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Uganda Refugee Economy Outlook

First edition, 2026/27: refugees, financing, livelihoods and hosting districts in a year of scarcity

GROUND → DATA → INSIGHT → DECISION

TSV-PUB-004

First edition, 2026/27

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> **The first edition of Tsavone's annual Outlook on the economic lives of refugees and their hosts in Uganda. Built only from public data, it reports a refugee population above two million, humanitarian funding far below requirements, deep cuts to food assistance and rising malnutrition, alongside new development finance for hosting districts. It sets out three scenarios for 2026/27, implications for decision-makers and the evidence gaps Tsavone will measure in later editions.**

About this publication

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1. About this Outlook

The **Uganda Refugee Economy Outlook** is an annual Tsavone Consulting publication on the economic lives of refugees and the districts that host them. This is the first edition, covering the 2026/27 financial year. It is written for people who make decisions about money, programmes and policy in Uganda's refugee response: government departments and local governments, UN agencies, donors and development banks, NGOs and refugee-led organisations, and the companies, banks and mobile money providers that serve settlement markets.

This first edition is built from public data that anyone can check. It draws on official statistics and published sources rather than new survey data. Every figure states its source and year in the text and is listed with a web address in the Sources section. Where a figure is reported in more than one place with different values, we say so. Where a figure is a statement by an official or a media report of an official release, rather than an official statistic, we attribute it to the person or outlet that reported it. Where we could not find a reliable figure, we describe the indicator and say what Tsavone will measure in later editions.

The cut-off date for data in this edition is 29 October 2026. Refugee numbers, funding positions and food security classifications change month by month. Readers should check the most recent releases from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, WFP, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) partnership and FEWS NET before relying on any single number for an operational decision.

1.1 What we mean by the refugee economy

We use **refugee economy** to mean the full set of economic activities, resource flows and institutions that shape the livelihoods of refugees and their hosts. It includes refugee households' farming, wage work,

trade and enterprise; humanitarian transfers in food, cash and services; the markets in and around settlements; public services delivered by district governments; and the investment flows from development partners into refugee-hosting districts. This follows the approach Tsavone uses in its settlement economy studies.

1.2 How to read this Outlook

- Section 2 is the executive summary. Busy readers can stop there.
- Section 3 is a single table of key indicators with sources and years.
- Sections 4 to 9 give the analysis: population, financing, food and assistance, livelihoods and self-reliance, services and inclusion, and the macroeconomic setting.
- Section 10 sets out our outlook for 2026/27 as three scenarios, with the signals that would tell readers which one is unfolding.
- Section 11 draws out implications for each group of decision-makers.
- Section 12 lists the evidence gaps and what Tsavone will measure in later editions. Section 13 is the methods note. Section 15 lists every source.

> **This Outlook reports public data. It does not report Tsavone assignment findings, and it does not represent the views of any client, government body or UN agency.**

2. Executive summary

Uganda now hosts more than two million refugees and asylum-seekers. The OPM and UNHCR data portal reports 2,050,820 people as of 30 September 2026: 1,965,952 refugees and 84,868 asylum-seekers (OPM and UNHCR, 2026) [S1]. At the end of March 2026 South Sudanese made up about 52% of the population and Congolese about 33% (UNHCR, 2026) [S2]. Uganda remains the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.

Arrivals have slowed but not stopped. UNHCR registered 153,933 new asylum-seekers in 2025 (UNHCR, 2026) [S3]. In the first quarter of 2026 registrations fell to 30,220, including 7,746 births, about half the level of the first quarter of 2025 (UNHCR, 2026) [S2]. The population still grew by about 51,000 between March and September 2026 [S1, S2]. Conflict in South Sudan, eastern DRC and Sudan keeps the risk of new surges high.

The financing model is under the most severe strain in its history. The 2026 Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan seeks US$828.7 million for 2.2 million people, with US$423 million identified as urgently prioritised (UNHCR and partners, 2025) [S4]. UNHCR's own 2026 requirement for Uganda was US$361 million, of which 14% was funded at the end of March 2026 (UNHCR, 2026) [S2]. In September 2026 the Deputy Speaker of Parliament told a European Parliament delegation that only 12% of the roughly US$850 million annual requirement had been provided (Daily Monitor, 2026) [S5, S20]. The 2025 plan ended only 22% funded (Global Compact on Refugees, 2025) [S6].

Food assistance has been cut back to the most vulnerable. WFP reported that the number of refugees it assists fell from 1.6 million in early 2025 to 663,000 by March 2026 (WFP, 2026) [S7]. Ration sizes were raised in February 2026 for those still assisted, but around 1.1 million refugees receive no WFP food assistance (FEWS NET, 2026) [S8]. FEWS NET expects Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes across all refugee settlements from October 2026 to January 2027, and reported that funding for 2027 food assistance stood at about 33% of requirements at the end of September 2026 (FEWS NET, 2026) [S9].

Hunger and malnutrition are rising. An IPC analysis of 13 settlements and Kampala estimated about 712,000 refugees (37% of those analysed) in Crisis or worse between August 2025 and February 2026 (FAO GIEWS, 2026, citing IPC) [S10]. UNHCR reported that global acute malnutrition among refugees rose from 5.4% to 7.8% in 2025 (UNHCR, 2026) [S3]. The national IPC analysis released on 22 October 2026 reported about 3.6 million Ugandans in high acute food insecurity, projected to rise to 4.4 million from February to June 2027, with refugees and Karamoja expected to bear the greatest burden (Nile Post and Daily Monitor, 2026, reporting IPC) [S11, S12].

Self-reliance is real but shallow. Refugees have land and the right to work: UNHCR reports that 74.1% had access to arable land in 2025 and 61.5% held a bank or mobile money account (UNHCR, 2026) [S3]. But only 5.8% reported a positive change in income in 2025, against a target of 11.5% [S3]. World Bank analysis of 2018 survey data found that aid made up 47% of refugee consumption on average and that Uganda's inclusion policies saved about US$150 per refugee per year compared with an encampment model (Atamanov, Hoogeveen and Reese, 2024) [S13]. The same analysis showed that the costs of inclusion come before the benefits.

