

# RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT AMONGST NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES

SOUTHWEST AND WEST NILE, UGANDA

AUGUST 2022



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# Rapid Needs Assessment Amongst Newly Arrived Refugees Southwest and West Nile, Uganda

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## INTRODUCTION

Since late March 2022, the Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) border has seen high levels of displacement due to the escalation of violence in North Kivu province. In parallel, the caseload of South-Sudanese arrivals to the West Nile region has increased since January 2022 due to ethnic clashes, persecution, insecurity, cattle raids, and environmental factors (e.g., flooding and drought).<sup>1</sup>

As of 11 August 2022, 92,338 new arrivals were recorded in Uganda in 2022, of which 60,756 arrived from DRC and 28,289 from South Sudan.<sup>2</sup> The individuals crossing the border are generally received in reception and holding centres before being relocated to the established settlements (see box in page 4). At the time of this assessment, 26,907 individuals were being hosted in collection points, transit, holding, and reception centres. Most of them resided in the South and mid-West of Uganda (22,615 individuals from DRC), while 4,292 people, coming from South Sudan, were hosted in the West Nile.<sup>3</sup>

This large and continuous refugee influx, along with the lack of additional funding to meet the growth in needs amongst the refugee community, has further stretched the already limited humanitarian services available at reception and holding centres. Making essential services accessible and

meeting the short and long-term needs of the most vulnerable is therefore critical.

In order to gain an in-depth understanding of the ongoing influx for an effective response to the refugee crisis, Alliance 2015 members (ACTED, Ayuda en Acción, CESVI, Welthungerhilfe - WHH - and) led a multisectoral rapid needs assessment (RNA) on the humanitarian and medium long-term needs of the newly displaced population in the refugee settlements (RS) of Nakivale and Rhino Camp, where the majority of asylum seekers are being settled. The assessment, which was funded by the Alliance 2015 New Initiatives Fund (ANIF) and technically conducted by IMPACT's REACH Initiative, was rolled out between 26 July and 15 August, 2022 using qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques, and aimed at:

- 1) Understanding movement intentions and push/pull factors of new arrivals between countries of origin and Uganda, and between holding and collection centres (HC or CC) and refugee settlements;
- 2) Recording the most urgent needs of newly arrived refugees in Nakivale and Rhino Camp (particularly, food security, WASH, and energy-related needs);
- 3) Understanding medium-long term livelihoods-related needs of newly arrived refugees in Nakivale and Rhino Camp;
- 4) Understanding gaps in current service provision to new arrivals residing in Nakivale and Rhino Camp.

## KEY FINDINGS



### Demographics

- The refugees recently arrived in Uganda and interviewed for the current assessment are mainly composed of working-age farmers with no or low levels of education.
- Almost a third of households have at least one member with disabilities or a chronic illness.



### Push and Pull Factors

- Ongoing conflict and political instability in DRC and South Sudan are the most frequently reported factors driving displacement.
- An additional cause of displacement relevant for South Sudan reported by key informants (KIs) and 4% of refugees interviewed in Rhino Camp is natural disasters, particularly floods that jeopardise people's means for survival and put their families' lives at risk.
- In order to consider returning to their country of origin, refugees from South Sudan voiced (more clearly than refugees from DRC) that not only the security situation is pivotal, but also the employment opportunities and the quality of public services available.
- In line with this, some refugees from South Sudan move from holding centres to the refugee settlements

with the hope of accessing higher standards of living and improve their household situation. In contrast, for refugees coming from DRC, moving to a settlement is perceived as a last resort. This may be because the conflict or the intensity of conflict that caused new arrivals from DRC to move is more recent.



### Most Urgent Needs

- According to information from qualitative and quantitative findings, serious gaps concern the Food Security and WASH sectors. In the assessed settlements, the distribution of water was reported to be unstable and scarce and, worryingly, some KIs from both localities flagged an increase in malnutrition cases.
- In reception and holding centres, KIs indicated that gaps in Food Security are most urgent in Nyakabande HC (southwest) and gaps in WASH are the most prominent in Keri CC (West Nile)
- Gaps in the Health sector remain in both locations. KIs in both locations more specifically reported the lack of drugs and medical supplies in relevant health centres.
- Further gaps in Nyakabande HC in Shelter and non-food items (NFIs) and security with 2 of 3 KIs highlighting lack of privacy and "theft and disorder".

1. UNHCR. Thousands flee into Uganda following clashes in DR Congo

2. UNHCR Uganda Situation Report 5 – 11 August 2022

3. Ibid



## METHODOLOGY

This assessment targeted refugee and asylum seekers who have arrived in Uganda in 2022 and was realised by means of a mixed-methods approach. Based on the refugee and asylum seekers population records provided by UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), a quantitative household-level survey was rolled out to gather information on the new arrivals' most urgent needs and medium-long term livelihoods needs with the aim of supporting long term self-reliance and economic independence. Households were sampled by using randomly generated GPS points drawn in areas of Nakivale and Rhino Camp where new arrivals are being settled and the resulting sample was representative of the newly settled refugee population in both locations with a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error.

In addition, gender-segregated Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with refugee community members and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with refugee community leaders, government officials, and humanitarian staff engaged in the influx response in the assessment areas were conducted to triangulate quantitative information. Sampling for FGDs was purposive, based on time of arrival of the individuals and their gender. Where possible, at least one older person and one person with disabilities was included in the FGDs.

## LIMITATIONS

- Findings in this output cannot be generalised to entire populations in assessed settlements nor to the entire group of new arrivals including those who are still in transit, reception, or holding centres. In addition, indicators calculated on a subset of the assessed households resulted in a lower level of confidence and a wider margin of error.
- Some KIIs were conducted remotely. This created certain challenges during the call caused by poor connectivity, the lack of personal interaction, and a risk to lose the respondents' attention.
- Certain indicators, particularly questions on issues experienced with humanitarian assistance, may be under-reported or over-reported due to a social desirability bias (i.e., the tendency of people to provide what they perceive to be the "right" answers to certain questions).
- Questions on household perceptions may not directly reflect the realities of service provision in refugee settlements or transit, reception, or holding centres - only individuals' perceptions of them.
- Translators were used for some interviews. This may have caused the loss of parts of the information communicated by the respondent or the omission of nuances.

## PRIMARY DATA COLLECTED BY LOCATION

Data collection timeframe: 26 July - 16 August 2022

Method / location	Household survey	KIIs	FGDs
South-west	107 assessed households in Nakivale RS	7 KIIs in Nakivale RS (OPM, UNHCR, NGO representatives, community leaders); 3 KIIs in Nyakabande HC (UNHCR, NGO representative, community leader)	2 FGDs in Nakivale RS (1 each with male and female participants)
West Nile	112 assessed households in Rhino Camp	7 KIIs in Rhino Camp (OPM, UNHCR, NGO representatives, community leaders); 3 KIIs in Keri CC (OPM, NGO representative, community leader)	2 FGDs in Rhino Camp (1 each with male and female participants)

## SOUTHWEST: Nyakabande HC and Nakivale RS

Nakivale is located in a particularly productive region of the Isingiro district, in the southwestern region of Uganda.<sup>4</sup> It is the oldest refugee settlement in Africa and its surface area, estimated at more than 185 square kilometres, also makes it one of the biggest refugee camps in the world.<sup>5</sup> It currently hosts 146,215 refugees (August 2022 figures).<sup>6</sup> More than 60% of refugees living in Nakivale are of Congolese nationality, with smaller groups from Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia. All households assessed through the quantitative survey conducted for this assessment were from DRC.

Less than 17 kilometres away from the Bunagana border with DRC, the Nyakabande HC was used to respond to the humanitarian emergency in Kisoro district following the increase in the number of asylum seekers from DRC since the 28 March 2022. Nyakabande HC has an estimated capacity of 20,000 individuals while the transit centre has a capacity of 825 individuals. Asylum seekers hosted at first in Nyakabande HC in Kisoro district may be transferred to Nakivale in Isingiro (about 275 kilometres east) for long-term accommodation.

