Humanitarian funding analysis: Uganda (anticipation of refugees)

1. Key points

- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US$67 million of humanitarian assistance to Uganda since the start of 2016.
- Of the total reported funding to Uganda so far in 2016, 27% (US$18.2 million) has been allocated specifically in response to the South Sudan refugee crisis.
- The US is currently the largest donor to Uganda, contributing 44% of total funding so far in 2016 (US$29.1 million). The three largest donors combined account for 82% of reported funding currently in 2016.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US$18 million to emergencies in the country – all funded through Rapid Response window.
- The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response plan (RRP) for 2016 currently requests US$193.7 million to meet the needs of refugees fleeing from South Sudan into Uganda, with 22% of the requirements met so far.

2. Recent humanitarian funding to Uganda

Donors have reported commitments/contributions totalling US$67 million of humanitarian assistance to Uganda so far in 2016. Of this total, an estimated 27% (US$18.2 million) has been allocated in response to the needs of South Sudanese refugees in the country. The actual proportion responding to the needs of these refugees is likely to be higher as some funding targeted for South Sudanese refugees is embedded within responses to other refugee populations from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as host communities.

The United States (US) is currently the largest donor to Uganda in 2016 having committed US$29.1 million – 44% of total reported funding. The next largest contributions have come from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), providing US$18 million, and the EU institutions (including the European Commission and the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department) with US$8.5 million. The commitments/contributions from the US, CERF and EU institutions represent 82% of current reported funding in 2016.

Private individuals and organisations have provided US$3.8 billion, making their combined contributions the fourth largest source of funding. All funding from private individuals and organisations have been directed to the response to the South Sudan refugee crisis in the country.

The Start Fund is also among the donors of international humanitarian assistance to Uganda in 2016 with a total of US$264,636 committed/contributed so far.

Figure 1: Humanitarian assistance by donor to Uganda, 2016

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data downloaded 19 July 2016
Note: US: United States; EU includes European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) and the European Commission (EC); CERF: Central Emergency Response Fund. Private includes individuals and
3. Appeals and response plans

Since 2014 the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-coordinated South Sudan RRP has set out requirements to meet the needs of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda and other neighbouring countries. The 2016 South Sudan RRP requests US$701.6 million, of which 28% (US$193.7 million) is specifically for the response in Uganda. Currently 22% of the requirements for the refugee response in Uganda have been met. The requirements in the South Sudan RRP to meet the needs of refugees in Uganda have reduced year on year from a high of US$224.3 million in 2014. At the same time the proportion of requirements met has dropped from 50% in 2014 to just 26% in 2015.

Figure 2: Humanitarian funding to Uganda within the regional South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan, 2014–2016

Note: This analysis is based on figures reported to the FTS regional appeals summary tables. There are currently challenges in quantifying the volumes attached to this crisis/emergency as there are some potential crossovers with the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan – no funding is tracked within the FTS custom downloads.

4. Central Emergency Response Fund

According to the UN CERF website, the CERF has allocated US$18 million to eight projects in Uganda making it the recipient of the fourth largest amount of funding in 2016. All of these allocations were from the Rapid Response window to address the needs of displaced people and conflict-affected populations. More than half (US$9.7 million) is allocated to the South Sudan refugee crisis.

Uganda has received funding from the CERF in the last five years: US$3.2 million in 2015; US$15.9 million in 2014; US$9 million in 2013; and US$6.9 million in 2012.

'Multi-sector' received the largest amount of CERF funding in 2016 at US$7.4 million (41% of the total). Funding to the food sector was second highest, receiving almost a third of the total (US$5.5 million/31%).
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5. Funding to sectors

Over half (52%; US$35.1 million) of all funding reported to Uganda so far in 2016 is yet to be allocated to a particular sector. Multi-sector has received the highest proportion of allocated funds (US$14.3 million; 21% of the total) followed by food (US$8.7 million; 13% of the total). Project descriptions suggest that all of this funding was for support to refugees (though not necessarily for refugees from South Sudan only).

6. Funding channels

The majority (80%; US$53.7 million) of funding so far in 2016 has been channelled through UN agencies, US$39.6 million of which has been channelled through the UNHCR and another US$9.5 million through the UN World Food Programme (WFP). Funding channelled via non-governmental organisations (NGOs; US$11.9 million) accounts for 18% of the total. US$0.6 million and US$0.1 million has been channelled through the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and government agencies, respectively, so far in 2016.
7. Humanitarian funding trends to Uganda (historic)

Humanitarian funding to Uganda as reported to the FTS has increased from US$36.7 million in 2012 to US$66.9 million so far in 2016. Funding peaked in 2014 due to the South Sudan refugee crisis in that year – US$117.2 million was allocated to the South Sudan refugee crisis out of the US$176.5 million allocated for the year. While funding has subsequently decreased following the peak in 2014, levels still remain higher than in either 2012 or 2013, largely due to the response to the needs of South Sudanese refugees.

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data downloaded 19 July 2016
Notes: RCRC: International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; WFP: World Food Programme. Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Data is correct at time of writing and subject to change. For up-to-date figures on the humanitarian response to Uganda and other crises see UN OCHA FTS: fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=home

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