The macroeconomic setting has tightened sharply. Uganda's economy grew by an estimated 6.4% in 2025/26 (UBOS, 2026) [S14]. But on 14 October 2026 the Bank of Uganda raised the Central Bank Rate from 9.75% to 12%, citing shilling depreciation and imported inflation, and cut its 2026/27 growth forecast to 6.0% to 6.5% (Bank of Uganda, as reported by Nairametrics, 2026) [S15]. Headline inflation was 4.6% in September 2026 and is projected to average 7.0% to 7.5% over the next twelve months [S15, S16]. Food crop inflation jumped from 1.2% in August to 7.0% in September (FEWS NET, 2026, citing UBOS) [S9]. Higher food prices and costlier credit hit refugee households that now buy most of their food.

Development finance is the main new money. The second phase of the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP II), a US$328 million, five-year programme for 14 refugee-hosting districts, was due to start in October 2026 (Parliament of Uganda, 2026) [S17]. Uganda remains eligible for the World Bank's window for host communities and refugees (World Bank, 2026) [S18].

2.1 Our central outlook for 2026/27

Our central scenario is **managed contraction**: the refugee population stays between 2.0 and 2.2 million, humanitarian funding stays at or below one third of requirements, food insecurity in settlements stays at Crisis level through the first half of 2027, and the main growth in support comes from development-financed programmes in hosting districts. The main downside risk is a new large influx combined with a 2027 food pipeline break. The main upside is faster delivery of development finance and wider refugee access to credit, markets and national services. Section 10 sets out the signals to watch.

2.2 Five messages for decision-makers

1. Plan for scarcity as the norm, not a temporary gap. Programme designs that assume a return to 2023 funding levels will fail.
2. Measure self-reliance with income and consumption, not with participation counts. The gap between 223,463 'economic opportunities' created and 5.8% of refugees reporting income gains shows why [S6, S3].
3. Treat refugee-hosting districts as one economy. Host and refugee households trade, hire and farm together; investments that serve both perform better and are easier to defend politically.
4. Protect the nutrition floor. Malnutrition rose fastest where rations were cut. Cuts to the last 60% ration for the most vulnerable carry large, costly and partly irreversible harm.
5. Build the evidence base now. Uganda lacks a recent, public, representative survey of refugee welfare. The joint World Bank and UNHCR analysis of the 2023/24 national household survey, when published, should become the reference point [S19].

3. Key indicators

The table below gives the headline indicators used in this Outlook. Each row states the latest value we could find, the period it refers to and the source. Indicators without a reliable public value are listed in Section 12.

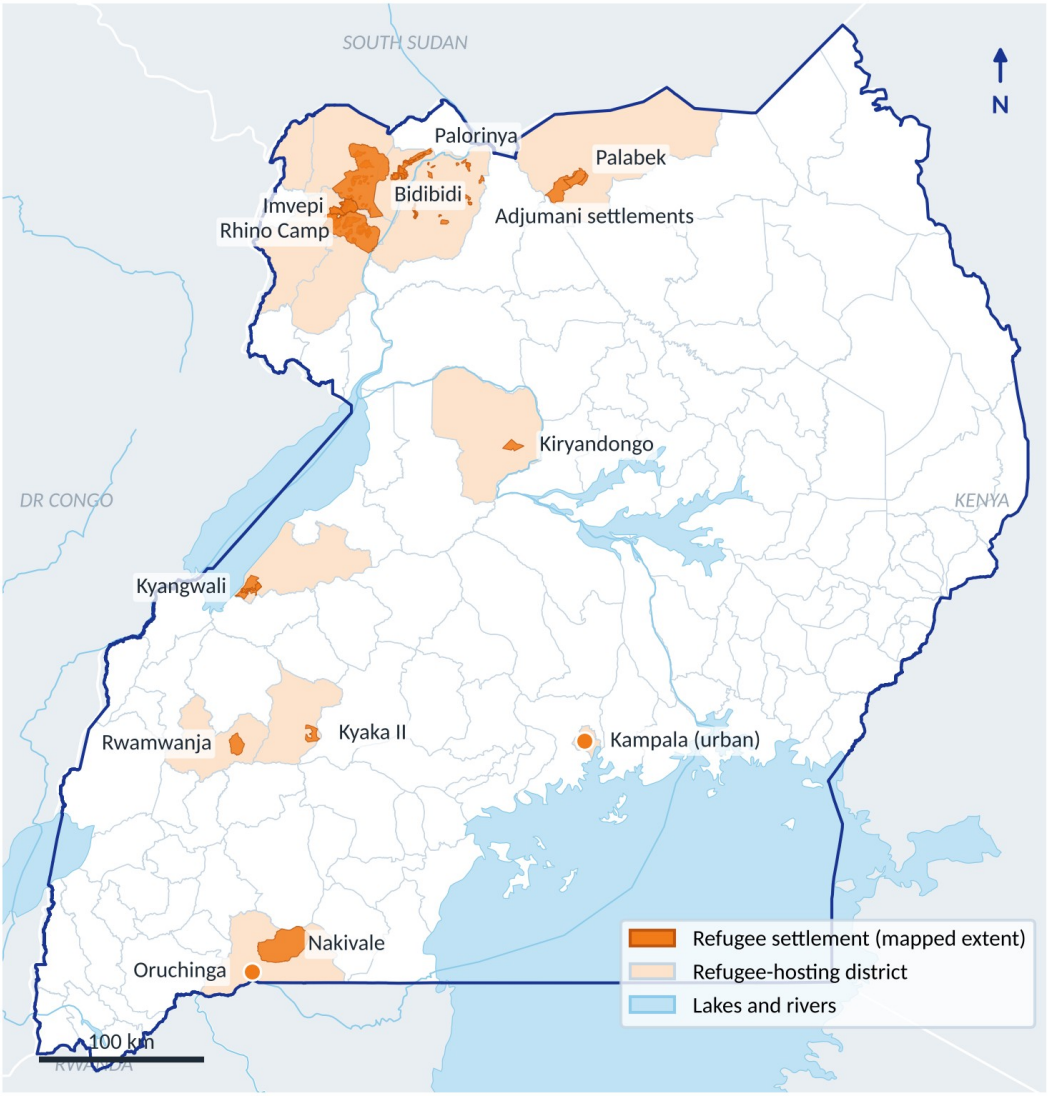
Indicator	Latest value	Period	Source
Refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda	2,050,820 (1,965,952 refugees; 84,868 asylum-seekers)	30 Sep 2026	OPM and UNHCR portal [S1]
Refugees and asylum-seekers, end of year	1,971,983	31 Dec 2025	UNHCR Annual Results Report 2025 [S3]
Share from South Sudan / DRC	About 52% / about 33%	31 Mar 2026	UNHCR factsheet [S2]
New asylum-seekers registered	153,933	2025	UNHCR [S3]
New registrations (incl. births)	30,220 (7,746 births)	Q1 2026	UNHCR factsheet [S2]
Women and children as share of population	77%	Mar 2026	UNHCR factsheet [S2]
2026 Country Refugee Response Plan requirement	US$828.7 million (US$423 million prioritised)	2026	Uganda CRRP 2026 [S4]
UNHCR Uganda requirement and funding	US$361 million; 14% funded	31 Mar 2026	UNHCR factsheet [S2]
UNHCR funds available against budget	US$133.9 million of US$361.0 million (37.1%)	2025	UNHCR [S3]
2025 CRRP funding level	22%	2025	GRF stocktaking report [S6]
Refugees assisted by WFP	663,000 (from 1.6 million in early 2025)	Mar 2026	WFP [S7]
Refugees not receiving WFP food assistance	About 1.1 million	Jun 2026	FEWS NET [S8]
Refugees in IPC Phase 3 or worse	About 712,000 (37% of analysed)	Aug 2025 to Feb 2026 (projection)	FAO GIEWS citing IPC [S10]
Global acute malnutrition among refugees	7.8% (from 5.4%)	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Refugees with access to arable land	74.1%	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Refugees with bank or mobile money account	61.5%	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Refugees reporting positive income change	5.8% (target 11.5%)	2025	UNHCR [S3]