4. Nakivale Settlement Profile Isingiro District, Uganda, UN-HABITAT and UNHCR, 2020

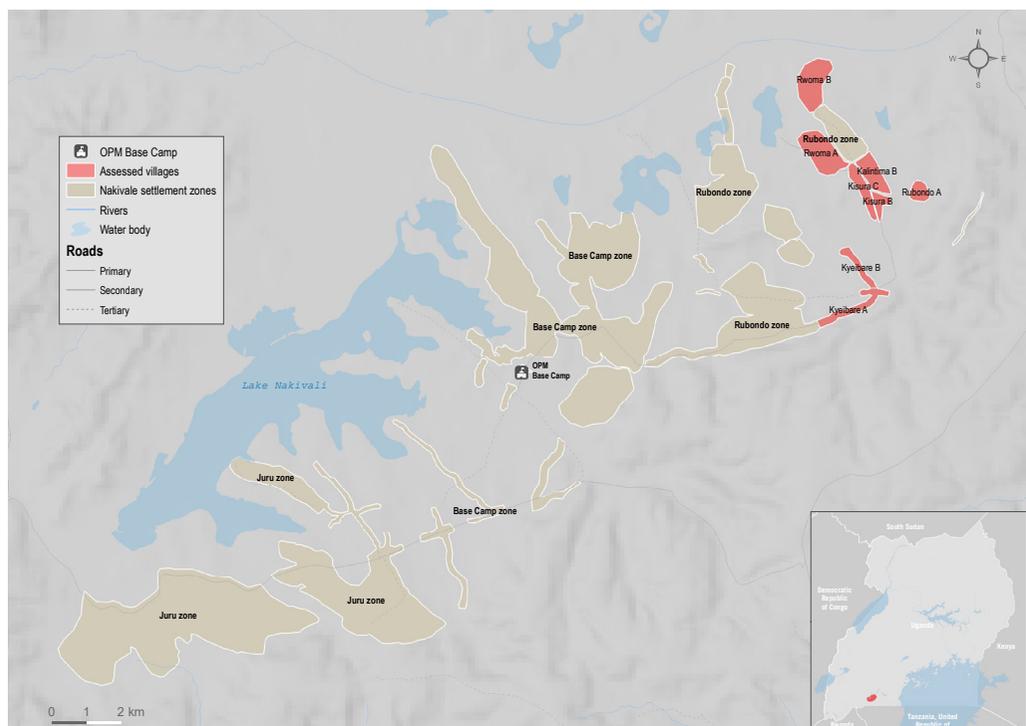
5. [Nakivale Factsheet, UNHCR, 2014](#)

6. [Uganda Refugee Statistics Nakivale, UNHCR, August 2022](#)

## Socio-economic characteristics of households

Slightly more than 50% of newly arrived refugee households in Nakivale entered the country more than three months prior to data collection. The average household size was found to be 3.9, a number much smaller than the average recorded in Rhino Camp (7.4) which reflects the relatively lower number of children per household (2.3 in Nakivale vs. 4.9 in Rhino Camp). The share of households presenting at least one member with a disability and/or a chronic illness is higher in Nakivale (34% versus 21%). In fact, the necessity to meet most vulnerable people's needs was often highlighted as an urgency in the FGDs held in both assessed areas.

## Map 3: Assessed areas in Nakivale



## UGANDA REFUGEE POLICY - Centres and Settlements

Uganda is the country with the largest refugee population in sub-Saharan Africa, hosting more than 1.5 million refugees, mostly from South Sudan and DRC. Uganda is known for its "open border" policy that offers refugees a favourable protection environment, granting them the right to work, freedom of movement, and access to primary services. The greatest part of the refugee population resides in 13 planned settlements in the southwestern and West Nile regions of Uganda; the rest is scattered in urban settings. Refugees who choose to reside outside of the refugee settlements forfeit access to regular humanitarian assistance programmes.

The humanitarian response to new arrivals is regulated in the frame of the Refugee Coordination Model (RMC) co-led by OPM and UNHCR. Differences in the type of centres that accommodate asylum seekers and refugees exist across the multiple refugee hosting and transit districts. Those differences are often determined by major needs and function to adapt to each emergency situation. As a standard, the response to asylum seekers and refugee needs is implemented through the use of the following system of facilities:

- **Collection centre (CC):** organised close to the border. This is where new arrivals/asylum seekers are received to be picked up by one of UNHCR partner organisations and brought to either a transit, reception, or holding centre.
- **Transit centres:** new arrivals/asylum seekers received in a transit centre are given a temporary shelter until they are moved to the reception centre.
- **Reception centres:** located inside the settlements. These are the centres where new arrivals are received before being provided with a plot of land and some NFIs. Asylum seekers stay here pending refugee registration.
- **Nyakabande holding centre (HC):** an exceptional measure taken in Kisoro district to respond to the safety needs of Congolese new arrivals who expressed the preference to wait for a stabilisation of the situation in their country in safe areas close to the border where they can make the decision to apply for asylum or return. Ideally, people hosted here should stay a maximum of 2 weeks.
- **Refugee settlement (RS):** settings where refugees can find long-term accommodation, are provided with a plot of land, agricultural inputs to promote self-reliance, material to build a shelter, and NFIs. Basic public services (such as health, education, social, religious, and security services) are also offered.

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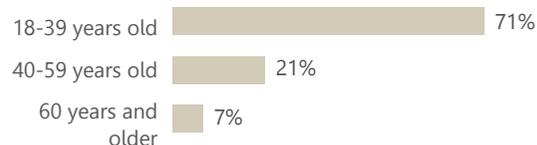
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The greatest part of respondents (72%) is reportedly in early working age (i.e., 18-34 years old). This datum on the great labour force available should be taken into account in the design stage of livelihoods and self-reliance programmes targeting the newly arrived community.

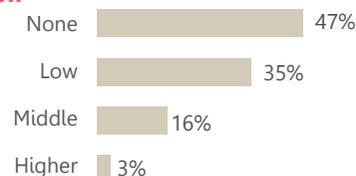
**Almost 47% of all the assessed respondents did not reportedly receive any formal education.** This might be due to the fact that the majority of survey respondents was composed of women (68%) who, traditionally, have less chances to access education. Amongst male respondents in Nakivale, 44% declared having a low level of education (while 8% reported a higher education level).

**Figure 1: Demographic overview of assessed households in Nakivale**

**Figure 1.1: % of households by age of respondent<sup>7, 8</sup>**



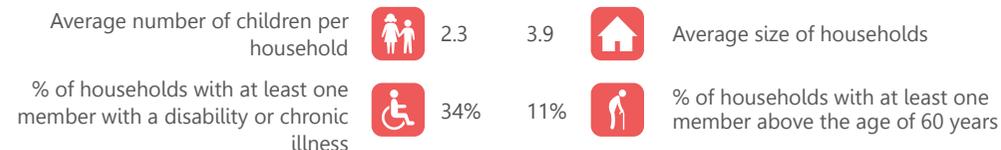
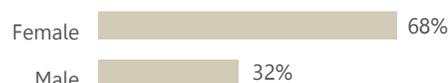
**Figure 1.2: % of respondents by level of education<sup>7, 8</sup>**



**Figure 1.3: % of households by date of arrival in Uganda**



**Figure 1.4: % of households by gender of respondent**



7. Low education includes having either partial secondary, partial or complete primary, middle includes complete secondary or partial tertiary, higher includes complete tertiary or higher.  
8. Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding

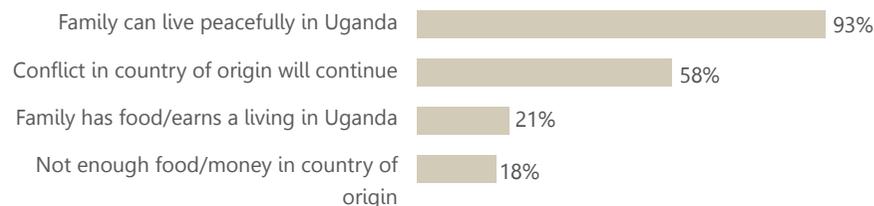
## Push and pull factors and movement intentions - Between DRC and Uganda

Almost all (97%) of the newly arrived refugee households assessed in Nakivale settlement reported to be displaced as a consequence of the escalation in the conflict between a rebel group and government forces in eastern DRC. In all four FGDs held in the two assessed settlements, it was also reported by at least one participant that the country of origin was left following losses of family members due to the conflict.

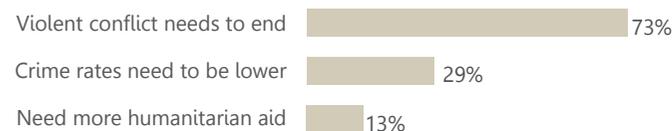
Consistent with the push factors reported influencing households' choices to leave their country of origin, the most frequently reported reason why people decided to settle in Nakivale RS is the need for peace and safety (see Figure 2.1). The end of the conflict was reported by the majority of households (73%) as the change in the country of origin that would enable return, followed by a decrease in the frequency of crime episodes (29%) and a greater access to humanitarian assistance (13%), as shown in figure 2.2. KIs conducted with refugee community leaders and operational actors confirmed that some refugees would consider returning (or have already returned) to their country of origin if they perceive an improvement in the security situation. Nevertheless, at the time of data collection, **72% of respondents reported planning to settle in Uganda long-term or indefinitely**, and none reported planning a return to DRC.

**Figure 2: Indicators on movement intentions collected in Nakivale**

**Figure 2.1: % of households by reported reason for moving from HC to Nakivale RS<sup>9</sup>**



**Figure 2.2: % of households by reported change that might enable their return to DRC<sup>9</sup>**



9. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

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The intention to settle in Uganda long-term was confirmed in both FGDs held in Nakivale.

When asked to consider factors that would enhance the likelihood of a return to DRC, respondents reported that **one push factor is the difficult living conditions experienced while at the holding centres or in the settlements due, in particular, to the small food rations received.** In addition, the search for better (or any) livelihood opportunities may have already pushed some refugees to leave Uganda. Respondents reported that households who left livelihood activities or businesses behind in DRC are more likely to desire to return in an attempt to re-acquire their previous standard of living. This desire reportedly becomes stronger whenever refugees meet challenges in accessing land or other livelihoods in Uganda.

