commonly reported were food, shelter, and medical care.

In terms of shelter, 49 out of 57 KIs noted that **newly arrived refugees were concentrated in certain villages or areas in their urban centre**. The most commonly reported reason for this was existing refugee communities and social connections in those areas (38 KIs).

GENERAL CONCERNS

At the end of the short tool, KIs were given the space to give general feedback regarding urban refugees and migration from the settlements into Town points came out particularly strongly from the KIs.

Firstly, various KIs noted that **refugees in the urban centres are generally better off than those in the settlements**. However, many also noted that **there are also urban refugees who are in urgent need**. For example, one KI in Hoima City noted that refugees who are supported by family abroad may be in sudden need when this support ends. This aligns with findings on remittances from [REACH's recent assessment of urban refugee livelihoods](#). A KI from Kitgum Municipality noted that some refugees in Kitgum are heavily affected by the GFA cuts.

Secondly, many KIs noted their concern regarding **the pressure that urban migration is putting on local service provision and urban planning**. The quotes on the right reflect these concerns. These concerns are not directly related to any current influxes, but rather illustrate the long-term pressure that urban migration appears to be causing. KIs noted that it is hard for local governments to plan for urban refugees because their movement and presence outside of the settlements is largely unmonitored.

PLANS FOR ROUND 2

Data collection for round 2 will employ the same tool with the same KIs as round 1. The objective will be to understand whether any influxes have occurred since the first round of data collection. Data collection is planned for 21 August - 1 September. The factsheet for round 2 is scheduled to be published in the second half of September.

“There is a gap in service provision with the increment in refugee numbers.”
- KI in Gulu City

“Refugees that come to town are considered as those that take care of themselves, but as the number increases, there is a need for planning for how to look after them.”
- KI in Moyo Town

“Any services or assistance provided to the refugees should also target the host community because their influx to the town council has overwhelmed the existing resources.”
- KI in Yumbe Town

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).