Indicator	Latest value	Period	Source
Refugees covered by national social protection	20.5%	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Refugee gross enrolment, primary / secondary	80% / 10%	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Refugee poverty rate (latest public estimate)	46% (hosts 18%)	2018	World Bank working paper [S13]
Real GDP growth, Uganda	6.4%	FY2025/26 (preliminary)	UBOS [S14]
Headline / core inflation	4.6% / 3.7%	Sep 2026	UBOS via Trading Economics; Bank of Uganda [S16, S15]
Central Bank Rate	12.0% (from 9.75%)	14 Oct 2026	Bank of Uganda via Nairametrics [S15]
DRDIP II financing	US$328 million, 14 districts, 5 years	From Oct 2026	Parliament of Uganda [S17]

4. Population and movement

4.1 Size and composition

The refugee and asylum-seeker population passed two million during 2026. The OPM and UNHCR portal reported 2,050,820 people on 30 September 2026 [S1], up from 1,999,576 on 31 March 2026 [S2] and 1,971,983 at the end of 2025 [S3]. UNHCR reported that the population grew by 10.2% during 2025, with new arrivals accounting for 84.1% of the growth and births for 15.9% [S3].



Boundaries: Uganda administrative boundaries (135 districts, OCHA/UBOS 2020). Settlements: OpenStreetMap. Map: Tsavone Consulting, 2026.

Figure 1. Refugee settlements and refugee-hosting districts in Uganda

Settlement extents and the Kampala and Oruchinga points: OpenStreetMap (October 2026 extract). Boundaries: Uganda administrative boundaries, 135 districts (OCHA/UBOS, 2020). Map: Tsavone Consulting, 2026.

The population is dominated by two nationalities. At the end of March 2026 there were 1,042,204 South Sudanese (about 52%) and 657,223 Congolese (about 33%), followed by Sudanese (93,991), Eritreans (65,555) and Somalis (50,440), with 90,163 people of other nationalities (UNHCR, 2026) [S2]. Women and children make up 77% of the population, and more than one million refugees are children [S2]. This demographic profile matters economically: a large dependent population, many female-headed households, and a smaller share of working-age men than in host communities.

Country of origin	Number	Approximate share
South Sudan	1,042,204	52%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	657,223	33%
Sudan	93,991	5%
Eritrea	65,555	3%
Somalia	50,440	3%

Country of origin	Number	Approximate share
Others	90,163	5%
Total	1,999,576	100%

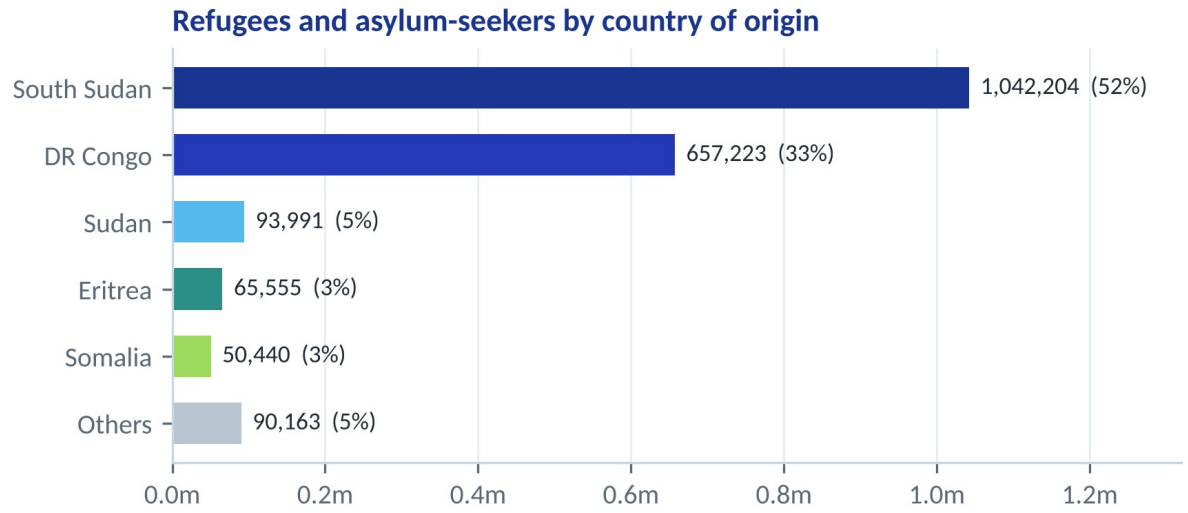


Figure 2. Refugees and asylum-seekers by country of origin
Source: UNHCR Uganda factsheet, 31 March 2026 [S2]. Total 1,999,576.

Source: UNHCR Uganda factsheet, January to March 2026, figures as of 31 March 2026 [S2]. Shares are Tsavone's calculations from those figures and are rounded.