When interviewed about their community in the country of origin, almost 62% of respondents reported that **most of the people who still live in DRC want to come to Uganda in the near future** (within six months after data collection). Although a few KIs located in Nakivale expressed the perception that, at the time of the assessment, most (or all) people from the affected areas in DRC had already left the country to look for safety, most of the interviewed KIs declared with confidence that the crisis is not over and more people would continue to arrive on a daily basis.

## Push and pull factors and movement intentions - Within Uganda

Some asylum seekers manifested more strongly than others the desire to be relocated to refugee settlements from the more temporary collection, holding, and transit centres. However, some others appear to prefer staying longer in the collection, holding, or transit centres; when investigating their reasons, a large range of motivations was provided by KIs. In the group of KIs interviewed in the southwestern region, many emphasised the connection that some people keep with their country of origin, which pushes them to try and stay as close as possible to the border while being safe. More specifically, the population residing in Nyakabande holding centre can access information on the intensity of the conflict in DRC more easily and can return as soon as the situation allows it. These households can also travel across the border on a daily basis to take care of businesses left behind, seek out personal belongings or even family members who remained in the country. In addition, **some people prefer staying in the holding center longer because they perceive the living conditions in the settlement to be worse.** These perceptions might be the result of what they have heard from other refugees.

Conversely, no clear reason for which families are choosing to relocate to the settlements was reported during KIs. Some humanitarian actors working in Nakivale highlighted the

asylum seekers' desire to live in peace and the chance to access better living conditions and livelihoods inputs, including land, seeds, and shelter material, among the factors that could have a role in the decision for households to relocate. Others added the lack of food and livelihood opportunities in the holding centre and loss of hopes with respect to the possibility of a positive change in the situation in DRC which would enable their return. This last reason was the second most reported in the household survey (58% of respondents) following the desire to start a new and peaceful life (93%). See figure 2.1 in the previous page.

## MAIN SECTORAL NEEDS

### Food Security

In Uganda, more than 94% of the refugee population has access to food assistance.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, in order to promote self-sufficiency, OPM and UNHCR formally allocate approximately 1 acre of land to each refugee household living inside the settlements to be used for agricultural activities.<sup>11</sup> Despite these efforts, some studies show that most refugees live in extreme poverty and experience food insecurity.<sup>12</sup> The results obtained from this assessment conducted amongst new arrivals seem to confirm that access to food is the most urgent need that refugees struggle to meet. In Nakivale settlement, **90% of respondents reported eating less than they used to eat in their home country** (only 3% reported eating more) and only 6% reportedly managed to eat three or more than three meals per day on average at the time of data collection. The scarce quantity of food available is also a reason for dissatisfaction with the humanitarian assistance received, particularly amongst refugees located in the southwestern region. All three KIs interviewed in Nyakabande holding centre remarked on the lack of diversity in the food provided every day and its limited portions.

*"The food there is so poor; even the posho was watery. So we feared to die from there and moved to the settlement." (Participant in the FGD with female community members held in Nakivale RS)*

10. [Uganda Refugee Statistics](#), UNHCR, July 2022

11. Nakivale Settlement Profile Isingiro District, Uganda, UN-HABITAT and UNHCR, 2020

12. Food Security and Resilience of Refugees and Host Communities in southwest Uganda, FAO AND OPM, 2018

## Figure 4: Overview of food security indicators collected in Nakivale

Figure 4.1: % of households by reported change in food consumption since their arrival in Uganda

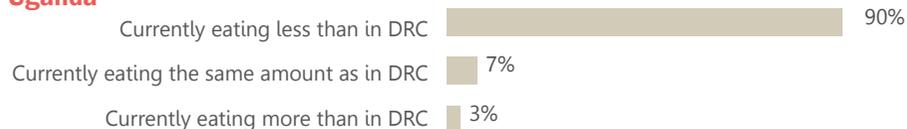


Figure 4.2: % of households by reported average number of meals consumed per day<sup>13</sup>

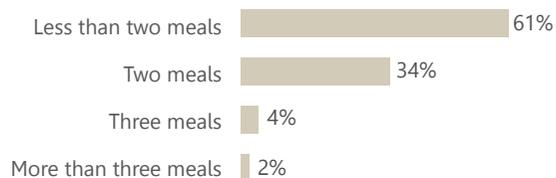


Figure 4.3: % of respondents by reported main source of food<sup>14</sup>

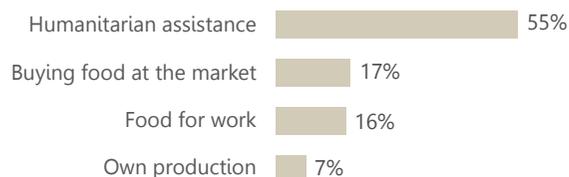


Figure 4.4: % of households by coping strategy employed to respond to a lack of food<sup>14</sup>



13. Results do not add up to 100% due to rounding

14. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

To cope with the lack of food, the most frequently reported strategy is the reduction in the number of meals consumed per day (52% of respondents), while 33% of respondents reported not eating for a whole day. These findings are particularly important because 55% of households reportedly rely on humanitarian assistance as a source of food and only 17% buy their food and 7% reportedly produce their own.

### Livelihoods

In order to inform partners' interventions aiming at improving the self-reliance of the refugee community, this assessment explored the new arrivals' medium-long term livelihoods related needs and investigated what skills they possess and what livelihoods strategy they could build if provided with the needed means. The collected data shows that more than 65% of respondents reported farming as their main source of income back in the country of origin, while just over a third of respondents (36%) reported a business other than farming and just 19% reportedly used to draw a salary. While only 6% declared having had no source of income while in country of origin, **over a third of respondents (33%) reported having no source of income during their stay in Uganda**. Another third of respondents (32%) reported farming as their main source of income in Uganda. In support of this evidence, during both FGDs held in Nakivale, participants highlighted the lack of jobs and livelihood sources when asked about the chances they have of becoming independent in the community where they live.

*"There are jobs with partners but there is a language barrier for that. Most of us know French and not English." (Participant in the FGD held with male community members in Nakivale RS)*

The situation is further stressed due to very low salaries which do not allow those few who managed to find a job to afford the relatively high cost of living that refugees are reportedly experiencing in Uganda.

*"Our men try to work but the money they get is too little to cover for our needs." (Participant in the FGD held with female community members in Nakivale)*

In order to become economically independent in Uganda, FGD participants reported the need for means and tools that would allow them to leverage their skills and replicate the businesses and income generating activities they were conducting in their country of origin. In particular, a lack of capital was reported to be the main barrier preventing new arrivals from starting up businesses and therefore from achieving economic independence. Other factors mentioned included access to land and agricultural inputs, and transportation means.

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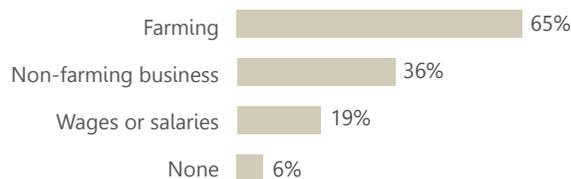
*“If I am given a bicycle, I could use it to go to the host community to farm and get money.” (Participant in the FGD with female community members conducted in Nakivale RS)*

Farming or cattle raising, driving, hairdressing, construction, and mechanic or vehicle reparation were the skills that participants in the two FGDs most frequently reported to have acquired as a result of the activities they were engaged in their country of origin. Farming, tailoring, and hairdressing were reported to be the most common skills among women. Farming was the second most frequently reported economic activity that female respondents would like their household to start doing (45%), according to data from the household survey, followed by a business activity other than farming (47%).<sup>15</sup> Male respondents further reported to be interested in working for NGOs or UN agencies (14.7% of male respondents reported that they are willing to start this type of occupation in comparison to 5.5% of female respondents).

Data shows that, opening a store for food or clothing is the business activity that household respondents reportedly would be most interested in starting (78%). Female respondents expressed a preference for opening food stores (27.4%) and male respondents for tailor and clothing (23.5%).

**Figure 5: Livelihoods amongst assessed households in Nakivale**

**Figure 5.1: % of households by reported main source of income in DRC<sup>16</sup>**



**Figure 5.2: % of households by reported main source of income in Uganda<sup>16</sup>**



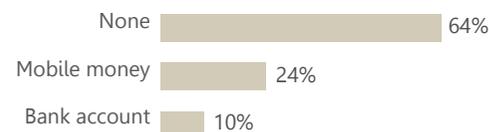
15. Among male respondents, 23.5% reported be interested in farming and 47% in business activities other than farming.  
16. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

Access to financial services is pivotal for starting an economic activity; however, **newly arrived refugee households seem to have less access to mobile money accounts than the average refugee household in Uganda.** When asked about financial and savings account ownership, 24% of the respondents in Nakivale reported owning a mobile money account and only 10% reported owning a bank account (see figure 6.1). The majority of respondents reported not having access to such accounts. According to a study published by U-Learn<sup>17</sup>, 64% of the refugees in Uganda have access to a mobile money account and 17% to a bank account.

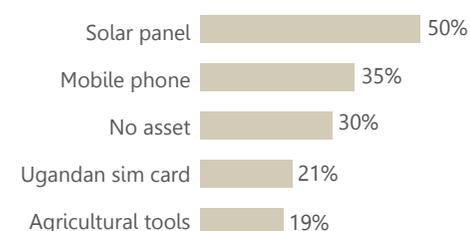
This assessment also looked at other different types of assets owned by newly arrived refugee’s households in Nakivale. Partners’ aiming to support newly arrived refugees in Nakivale should consider that reportedly 30% of the households recently settled in Nakivale do not have access to any assets (see figure 6.2); 50% of respondents reported owning a solar panel and 35% a mobile phone. Only a limited proportion of respondents reported accessing productive assets (while 19% owns agriculture tools).

**Figure 6: Financial and other assets ownership amongst assessed households in Nakivale**

**Figure 6.1: % of households by reported savings account assets owned**



**Figure 6.2: % of households by reported other assets owned**



17. [Financial Services in the Uganda Refugee Response. an Assessment of User Perspective. 2022](#) U-Learn,

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## WASH

The Nakivale Settlement Profile conducted by UN-Habitat and UNHCR in 2020 states that this settlement is affected by the lack of a formal water management strategy which would take into account the hosted refugees' and the surrounding district community's water needs.<sup>18</sup> The very limited existing infrastructure is causing gaps in the water supplies for domestic and agricultural purposes.

KIs and community members interviewed during FGDs reported that, inadequate water supply and a lack of WASH facilities, along with poor hygiene and sanitation practices, affect residents in both the reception centres and the part of the assessed settlements where new arrivals are located.

*"We have no water and no soap."*

*"There is only one toilet which is shared amongst many households. This is not healthy and so they should build more toilets for us."*

*(Participants in the FGD with female community members held in Nakivale RS)*

However, interviews with KIs reveal that this issue is not easily solved:

*"Pit latrines are hard to dig because of the terrain here. We can't have deep pits.*

*This therefore means we might need more latrines sooner than later. Pits have to be decommissioned and a lot of funds are going into this. [There is also] need for volunteers to do community sensitization otherwise we are bound to have outbreaks like cholera with the forthcoming rains."* (KI from UNHCR working in Nyakabande HC)

In line with these statements, shared household toilets were reported to be the most frequently used type of toilets (44%), followed by defined open space areas (24%). In addition, secondary sources reveal that open defecation is common which increases the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.<sup>19</sup> These reports are particularly concerning when considering that more than half of the respondents (55%) reported the insufficiency of WASH facilities in Nakivale, and the absence of hand washing sinks in the existing toilets. Finally, a shortage in drinking water (58%) and in containers for storing the collected water (44%) were the most frequently reported barriers to accessing water in the settlement (see figure 7 for details).

## Figure 7: Overview of WASH indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Nakivale

Figure 7.1: Average amount of water collected per person on the last day that water was collected



Figure 7.2: % of households by main reported water source<sup>20</sup>

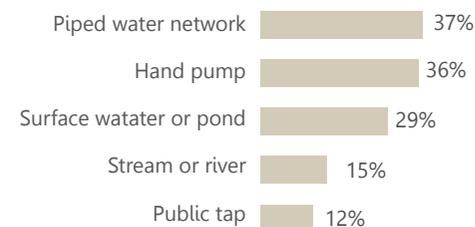


Figure 7.3: % of households by type of toilet accessed<sup>20</sup>

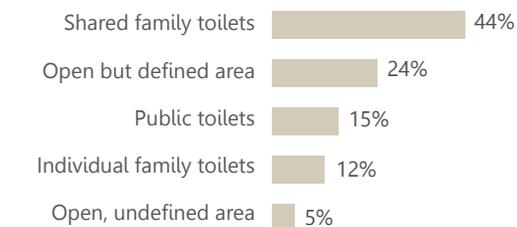


Figure 7.4: % of households by reported barrier to accessing water<sup>20</sup>

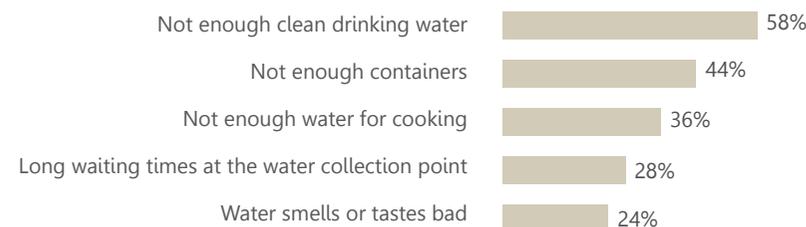
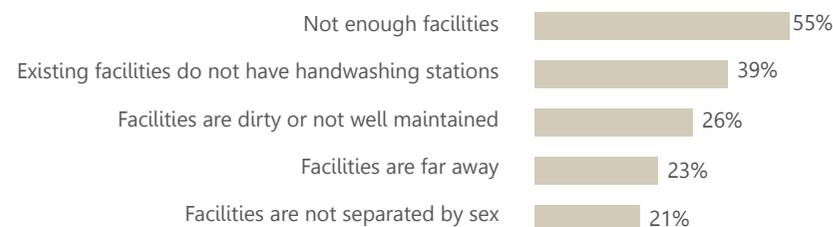


Figure 7.5: % of households by reported barrier to accessing WASH facilities<sup>20</sup>



18. Nakivale Settlement Profile Isingiro District, Uganda, UN-HABITAT and UNHCR, 2020

19. Uganda Influx of DRC Refugees, ACT Alliance, 2022

20. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

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## Health

During qualitative data collection, medical needs were mentioned among the most urgent unmet needs. Gaps in the health sector were highlighted in particular in the holding and collection centres. KIs from Nyakabande and Keri centres reported the lack of drugs and medical supplies in the health centres. Two of the three KIs interviewed in Nyakabande also reported that **medication differentiated by types of sicknesses were not being used**. Also in Nakivale RS, the inadequacy of health facilities was flagged by a couple of KIs and, in the household survey, 76% of respondents reported not having accessed any mental health service.

*“Regardless of the medical issue, it is only paracetamol that is given to all.” (Community leader in Nyakabande HC)*

**Figure 8: % of households by MHPSS<sup>21</sup> service they reportedly had access to**



## Energy

Nakivale refugee settlement and the district in which it is located are affected by the lack of sustainable energy provision, both in terms of access to electricity and cooking fuel. This has led to the reliance on firewood and charcoal and consequently has provoked large scale deforestation and loss of tree coverage.<sup>22</sup> As a matter of fact, among the 61% of households who reported having access to cooking fuel (n=65), 83% used firewood and 11% charcoal as a source. Moreover, half of the KIs interviewed in Nakivale RS highlighted the scarce availability of cooking fuel.

The electric energy source used by most assessed households in Nakivale is solar panels (50%), and **47% of households reported having no access to electricity** (see figure 9.3 for details).

## Shelter and NFIs

In settlements, refugees are responsible for building their own shelters and they are usually provided with the needed materials by the organisations working in the settlement and the OPM. The quality of these shelters therefore appears diverse in terms of condition and design.<sup>23</sup> **Sixty-one per cent (61%) of assessed households’ shelters**

21. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

22. Nakivale Settlement Profile Isingoro District, Uganda, UN-HABITAT and UNHCR, 2020

23. Ibid

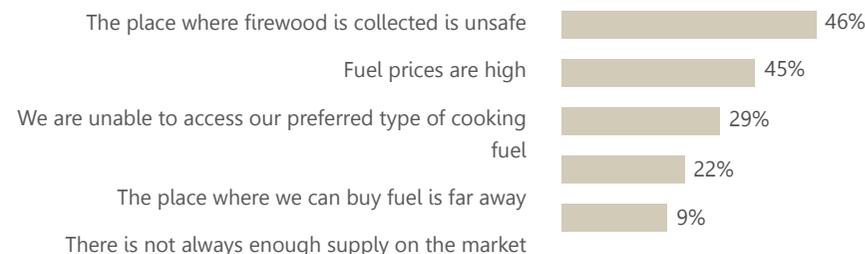
24. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

**Figure 9: Overview of energy indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Nakivale**

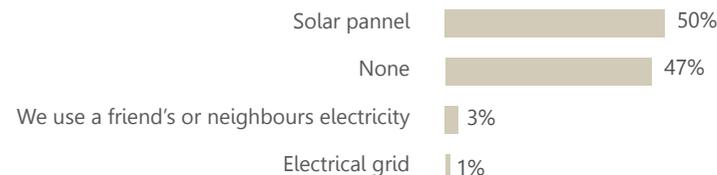
**Figure 9.1: % of households reporting having access to cooking fuel**



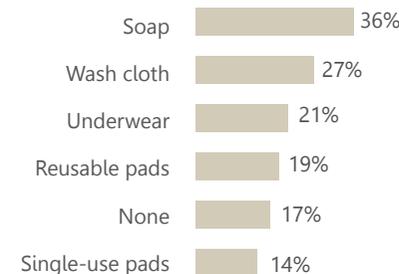
**Figure 9.2: % of households by reported barrier to accessing cooking fuel<sup>24</sup>**



**Figure 9.3: % of households by reported source of electricity**



**Figure 10: % of households by type of menstrual hygiene NFI received<sup>24</sup>**



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in Nakivale were evaluated by REACH enumerators as fair and only 7% as good.<sup>25</sup> Tarpaulin and poles were reported as the most frequently used building materials (32%), followed by unburnt bricks (30%). Two of the KIs interviewed in this settlement reported that new arrivals in Nakivale had received scarce and low-quality material.