4.2 Where refugees live

Most refugees live in gazetted settlements in the West Nile and Acholi sub-regions in the north and in the south-west, with a smaller urban caseload in Kampala. Media reports in 2026 refer to 13 settlements (Daily Monitor, 2026) [S20]. Settlement-level population tables are published monthly by OPM and UNHCR as dashboards on the data portal [S21]; we did not reproduce them here because the figures change monthly and the latest dashboard was available only as a downloadable file. Later editions will include a settlement table drawn directly from the September dashboard of each year.

The geography shapes the economy. Northern settlements host mainly South Sudanese refugees in areas of lower rainfall, weaker market access and higher poverty. Settlements in the south-west and west, such as Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyaka II, Rwamwanja and Kyangwali, host mainly Congolese refugees in areas closer to the commercial agriculture and trading corridors of Ankole, Tooro and Bunyoro. FEWS NET's June 2026 outlook reflects this difference: it projected Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in northern settlements from June 2026 and Stressed outcomes in south-western settlements until September, worsening to Crisis from October as first-season stocks ran out (FEWS NET, 2026) [S8].

4.3 Arrivals and departures

UNHCR registered 153,933 new asylum-seekers in 2025, with daily arrivals averaging up to 422 people, mainly from South Sudan, eastern DRC and Sudan [S3]. Registrations in the first quarter of 2026 were about 50% lower than a year earlier [S2]. UNHCR projected about 200,000 additional people in 2026 at the time of the November 2025 national stocktaking (Global Compact on Refugees, 2025) [S6]. An OPM official told Parliament in March 2026 that about 27,000 new arrivals were expected in 2026/27 (Parliament of Uganda and Pulse Uganda, 2026) [S34, S22]. The gap between these two figures is large.

We treat the UNHCR projection as the planning-relevant upper range and note that actual 2026 arrivals to September appear to have been well below it.

Departures are small but rising. The Daily Monitor reported in September 2026 that at least 17,458 Burundian and 150 Sudanese refugees had voluntarily repatriated (Daily Monitor, 2026) [S20]. The GRF stocktaking report recorded 25,240 people supported to durable solutions since December 2023, including 7,222 resettled, and noted that resettlement quotas fell by 90% in 2025 [S6]. Resettlement is therefore not a meaningful route out for the great majority of refugees in Uganda.

> **Planning implication: the refugee population will not fall materially in 2026/27. Even with slower arrivals, births and continued inflows mean programmes should plan for at least 2.0 to 2.2 million people.**

5. Financing the response

5.1 Requirements

The 2026 Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP) seeks US$828.7 million to support 2.2 million people, and identifies a prioritised subset of 1.8 million people and US$423 million (UNHCR and partners, 2025) [S4]. The plan is organised in three tiers: life-saving protection and emergency assistance; sustaining essential basic services at reduced coverage; and resilience and integration into national systems, which depends on available funding [S4]. A multi-year detailed planning document for 2026 to 2030 was published on the data portal on 31 December 2025 [S23].

Government statements in 2026 used a round figure of about US$850 million (Shs3.2 to 3.3 trillion) for annual requirements across protection, food, health, education and infrastructure (Daily Monitor, 2026) [S5, S20].

5.2 What has been received

Funding has fallen well short of requirements in every recent year, and the gap is widening:

Measure	Value	Source
2025 CRRP funded	22%	GRF stocktaking report, Dec 2025 [S6]
UNHCR Uganda funds available, 2025	US$133.9 million of US$361.0 million final budget (37.1%)	UNHCR Annual Results Report 2025 [S3]
UNHCR Uganda 2026 funded	US$49.9 million of US$361 million (14%)	UNHCR factsheet, 31 Mar 2026 [S2]
Education / health / WASH sector funding under the CRRP	13% of US$107m / 4.6% of US$131m / 2% of US$46m	UNHCR factsheet, Q1 2026 [S2]
Share of requirement provided by partners (government statement)	12%	Deputy Speaker, Daily Monitor, 21 Sep 2026 [S5]
Received by July 2026 (government statement)	About Shs566.3 billion (US$150 million)	Daily Monitor, 10 Sep 2026 [S20]
EU humanitarian assistance to Uganda	EUR 20.7 million (2026); EUR 23.9 million (2025)	Daily Monitor, 21 Sep 2026 [S5]

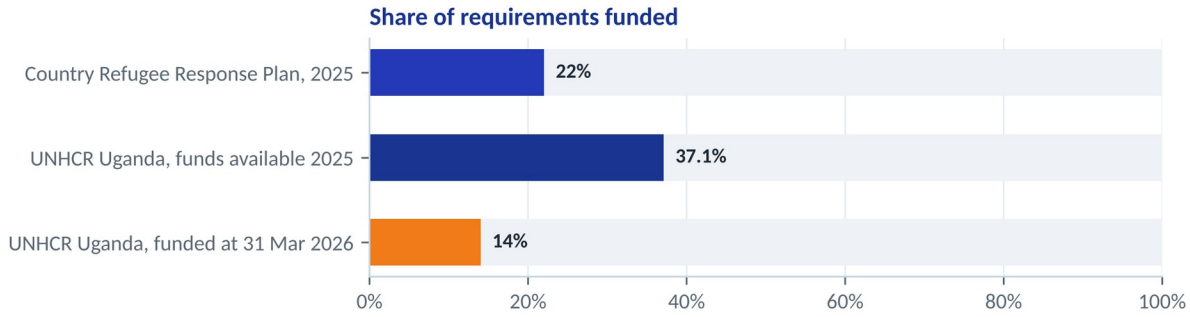


Figure 3. The response is funded at a fraction of requirements

Sources: GRF stocktaking report, December 2025 [S6]; UNHCR Annual Results Report 2025 [S3]; UNHCR factsheet, 31 March 2026 [S2].

Two cautions apply. First, the government figures quoted in the media are not internally consistent: 12% of US$850 million is about US$102 million, not US$150 million. Second, UNHCR's narrative for 2025 describes receiving 'a little more than half' of its requirements while its own table shows 37.1% of the final budget [S3]; the difference likely reflects different baselines (operating level versus full needs). Readers should use the inter-agency financial tracking on the UNHCR data portal's funding working group page for current figures [S24].

5.3 Why the gap matters economically

Humanitarian transfers are a large part of the settlement economy. The World Bank found that in 2018, aid accounted for 47% of refugee consumption on average, rising to 61% for the poorest fifth of refugee households (Atamanov, Hoogeveen and Reese, 2024) [S13]. When funding falls, settlement markets lose demand, traders lose customers, and host farmers who sell to refugees lose income. The same paper estimated that refugees received about US$145 million in aid, roughly half of the US$290 million needed to close the basic-needs gap under 2018 conditions [S13]. Those figures are dated, but the direction is clear: assistance was already below need before the 2025 cuts.