A different type of issue was reported with regard to Nyakabande HC where two out of three KIs highlighted the limited privacy, limited supply of shelters generally, and insufficient distribution of NFIs.

*“The other thing is about the basic household items like kitchen utensils, blankets, and mats. Mats were given to those who arrived first but the rest didn’t get them.” (KI from Nyakabande HC)*

Other KIs flagged the need to provide refugees with items necessary to settle in, and that humanitarian organisations engaged in the response struggle to provide these items due to low funding. Items reported to be in low supply include kitchen sets, basins, hygiene kits (sanitary kits and soaps), and shelter kits (plastic sheets, shelter poles etc.).<sup>26</sup> In terms of hygiene and menstrual kits, only 33% of respondents reported having received either reusable pads (19%) or single use pads (14%) (see figure 10 on page 10).

## Protection

According to Act Alliance, women and children account for 84% of the refugee population from DRC.<sup>27</sup> This poses serious challenge in terms of protection needs. **Assessed households in Nakivale RS also reported security concerns.** In particular, 38% of respondents reported clashes within the refugee community itself, 20% reported violence against women, and 14% reported having witnessed violence against children. Female community members in FGDs also complained that security was insufficient. One respondent complained:

*“They stole everything that we were given because the place is not safe.” (Participant in the FGD with female community members held in Nakivale RS)*

Nevertheless, nearly half of all respondents in Nakivale RS (47%) reported having no specific safety concerns.

25. Shelter conditions was evaluated according to the capacity of the structure to protect the household from weather elements and to the structure size capacity to accommodate all the household members

26. Uganda Influx of DRC Refugees, ACT Alliance, 2022

27. Ibid

## Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

This assessment also included a series of questions aiming at understanding household satisfaction with the services provided in both the holding centres and settlements. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of respondents to the household survey reported having received assistance since their arrival in Uganda. However, **24% of respondents reported having encountered barriers to accessing assistance**, most often because the assistance provided was not sufficient, did not correspond to the most pressing needs they faced, or because the distribution point is located far away from their shelter.

Finally, respondents were asked about the modality through which they would prefer to receive assistance if they hypothetically were to receive it. A majority of respondents reported preferring cash over in-kind assistance and in particular, direct cash was the most frequently chosen option.

## Figure 11: Overview of indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Nakivale RS regarding satisfaction with services

**Figure 11.1: % of households reporting having received humanitarian assistance since their arrival in Uganda**



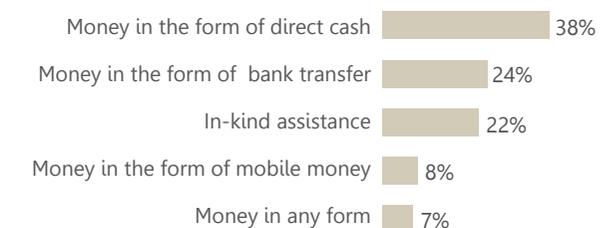
**Figure 11.2: % of households reporting having faced barriers when trying to access humanitarian assistance in Uganda**



**Figure 11.3: % of households by reported barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance<sup>28, 29</sup>**



**Figure 11.4: % of households by reported preferred modality through which to receive humanitarian assistance**



28. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

29. This indicator was calculated over the subset of households reporting to have experienced barriers when trying to access humanitarian assistance (24%, n= 26). Given the small size of the subset, findings should be considered as indicative only.

## WEST NILE: Keri CC and Rhino Camp

Rhino Camp is located in Madi-Okollo and Terego districts, in the West Nile region and hosts about 145,000 refugees and almost all of them (95%) are of South Sudanese nationality (95%) with a very small proportion coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.<sup>30</sup> The settlement is divided into 10 zones and has 42 villages; the area where the settlement has developed can be considered largely rural with some urban areas located in the host communities territory.<sup>31</sup> Agriculture is the main economic activity for the refugee and host populations;<sup>32</sup> however, the area has experienced sporadic and inconsistent rains that are likely to affect the agricultural output. Other non-agriculture economic activities include general retail, arts and crafts production, construction, fish and livestock farming among others.<sup>33</sup>

All households assessed through the quantitative survey conducted for this assessment were from South Sudan and located in the zones where new arrivals have been located since the start of 2022: Ocea Zone 1, Siripi zone 2, Tika Zone 4, Omugo Zone 7.

### Socio-economic characteristics of households

A slight majority (57%) of new arrivals in Rhino Camp reported having arrived in Uganda more than three months prior to data collection; e.g., between January and April 2022. The average household size amongst those assessed in Rhino Camp is 7.4; almost twice the size of the average household amongst the new arrivals from DRC (3.9). In line with this, the group from South Sudan also reportedly includes more children at 4.9 children per household as compared to 2.3 amongst those in Nakivale. Just over one fifth (21%) of respondents reported that their household includes at least one member with a disability or chronic illness and 8% reported that they are living with an elderly individual.

Similar to the group in the southwest, this group of respondents includes mostly (85%) working-age adults and a **majority of them have only either low levels of (52%), or no (36%), formal education.** However, similarly to the group in Nakivale, this may be influenced by the fact that 80% of respondents in this group are female. When disaggregating for gender, the data shows that 38% of female respondents reported having no education as compared to a slightly lower proportion of male respondents (27%). See figure 12 on page 13 for more indicators.

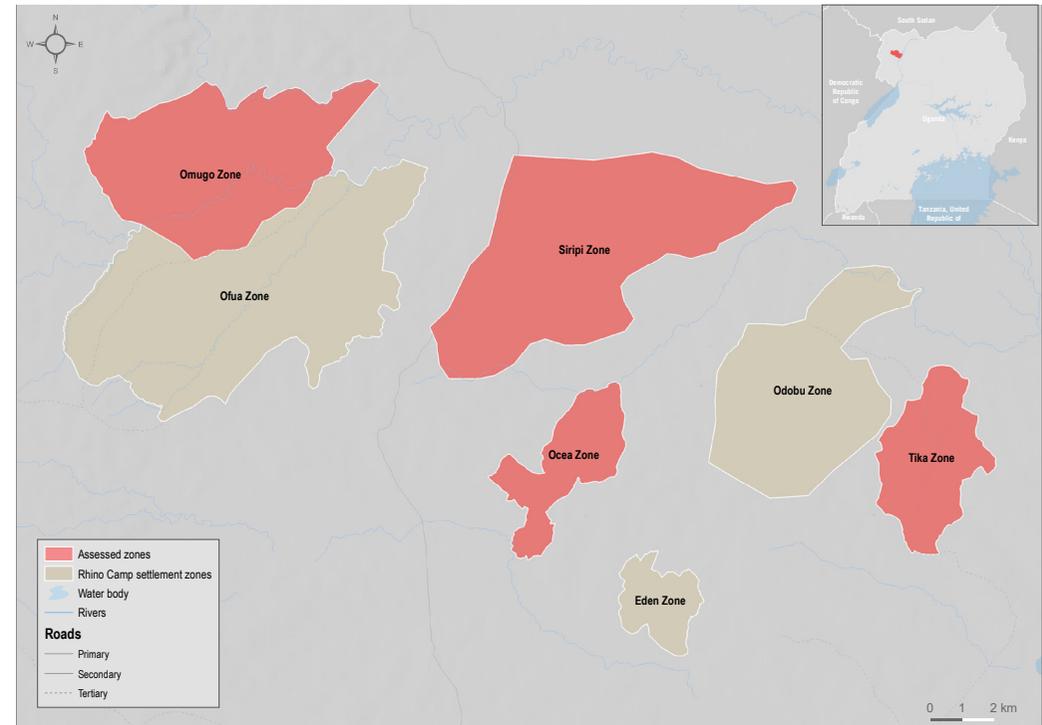
30. UGANDA Refugees Statistics Rhino Camp, UNHCR, August 2022

31. Rhino Refugee Settlement and Host Community, GFA Consulting Group GmbH on behalf of GIZ

32. Paving the way for better jobs and improving livelihoods for refugees and host communities in Arua, Uganda, ILO, May 2020

33. Ibid

Map 4: Assessed areas in Rhino Camp



### Push and pull factors and movement intentions - Between South Sudan and Uganda

Similar to reports from Nakivale, a large majority (91%) of South Sudanese new arrivals in Rhino Camp reported having left their country of origin because the conflict made it unsafe to live and work there. This was confirmed by respondents in FGDs who reported not only that insecurity due to conflict in general had pushed them to leave but that they had experienced loss within their families due to conflict. In addition, minorities of respondents to the household survey reported that droughts and other natural disasters, family having moved far away, or their family not having enough food to eat were among the factors pushing them to leave South Sudan (see figure 12 on page 13).

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One KI explained:

*“Flooding currently ongoing especially in South Sudan [and, in addition] famine due to drought. The little can’t sustain the current population so some of the people decided to come and get support from the World Food Program.” (KI with an NGO representative working in Rhino Camp)*

In line with the reported challenges affecting the quality of life in South Sudan, 85% of respondents in Rhino Camp reported that their households had no plans to leave their current place of residence. Only 4% of respondents reported that they either had plans to travel between their country of origin and Uganda or to return permanently to their country of origin as soon as it is safe. The remainder planned to either relocate to another settlement in Uganda or another zone within Rhino Camp. This intention for longer-term residence in Uganda was confirmed by respondents in FGDs and KIs.

The end of the conflict was consequently reported as the most important change in the country of origin that would enable return (85%), followed by a decrease in the frequency of crime episodes (48%) and a greater access to education and health services (27%) (see Figure 13.2). In fact, the data indicates that factors which are reportedly pushing people out of South Sudan may be similar to those pulling them to Uganda. For example, a UNHCR agent working on the response in Rhino Camp explained:

*“Refugees and host children attend the same schools, share the same water source, health center, and market hence enjoying human right equally like the citizens of Uganda unlike in their home countries with a lot of human right abuse.” (KI with a UNHCR representative working on the response in Rhino Camp)*

When asked about their community in the country of origin, **55% of respondents reported that most of the people who still live in South Sudan want to come to Uganda** in the near future (in the range of six months after data collection). This was confirmed by seven out of eight of the KIs interviewed in the West Nile, all of whom expressed the belief that further new arrivals are to be expected from South Sudan.

## Push and pull factors and movement intentions - Within Uganda

The most dominant factor dictating movement between Keri CC and Rhino Camp was reported to be the systematic relocation of new arrivals by the Ugandan government and UNHCR. Seven of eight KIs and both groups of community members participating in the FGDs confirmed these findings.

## Figure 12: Demographic overview of assessed households in Rhino Camp

Figure 12.1: % of households by age of respondent

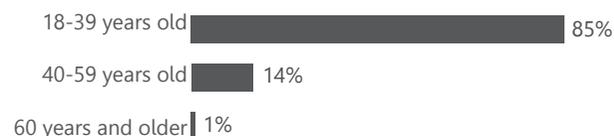


Figure 12.2: % of respondents by level of education<sup>34</sup>

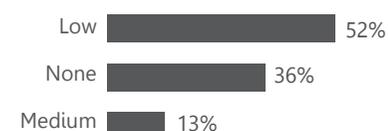
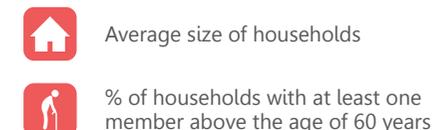
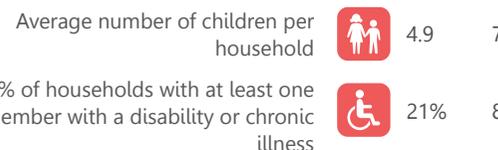


Figure 12.3: % of households by date of arrival in Uganda



Figure 12.4: % of households by gender of respondent



An OPM representative explained:

*“It is a system in place. From the collection Centre it is us (OPM and UNHCR) who transfer the new arrivals to the settlement apart from those who connect directly with their relative at the settlement without passing through the collection centre.” (KI with OPM representative in Rhino Camp)*

A second and third factor mentioned by the majority of KIs and in the focus group with female participants are the need to seek out improved living conditions, including gaining access to land, seeds, and tools to grow their own food and the desire to find a peaceful and secure place to live. These factors were also reported by household respondents (see figure 13.3).

34. Low education includes having either partial or complete primary school education; medium education includes having either partial or complete secondary school education; high education includes having either partial or complete university or vocational school education; results do not add up to 100% due to rounding

## Figure 13: Displacement indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Rhino Camp

Figure 13.1: % of households in Rhino Camp by reported reason for leaving South Sudan

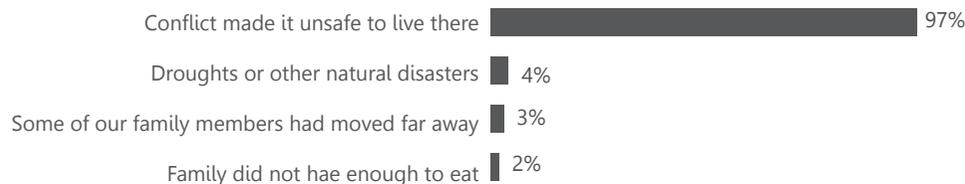


Figure 13.2: % of assessed households in Rhino Camp by reported change that might enable their return to South Sudan<sup>35</sup>

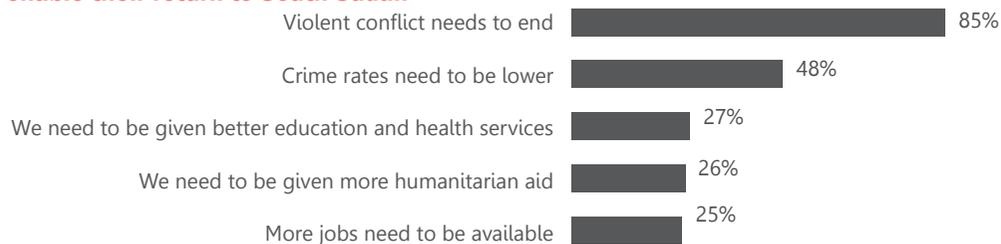
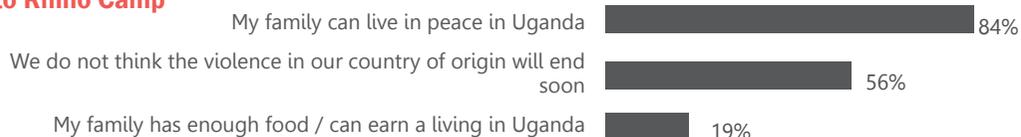


Figure 13.3: % of assessed households by reported reason for moving from the Keri CC to Rhino Camp<sup>35</sup>



In fact, 84% of respondents in Rhino Camp stated that living in peace was behind their decision to move from Keri CC to Rhino Camp and 19% reported that they want to start earning a living in Uganda.

35. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

## MAIN SECTORAL NEEDS

### WASH

**Water was reported to be the most urgent unmet need affecting the population of new arrivals in both Keri CC and Rhino Camp.** Qualitative data suggests that both the quantity of water and the water sources are insufficient to comply with recommended hygiene standards. One respondent in the FGD with female community members reported:

*“All the 14 days that I, my family, and others spent at the holding centre were good. The water was not good for drinking and we often quarreled with the hosts whenever we went to draw water from the outside sources.” (Female FGD participant)*

However, data shows that on average, in the last collection day previous to data collection, households could collect 20.04 liters of water per person; despite the fact that this quantity is above the recommended Sphere Standard of water per person per day (15 liters), the data does not tell us for how long households were using this water for. Therefore, water access can be less than the recommended standard if households were not collecting water on a daily basis.

Drinking water sources are reportedly similar to those in Nakivale but a greater proportion of respondents in Rhino Camp relies on a piped water network with 68% of respondents reporting this as their main water source compared to 37% in Nakivale. The most frequently reported barriers to accessing water include a lack of containers (56%), long waiting times at collection points (53%), and a lack of clean drinking water generally (43%). This issue may be linked to funding shortages as highlighted by the UNHCR representative interviewed in Rhino Camp:

*“We do not have the necessary funds to meet all their needs. As humanitarians we have the minimum standards that are supposed to be met like 20 litres of water per person per day, sometimes we do not reach this target in some of the zones due to drought and other factors.” (KII with UNHCR representative in Rhino Camp)*

In light of this, it is important to note that the data collected during this assessment is only representative of the timeframe during which data was collected and that the amount of water supplied to new arrivals in Rhino Camp may vary over time.

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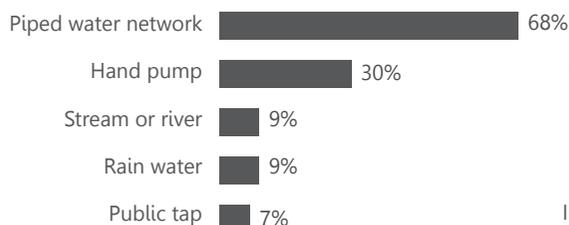
AUGUST 2022

**Figure 14: Overview of WASH indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Rhino Camp**

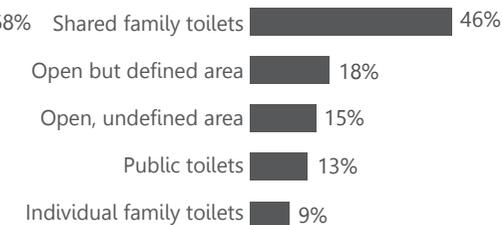
**Figure 14.1: Average amount of water collected per person on the last day that water was collected prior to data collection**



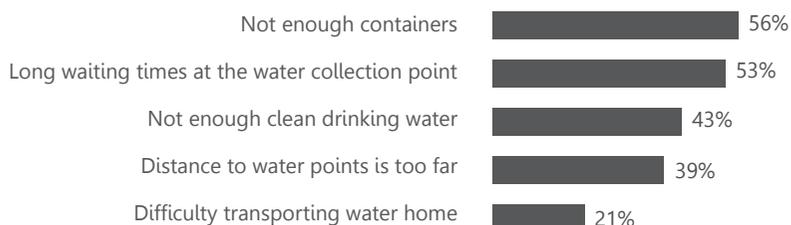
**Figure 14.2: % of households by main reported water source<sup>36</sup>**



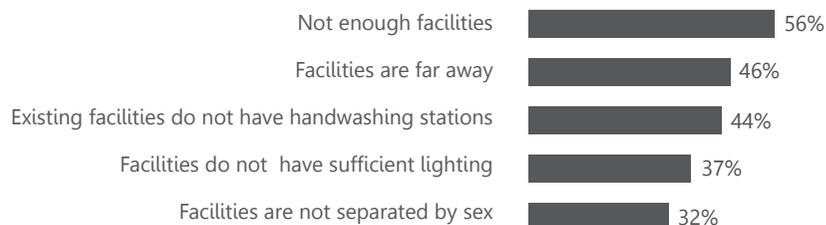
**Figure 14.3: % of households by type of toilet accessed<sup>36</sup>**



**Figure 14.4: % of households by reported barrier to accessing water<sup>36</sup>**



**Figure 14.5: % of households by reported barrier to accessing WASH facilities<sup>36</sup>**



36. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

When asked about toilet facilities, nearly half of respondents (46%) reported that their households used shared family toilets, 18% reported defecating in open but defined areas and 15% reported defecating in open and undefined areas. This is in line with the primary barrier reported in accessing WASH facilities, e.g., that there are not enough of them (56%). In addition, respondents expressed dissatisfaction with WASH facilities stating that they were too far away, not lit, gender-segregated, and that they did not include hand-washing stations.