The financing gap also reaches public services. The GRF stocktaking report warned that teachers and health workers in settlements risked being unfunded from January 2026 [S6]. District governments already provide 25% of the health workforce in refugee-hosting areas (623 personnel) according to UNHCR [S3]. If humanitarian-funded staff are not absorbed into district payrolls, service gaps fall on both refugees and hosts.

5.4 Development finance

Development finance is the main source of new, multi-year money for refugee-hosting areas:

- **DRDIP II.** The Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees told Parliament in September 2026 that a US$328 million second phase of DRDIP would start in October 2026, run for five years and cover 14 refugee-hosting districts, with three components: social and economic services and infrastructure; livelihoods and economic opportunities; and environmental management and community resilience. The release cited three million refugee and host beneficiaries (Parliament of Uganda, 2026) [S17]. The World Bank describes the US$328 million as World Bank Group financing, expected to reach about three million people, including one million refugees (World Bank, 2026) [S35]. A March 2026 media report of a parliamentary briefing described the project as funded largely by UNHCR [S22]; the World Bank and Parliament releases do not support this.
- **World Bank refugee window.** The World Bank listed Uganda among 21 countries eligible, as of December 2025, for its financing window for host communities and refugees (World Bank, 2026) [S18].

- **National budget.** The OPM's 2026/27 budget proposal was reported at Shs216 billion in March 2026 (Parliament of Uganda and Pulse Uganda, 2026) [S34, S22]. The approved 2026/27 national budget totals Shs84.39 trillion (KPMG, 2026) [S25]; we could not find a published line for refugee response within it.

> **The structural shift is from annual humanitarian appeals to multi-year development programmes that run through government. That shift favours districts and programmes able to show results in national systems, and it changes who buys evidence and what they ask for.**

6. Food, assistance and nutrition

6.1 How food assistance changed

WFP moved from general food assistance to vulnerability-based prioritisation in 2023. Under the categorisation introduced that year, 13.4% of refugees were in Category 1 (most vulnerable) receiving a 60% ration, 82.2% in Category 2 receiving 30%, and 4.4% in Category 3 receiving no assistance (SSHAP, 2024) [S26]. Funding cuts in 2025 then reduced coverage sharply. FEWS NET reports that Category 1 rations fell to 40% and Category 2 to 22% between late 2024 and 2025, and that by May 2025 more than 1.1 million of over 1.6 million refugees received no assistance (FEWS NET, 2026) [S27].

In February 2026 WFP raised ration sizes for those still assisted: new arrivals from 60% to 100%, Category 1 from 40% to 60%, and Category 2 from 22% to 30% (FEWS NET, 2026) [S8]. Coverage did not recover. WFP reported assisting 663,000 refugees by March 2026 [S7]. WFP said it needed US$47 million to sustain assistance through 2026 [S7]; FEWS NET reported that WFP estimates about US$134 million in additional funding is needed for 2027 [S8], and that as of 30 September 2026 funding for 2027 food assistance had reached about 33% of the requirement [S9].

Group	Ration before 2025 cuts	Ration after 2025 cuts	Ration from Feb 2026
New arrivals	Not stated	60%	100%
Category 1 (most vulnerable)	60%	40%	60%
Category 2	30%	22%	30%
Category 3	None	None	None

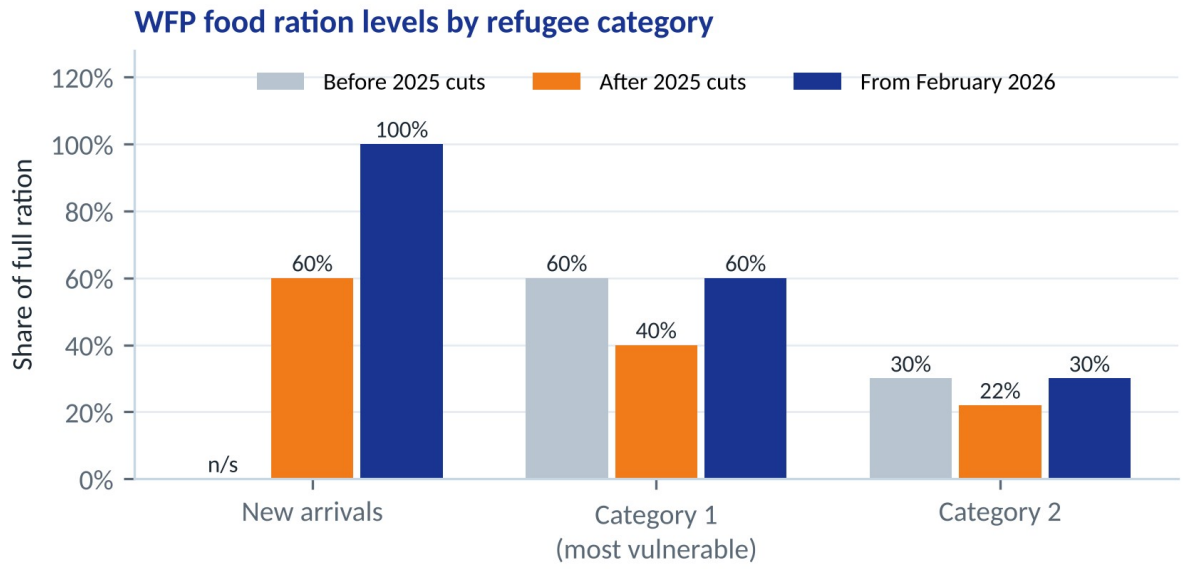


Figure 4. WFP ration levels before and after the 2025 cuts

Source: as in the table above. Category 3 households receive no food ration. n/s: not stated.

Sources: SSHAP 2024 [S26]; FEWS NET March and June 2026 [S27, S8]. Ration percentages refer to the share of a full ration or its cash equivalent.

6.2 Food security outcomes

The IPC analysis of refugee settlements released in September 2025 estimated about 712,000 refugees, 37% of those analysed in 13 settlements and Kampala, in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse between August 2025 and February 2026 (FAO GIEWS, 2026) [S10]. WFP cited a UN report finding that 65% of refugees lacked sufficient food, over 70% of households had reduced daily meals, one in four families had pulled children out of school, acute malnutrition among children under five had risen by nearly 50% in a year, and four in ten children had emergency-level anaemia (WFP, 2026) [S7].