## Food Security

Similar to data from Nakivale, a large majority of respondents (74%) in Rhino Camp reported that their households are currently consuming less food compared to when they were still in South Sudan. However, while the new arrivals from DRC most often reported to be consuming less than two meals daily, a majority (58%) of the cohort from South Sudan reported eating two meals a day, with 29% reporting eating less than that.

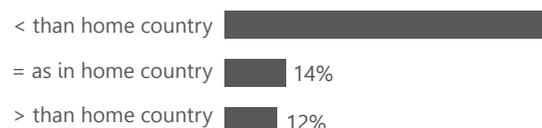
Despite the slightly better conditions than those reported in the southwest, **new arrivals in Rhino Camp stated that the food they received was not enough.** In FGDs, this was stressed by both male and female respondents.

*"Our food stocks do not last for the intended time and even if we resort to buying from the markets, the prices are very high." (Participant in the FGD with female community members in Rhino Camp)*

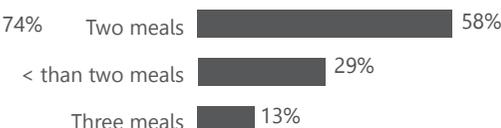
Respondents to the household survey reported that limited supply of food leads to the use of the following coping strategies: limiting portion sizes at mealtimes (48%), borrowing money or food or relying on well wishers (44%), and reducing the number of meals eaten per day (43%) (see figure 15 for further details). This third strategy is in line with the majority of respondents reporting eating only two meals per day.

**Figure 15: Overview of food security indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Rhino Camp**

**Figure 15.1: % of households by reported change in food consumption since their arrival in Uganda**



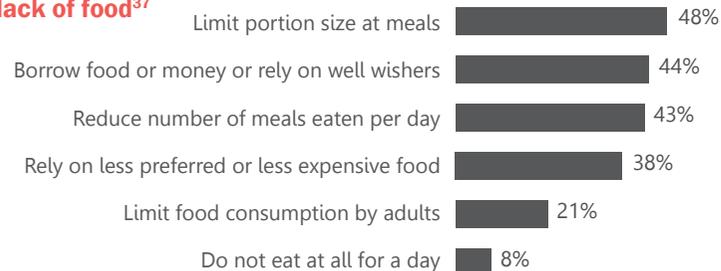
**Figure 15.2: % of households by reported average number of meals consumed per day**



**Figure 15.3: % of respondents reporting humanitarian assistance as their main source of food**

**100%** 

**Figure 15.4: % of assessed households by coping strategy employed to respond to a lack of food<sup>37</sup>**



## Livelihoods

Similar to data collected in Nakivale, data from Rhino Camp shows that while only 4% of new arrivals reported having no source of income in their country of origin, this proportion shot up to 28% when respondents were asked about income sources in Uganda. In addition, “food or cash for work” was the most frequently reported current source of income amongst new arrivals from South Sudan (54%) (see figure 16). These findings align with data from the food security section indicating that **100% of households were relying on humanitarian assistance as the main food source at the time of data collection.**

Nevertheless, respondents expressed the desire to work. In particular, 46% of respondents reported wanting to start a non-farming related business activity and 43% reported wanting to farm, with minorities wanting to work for NGOs, fish, or work for wages. Only 3% reported not wanting to work. Disaggregation of findings by sex reveals that male respondents were more likely to report wanting to farm (64%) compared to women (38%). Of the subset of respondents who expressed a desire to engage in non-farming business activities (female n=34 and male n=8), the three most frequently reported types of business desired by female respondents are food stores (37%), market stands (33%), or clothing or tailoring businesses (28%). Men were most interested in the same types of businesses (38% each).<sup>38</sup>

37. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

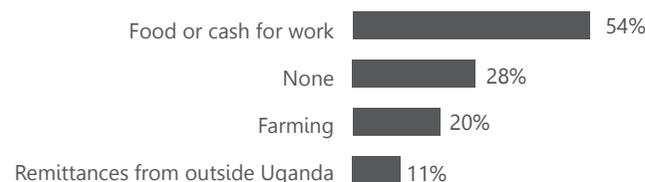
38. Given the small size of the subset these indicators refer to, results should be considered as indicative only.

However, all respondents reported to be missing skills or resources to be able to start engaging in their desired economic activities. Specifically, respondents most frequently reported to be missing money (91%), land (17%), and agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools (9%). In addition, although 41% of respondents reported that they face no further barriers to engaging in an income generating activity, a further 20% reported that they face barriers in accessing loans and credit due to their refugee status.

**Figure 16: Livelihoods amongst assessed households in Rhino**  
**Figure 16.1: % of households by reported main source of income in South Sudan<sup>39</sup>**



**Figure 16.2: % of households by reported main source of income in Uganda<sup>39</sup>**



This is in line with data showing that no respondents reported having access to a bank loan or credit institution at the time of data collection and only 2% reported having savings when asked what types of assets they were in possession of. This data shows that not only the level of humanitarian assistance was insufficient at the time of data collection, but that the population of new arrivals is also heavily dependent on it due to limited access to alternative sources of income. It thus follows that in order for this population to become economically independent, livelihoods support may be necessary.

*Participant 2: "If given money, I can start a general merchandising."*

*Participant 7: "I will put up a boutique like I had in [South] Sudan." (FGD with female community members held in Rhino Camp)*

39. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

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Access to financial services is important for starting an income generating activity; newly arrived refugees living in Rhino Camp seem to have better access to mobile money accounts compared to those households that have settled in Nakivale. More than half (58%) of the respondents in Rhino Camp reported owning a Mobile Money account compared to only 24% respondents in Nakivale. A smaller proportion (12%) declared being part of a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) while more than a third of the respondents reported not having access to any account (see figure 17.1).

When asked about access to other assets, most of the respondents reported owning a mobile phone and having access to a Ugandan sim card. Around one-fourth of the respondents reported owning a solar panel and a smaller proportion reported owning livestock or agricultural tools (see figure 17.2).

## Figure 17: Financial and other assets ownership amongst assessed households in Rhino Camp

Figure 17.1: % of households by reported savings account assets owned<sup>40</sup>

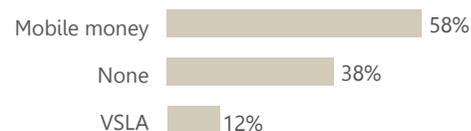
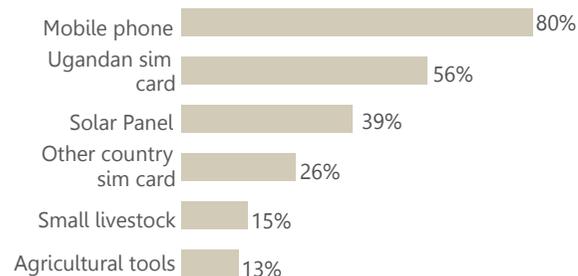


Figure 17.2: % of households by reported other assets owned<sup>40</sup>



## Health

Similar to findings from the southwestern region, a majority of respondents in Rhino Camp reported not having access to MHPSS services (see figure 18) at the time of data collection. This is despite the reported violent conflict and loss of family members that many respondents reported to have experienced (see section on movements and push and pull factors on page 12 for more details).

Unfortunately, due to the rapid nature of this assessment, no further quantitative

indicators from the health sector were included. However, **qualitative data indicates that the health needs of the new arrivals are not sufficiently covered by the ongoing response.** In fact, participants in both FGDs interviewed in Rhino Camp as well as all three KIs interviewed in Keri CC highlighted a lack of medicines. In addition, respondents reported that medical facilities are too far away or that services provided are too expensive for the target group to access them.

*"I can't reach Amuru or Amugo health centers when I feel ill because I have no money. (FGD with female community members in Rhino Camp)"*

Figure 18: % of households by reported MHPSS service they reportedly had access to<sup>40</sup>



## Energy

Encouragingly, **100% of respondents assessed in the West Nile region reported that their households were accessing cooking fuel at the time of data collection.** Ninety percent (90%) reported that this fuel is in the form of firewood while 10% reported buying charcoal. However, 69% of respondents also reported that the areas where firewood is collected are unsafe, limiting their access to it. Other access barriers to cooking fuel include high prices and distance among others (see figure 18). Access to electricity is reported to be much lower as 48% of respondents reported that their households did not have access at all at the time of data collection. Nevertheless, respondents in qualitative interviews did not flag fuel or electricity supply as an urgent, unmet need.

Figure 18: Overview of energy indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Rhino Camp

Figure 18.1: % of households reporting having access to cooking fuel

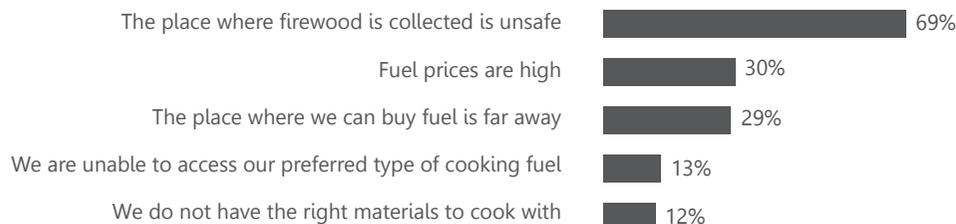


40. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

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**Figure 18.2: % of households by reported barrier to accessing cooking fuel<sup>41</sup>**



**Figure 18.3: % of households by reported source of electricity**



## Shelter and NFIs

Over half (58%) of assessed households' shelter in Rhino Camp were evaluated by REACH enumerators as being in "fair" condition while 25% were evaluated in "bad" and 17% in "good" condition. In contrast to the materials most commonly reported in Nakivale, new arrivals in Rhino Camp most often reported that their shelter is made from mud and polls (39%) or unburnt bricks with mud (37%), while only 16% reported having used tarpaulins and polls. Despite these figures, participants in both FGD groups highlighted that there is a need for safe shelters. One FGD participant pointed out that:

*"I got the building materials but some of us are not able to build the houses ourselves (referring to an elderly participant)." (FGD with female community members in Rhino Camp)*

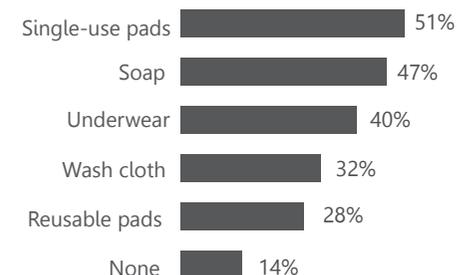
It is likely that **households with older people or people living with a disability (21% in the assessed households) face even greater challenges when in need of building their own shelter**. KIs further confirmed that safe shelter is lacking in particular in Keri CC. One of them explained:

*"Shelters are not enough in the holding center; some new arrivals stay outside the centre whereas in the settlement every person is given materials to build their family house." (KI in Keri CC)*

41. Results do not add up to 100% because respondents were free to choose multiple answer options

With respect to NFIs, 86% of respondents reported that their household has received some form of menstrual hygiene product. The most frequently reported available items are single-use pads, soap, and underwear. None of the participants in qualitative interviews highlighted a lack of NFIs as an urgent, unmet need.

**Figure 19: % of assessed households in Rhino Camp by type of menstrual hygiene NFI received<sup>41</sup>**



## Protection

The assessed new arrival households in Rhino Camp have on average 5 children; the large number of children among the new arrivals in Rhino Camp poses challenges in terms of protection needs.

When main gaps in service provision in the Keri CC was discussed during FGDs with participants now living in Omugo zone in Rhino Camp, participants highlighted that the shelters were not enough to accommodate the population living there. The lack of space is likely to expose vulnerable groups to protection concerns.

*"The people at the holding centres were very many, so there wasn't enough space to stay and rest, even food was always brought to us outside the shelters" (FGD with community members in Rhino Camp)*

In addition, FGDs participants in Rhino Camp voiced that the services provided do not take into account the needs of the most vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, older people, pregnant women and children. Twenty per cent (20%) of respondents in Rhino Camp reported being concerned because of the clashes between the host and refugee populations; however, almost half of the respondents (48%) in Rhino Camp reported not having a specific security concern. **Female FGD participants rated the security level as bad or very bad in Rhino Camp.**

## Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Some FGD participants in Rhino Camp voiced that some promises and expectations over the life in the settlement were not met. Specifically, female FGD participants reported to have experienced unexpected issues with water provision, access to necessary NFIs and access to resources for building their own shelter. Although an improvement in the situation in terms of safety and a good level of assistance received when they first arrived to the settlement was acknowledged, **FGD participants in Rhino Camp rated the humanitarian assistance received as very bad.**

Despite challenges identified by FGDs participants, it is encouraging that all the respondents reported having received humanitarian assistance since their arrival in Uganda. However, an alarming 42% reported having experienced some barriers when trying to access the assistance. The most commonly reported barriers are a lack of sufficient assistance and the distance of the distribution point from shelters (both reported by around half of the respondents facing barriers); another barrier reported is the misalignment between assistance received and needs (40% of the respondents facing barriers). The misalignment between needs and assistance might be supported by the following statement from a FGD participant in Rhino Camp:

*"I often sell the food received to aggregate money to buy a plot which is hard."  
(FGD with community members in Rhino Camp)*

Finally, respondents were asked about the preferred assistance modality. In contrast with respondents from Nakivale, more than 40% of respondents in Rhino Camp reported preferring in-kind assistance and 36% reported favouring money in the form of direct cash over mobile money or bank transfers. This might be linked with less experience among refugees from South Sudan with these modalities.

## Figure 20: Overview of indicators collected from amongst assessed households in Rhino Camp regarding satisfaction with services

Figure 20.1: % of households reporting having received humanitarian assistance since their arrival in Uganda

100%

Figure 20.2: % of households reporting having faced barriers when trying to access humanitarian assistance in Uganda

42%

Figure 20.3: % of households by reported barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance<sup>41, 42</sup>

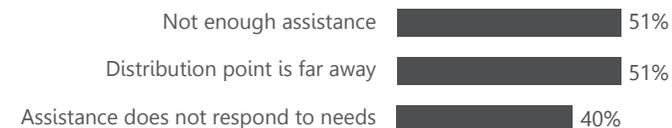
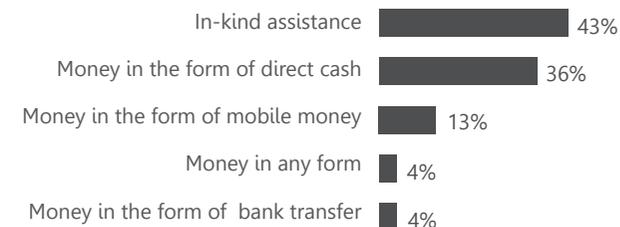


Figure 20.4: % of households by reported preferred modality through which to receive humanitarian assistance



42. This indicator was calculated over the subset of households reporting to have experienced barriers when trying to access humanitarian assistance (42%, n= 47). Given the small size of the subset, findings should be considered as indicative only.

## CONCLUSION

This rapid assessment focused on the humanitarian and medium-long-term needs of the newly displaced population located in the refugee settlements of Nakivale (coming from DRC) and Rhino Camp (coming from South Sudan). Although almost the entire assessed population had reportedly accessed humanitarian assistance at the time of the assessment (98% of the households in Nakivale and 100% in Rhino Camp), deep gaps were reported by both groups. Findings show that a complete fulfillment of all refugees' needs is far from being achieved and several KIs indicated underfunding as the main factor preventing to offer an adequate humanitarian response.

Access to food is the main need that refugees reportedly struggle to meet in both localities, although the situation appeared comparatively more serious in the southwest. Water was instead reported to be the most urgent unmet need for the new arrivals interviewed in West Nile who frequently complained about the scarce and discontinued availability of clean water and water for cooking. Moreover, challenges in accessing health assistance and meeting the needs of people with specific vulnerabilities (i.e., people with disabilities, pregnant women, and children) resulted to be a frequent object of discussion in the qualitative analysis.

The scarcity of livelihoods programmes and difficulties in accessing land and agricultural inputs reportedly decrease chances of becoming independent from humanitarian assistance in a population that is mainly composed of farmers with low levels or no education. The activation of training programmes and interventions favouring economic activities that do not entirely depend on land could therefore be encouraged in order to diversify the self-sufficiency options that Uganda may offer to refugees and improve sustainability at the same time.

## ABOUT REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision-making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. All REACH resources are available on our resource center: [www.reachresourcecentre.info](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info). For more information please visit [our website](http://our.website). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.

## ABOUT ALLIANCE2015

Alliance2015 is a strategic network of seven European non-government organisations (ACTED, Ayuda en Acción, Cesvi, Concern Worldwide, HELVETAS, People in Need and Welthungerhilfe) engaged in humanitarian and development action. Founded in 2000 to foster and nurture collaborations for greater scale and impact towards the Millennium Development Goals, Alliance2015 is a strategic and operational network, working towards the broader vision of Agenda 2030 and a world free from poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality.

In Uganda, ACTED, Ayuda en Acción, Cesvi and Welthungerhilfe are currently active in the country and led the implementation of the assessment.