FEWS NET's September 2026 update expected Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes across all refugee settlements from October 2026 to January 2027, after Crisis persisted in most northern settlements in September (FEWS NET, 2026) [S9]. The national IPC analysis released on 22 October 2026 covered 60 districts and reported about 3.6 million people in high acute food insecurity in August and September 2026, projected to reach 4.4 million in February to June 2027, with treatment needs of 465,900 children under five and 246,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women between April 2026 and March 2027 (Nile Post, 2026, reporting IPC) [S11, S12]. Media reports did not give a separate refugee figure; Tsavone will report it from the IPC release in the next edition. A joint appeal of US$50 million was launched with the analysis to cover Karamoja and early action in 37 districts and eight refugee settlements [S11].

6.3 Nutrition

UNHCR's 2025 results show global acute malnutrition among refugees rising from 5.4% to 7.8% [S3]. Earlier data cited by SSHAP showed only 8.5% of refugee children meeting a minimum acceptable diet by 2022 and stunting of 52% in Rwamwanja and 54% in Kyangwali in 2023 [S26]. The link between ration cuts and child nutrition is the single strongest argument for protecting the most vulnerable households' assistance.

6.4 Prices and purchasing power

Refugee households now buy most of their food. FEWS NET reported that in mid-March 2026 maize prices were near the five-year average while beans were about 20% higher than a year earlier [S27]. In

May 2026 sorghum and cassava prices were well above both last year and the five-year average [S8]. In September 2026 food crop inflation jumped to 7.0% from 1.2% in August, with beans up 6.3% and bananas up 16% by mid-September, while the shilling depreciated by 4% to 5% from late August (FEWS NET, 2026) [S9]. Casual agricultural labour, known locally as leja-leja, paid UGX 3,000 to 6,000 per day in Palabek and Rhino Camp in 2024 (SSHAP, 2024) [S26]. An MP told Parliament in March 2026 that refugees receive about Shs10,000 per month for food (Parliament of Uganda and Pulse Uganda, 2026) [S34, S22].

> **When food prices rise faster than casual wages and assistance has been cut, households sell assets, eat seed stock and send children to work. These are the coping strategies already documented in Uganda's settlements [S26].**

7. Livelihoods and self-reliance

7.1 The policy foundation

Uganda's model gives refugees freedom of movement, the right to work and start businesses, and access to a plot of land for shelter and farming, under the Refugees Act 2006 and the Refugees Regulations 2010. It is widely cited as one of the most progressive in the world (World Bank, 2019) [S28]. In 2023 Uganda co-convened the Global Refugee Forum and made 55 sub-pledges across five thematic areas, matched by 92 partner pledges (Global Compact on Refugees, 2025) [S6].

7.2 What the latest results show

Indicator	Value	Period	Source
Refugees with access to arable land	74.1% (68% in 2024)	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Secure tenure for housing or land	0.26% (target 1%)	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Bank or mobile money account	61.5%	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Self-reported positive income change	5.8% (target 11.5%)	2025	UNHCR [S3]
People reached by UNHCR livelihood and inclusion interventions	3,104	2025	UNHCR [S3]
Economic opportunities created under GRF pledges	223,463 (79% of 300,000 target); 124,334 for refugees, 96,451 for hosts	Dec 2023 to Nov 2025	GRF stocktaking [S6]
Smallholders adopting climate-smart practices	93,190	Dec 2023 to Nov 2025	GRF stocktaking [S6]
Refugee share of market stall allocations	Average 39% (pledge 10%)	2025	GRF stocktaking [S6]
TVET students certified	3,181 of 12,176	2025	GRF stocktaking [S6]

Indicator	Value	Period	Source
Smallholders receiving irrigation support	Under 1% of 300,000 target	2025	GRF stocktaking [S6]

Three things stand out. First, access to land is broad but tenure is almost never secure, and plot sizes have shrunk as settlements filled. Second, financial access has grown faster than incomes: three in five refugees have an account, but only one in twenty reports earning more. Third, outputs reported under the pledges, such as 'economic opportunities created', are not the same as income gains, and the evidence linking the two is thin.

7.3 The economics of inclusion

The most rigorous public analysis of the costs and benefits of Uganda's model remains the World Bank working paper by Atamanov, Hoogeveen and Reese (2024), based on the 2018 Uganda Refugee and Host Communities Household Survey [S13]. Its main findings:

- Refugee poverty was 46% in 2018, against 18% in host communities, and about 70% of refugee households faced severe food insecurity against 50% of hosts.
- Without any economic opportunities, meeting refugees' basic needs would cost about US$343 per refugee per year. With Uganda's actual policies it cost about US$193, a saving of about US$150 per refugee or about US$225 million a year for 1.5 million refugees. The authors call this the 'inclusion dividend'.
- Costs varied by location: about US$10 per refugee in Kampala, US$140 in the south-west and US$231 in West Nile.
- Land ownership, an employed household head, three or more years in Uganda and access to borrowing were associated with smaller poverty gaps.
- If refugees had the same human capital, assets and opportunities as average Ugandans, the cost would fall to about US$39 per refugee per year.

An earlier World Bank summary of the same survey reported refugee poverty at 48% and host poverty at 17%, with about three in four refugees unemployed (World Bank, 2019) [S28]. The difference from the working paper reflects methodological refinement; we use the 2024 paper as the more recent estimate.

The policy lesson is that inclusion pays, but only after up-front investment in skills, land, finance and market access, and only over several years. Cutting assistance before livelihoods can carry households does not accelerate self-reliance; the evidence from 2025 suggests it pushes households into negative coping instead [S7, S26].

7.4 What works: emerging evidence

Evaluation evidence from Uganda is growing. In June 2026 IDinsight reported first-endline results from a randomised evaluation of Delivering Resilient Enterprises and Market Systems (DREAMS), a programme combining poverty graduation with market systems development for refugees and hosts in West Nile. Treatment households had 17% higher monthly consumption, 108% higher savings and 21% higher asset values than control households (IDinsight, 2026; The Independent via AllAfrica, 2026) [S36, S29]. WFP reported that its self-reliance programme targets 100,000 participants by the end of 2026 [S7]. Tsavone will review the published evaluation reports for these and similar programmes in the second edition, focusing on cost per sustained income gain.

7.5 Settlement markets and the private sector

Settlement economies are increasingly cash-based: farm output, casual labour, small trade, mobile money and remittances. UNHCR's 2025 data show more than 61% of refugees with a financial account [S3], and refugees receiving cash transfers saw the average transfer for a family of three fall from US$100 to US$60 by the end of 2025 [S3]. This is a large market, poorly measured. We found no public, recent estimate of the total value of trade in settlement markets, of refugee-owned enterprises, or of credit outstanding to refugees. Section 12 sets out how Tsavone will measure these.

8. Services and inclusion in national systems

Integration of refugee services into national systems is the core of Uganda's long-term model and of the CRRP's third tier. UNHCR's 2025 results give a mixed picture [S3]:

Area	Indicator	Value (2025)
Education	Gross enrolment: overall / primary / secondary	47% / 80% / 10% (2024: 51% / 88% / 9%)
Education	Refugee learners in the national system	30.7% (target 35%)
Education	Refugee learners attending public schools	31%
Health	Outpatient consultations	1.8 million (2.1 million in 2024)
Health	Births attended by skilled personnel	97.5%
Health	District-provided health workers in hosting areas	25% of workforce (623 personnel)
Water	Refugee water systems managed by national utilities	Over 10% (24 motorised schemes)
Energy	Primary reliance on clean cooking fuels	43.2%
Energy	Energy for lighting	70.7%
Social protection	Covered by national social protection systems	20.5% (target 20%)
Documentation	Birth certificates issued (Dec 2023 to Nov 2025)	253,277 (GRF stocktaking [S6])

Source: UNHCR Annual Results Report 2025 [S3] unless stated. Overall gross enrolment fell from 51% to 47% and primary from 88% to 80%; secondary rose from 9% to 10%.

Falling primary enrolment and outpatient visits in 2025 are consistent with households cutting spending on schooling and health as assistance fell. The GRF stocktaking also notes that work permits remain costly because refugees must first obtain a Conventional Travel Document [S6], a practical barrier to formal employment. Refugee Engagement Forums give refugees a structured voice in national decision-making, but their sustainability is at risk as funding falls [S6].

Inclusion has a fiscal cost for hosting districts, whose own resources are thin. The education sector was 13% funded and health 4.6% funded under the CRRP at the end of March 2026 [S2]. Without a predictable transfer to districts for refugee caseloads, inclusion transfers costs from donors to some of Uganda's poorest local governments.

9. The macroeconomic setting

Refugee households and hosting districts are exposed to the national economy through food prices, the exchange rate, interest rates and public spending.

Indicator	Value	Period	Source
Real GDP growth	6.4% (6.3% in 2024/25)	FY2025/26 preliminary	UBOS [S14]
Nominal GDP	Shs250.4 trillion	FY2025/26	UBOS via Daily Monitor [S30]
Agriculture share of GDP / growth	26.2% / 6.5%	FY2025/26	UBOS via Daily Monitor [S30]
Headline / core / food inflation	4.6% / 3.7% / 4.7%	Sep 2026	UBOS via Trading Economics [S16]
Food crop inflation	7.0% (1.2% in Aug)	Sep 2026	FEWS NET citing UBOS [S9]
Central Bank Rate	12.0% (from 9.75%)	14 Oct 2026	Bank of Uganda via Nairametrics [S15]
Headline inflation projection	7.0% to 7.5% average	Next 12 months from Oct 2026	Bank of Uganda via Nairametrics [S15]
GDP growth forecast	6.0% to 6.5% (cut from 7.0% to 7.5%)	FY2026/27	Bank of Uganda via Nairametrics [S15]; MPS Aug 2026 [S31]
Current account deficit	US$4.6 billion	12 months to Aug 2026	Bank of Uganda via Nairametrics [S15]
Gross public debt	55.1% of GDP	FY2025/26	IMF Article IV [S32]
National budget	Shs84.39 trillion	FY2026/27	KPMG Budget Brief [S25]

The October 2026 emergency rate rise marks a turn. The Bank of Uganda cited shilling depreciation, a wider external deficit, Middle East conflict and higher global energy prices, weaker agricultural export earnings and tighter global financial conditions [S15]. For refugee households the main channels are higher prices for food and fuel, and costlier credit for traders and savings groups that borrow from banks and microfinance institutions. For hosting districts, a tighter national budget makes it harder to absorb humanitarian-funded staff. The IMF's July 2026 Article IV statement listed climate shocks, an Ebola outbreak, delays in oil production and tighter global financial conditions among the main risks to Uganda's outlook [S32].

There are offsetting positives. Agriculture grew by 6.5% in 2025/26 [S30], and the 2026/27 budget raises the VAT registration threshold from Shs150 million to Shs300 million, which reduces compliance burdens for small traders, including in settlement markets (KPMG, 2026) [S25]. The September to December 2026 rains were forecast to be near-normal to above-normal across most of the country (Ministry of Water and Environment, as reported by Daily Monitor, 2026) [S33], which should support second-season harvests in the south-west and parts of the north, though with flood risk.

10. Outlook for 2026/27

We present three scenarios for the period to June 2027. They are not forecasts with probabilities attached; they are structured judgements based on the evidence in this Outlook, designed to help decision-makers plan.

Scenario	What it looks like	Signals to watch
A. Managed contraction (central)	Population 2.0 to 2.2 million. Humanitarian funding at or below one third of requirements. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in most settlements to mid-2027. WFP pipeline maintained for the most vulnerable at reduced coverage. DRDIP II and other development programmes start delivering in 2027.	Monthly OPM/UNHCR population dashboards; WFP pipeline statements; IPC update for February to June 2027; DRDIP II sub-project approvals.
B. Compound shock (downside)	A new large influx from South Sudan, DRC or Sudan coincides with a 2027 food pipeline break and high food prices after a weak harvest. Malnutrition rises above emergency thresholds in some settlements. Spontaneous returns and secondary movement to towns increase.	Daily arrival rates above 1,000 for several weeks; WFP announcing further cuts; food crop inflation above 10%; GAM above 10% in nutrition surveys.
C. Development pivot (upside)	Faster disbursement of development finance through districts; teachers and health workers absorbed into district payrolls; refugees gain wider access to credit, work permits and markets; stable or falling food prices after a good second season.	District payroll absorption announcements; bank and microfinance lending products for refugees; work permit fee reforms; falling food crop inflation.

10.1 Key judgements

- Population: we expect the refugee and asylum-seeker population to remain above two million throughout 2026/27.
- Funding: we expect humanitarian funding for 2026 and 2027 to remain far below requirements, with the share of total support coming through development programmes rising.
- Food security: we expect Crisis outcomes across settlements to persist to at least January 2027, as FEWS NET projects [S9], with the first half of 2027 depending on the second-season harvest and the WFP pipeline.
- Prices: we expect higher food and fuel prices than in 2025/26, consistent with the Bank of Uganda's inflation projection [S15].
- Self-reliance: we expect slow, uneven gains concentrated among households with more land, an employed adult, longer residence and access to credit, in line with the factors identified by the World Bank [S13].

Every judgement above will be checked against outturn data in the second edition, and we will publish what we got wrong.

11. Implications for decision-makers

11.1 Government (OPM, line ministries, local governments)

- Use the CRRP prioritisation tiers to protect life-saving services and the most vulnerable households' food assistance first.
- Plan district absorption of settlement teachers and health workers in the 2027/28 budget cycle, with a costed transition plan per district.
- Reduce practical barriers to formal work, such as the requirement to obtain a Conventional Travel Document before a work permit [S6].
- Require DRDIP II and similar programmes to report income and consumption outcomes, not only outputs.

11.2 Donors and development banks

- Shift a larger share of support to multi-year, flexible instruments in hosting districts, while maintaining a protected humanitarian floor for nutrition and the most vulnerable.
- Finance up-front investments that the evidence links to lower poverty gaps: land use and tenure arrangements, skills with certification, credit access and market infrastructure [S13].
- Fund one high-quality, public refugee and host welfare survey that can be repeated, building on the 2023/24 national household survey analysis [S19].

11.3 UN agencies and NGOs

- Design for a lower funding baseline. Prioritise programmes that leave behind assets, skills or systems that do not depend on continued grants.
- Track protection risks associated with cuts: child labour, early marriage, transactional sex and gender-based violence were all reported in settlements after the 2023 categorisation [S26].
- Strengthen appeals and accountability in targeting. SSHAP reported that in Palabek only four of about 2,000 appeals cases were overturned [S26].

11.4 Private sector and financial service providers

- Settlement markets are large, cash-based and underserved. Over 61% of refugees hold an account [S3], but credit and insurance products designed for refugees are rare.
- Consider joint host-refugee value chains in the south-west and West Nile, where land and labour are available and buyers are close.
- Expect higher demand volatility in 2026/27 as assistance and prices change; build flexible supply arrangements.

11.5 Refugee-led organisations

- Use the data in this Outlook to argue for representation in district planning and for a fair share of localised funding. Partners reported about US$73.3 million channelled to national and local actors in the pledge period, an indicative figure [S6].
- Document what members do to cope and earn. This evidence is scarce and valuable to policymakers.

12. Evidence gaps and what Tsavone will measure

The first edition exposed significant gaps in public data. We list them so that readers know the limits of this Outlook and so that data producers can prioritise. Tsavone will fill some of these in later editions

through structured reviews of published data and, where funding and ethical approval allow, primary data collection under its field evidence quality standard and its ethics rules for research with refugees.

Indicator	Why it matters	Current public data	What Tsavone will do
Refugee poverty rate (current)	Core welfare measure	Latest public estimate is from 2018 [S13]; 2023/24 analysis in progress [S19]	Report the World Bank and UNHCR results on publication; track subsequent updates
Refugee household income and consumption by settlement	Shows whether self-reliance is improving	Not published at settlement level	Compile from published assessments; propose a light panel with partners
Value of trade in settlement markets	Size of the settlement economy	No public estimate found	Pilot market price and volume monitoring in two settlements
Refugee-owned enterprises and employment	Jobs and firm growth	No public census	Review registration data with district commercial officers
Credit to refugees (bank, MFI, SACCO)	Access to finance drives poverty reduction [S13]	No public series	Request aggregated data from financial institutions and regulators
Host community welfare in hosting districts	Political sustainability of the model	UNHS 2023/24 regional data; no hosting-district series	Report sub-regional poverty from UNHS for hosting regions
Refugees in IPC Phase 3+ (current analysis)	Severity of hunger	Released October 2026; refugee breakdown not found in media	Report directly from the IPC analysis in edition two
Settlement population table	Planning base	Monthly dashboards (downloadable files) [S21]	Include a September snapshot each year
Cost per sustained income gain of livelihood programmes	Value for money	Few published cost-effectiveness studies	Review evaluations; publish a comparison table

13. Methods note

13.1 Approach

This Outlook is a structured desk review of public data. Tsavone searched official and multilateral sources first: OPM and UNHCR data portal releases, UNHCR factsheets and annual results, the inter-agency CRRP, WFP and FEWS NET reports, FAO GIEWS, IPC releases, UBOS, the Bank of Uganda, the IMF and the World Bank. Where official releases were not available online in full text, we used reputable national and international media reports of those releases and cited the media source.

13.2 Rules applied

1. Every figure states its source and period in the text and is listed in the Sources section with a web address.

2. Figures are reported as published. Tsavone calculations, such as shares derived from counts, are labelled as our own calculations.
3. Where sources disagree, we report both values and explain the difference where we can.
4. Figures that are statements by officials, or media reports of official releases, are attributed to the person or outlet that reported them. Readers should treat them as indicative.
5. Where no reliable figure exists, we describe the indicator and the gap rather than estimate it.
6. Scenarios in Section 10 are Tsavone's judgements and are labelled as such.

13.3 Limitations

- Several primary documents, including settlement dashboards and UNHCR funding updates, were available only as downloadable files that we could not read in full. We relied on the portal summary pages and factsheets.
- Some figures come from media reports of official statements, which may round or simplify.
- Refugee welfare data at household level are dated. The most rigorous cost analysis uses 2018 survey data.
- The data cut-off is 29 October 2026. Figures change quickly.

13.4 Quality assurance and independence

This Outlook went through Tsavone's quality review, including a source check of every figure against the Sources list. It was prepared without client funding and under Tsavone's independence rules. Corrections will be published on www.tsavone.com and logged in the next edition. Comments and corrections are welcome at info@tsavone.com.

14. Related publications

- **Humanitarian and Displacement Research Practice Prospectus**: Tsavone's services in this sector. www.tsavone.com/publications
- **Uganda Agrifood Outlook**: companion outlook on food systems and prices. www.tsavone.com/publications

More of Tsavone's publications and insights are at www.tsavone.com. Detailed method guides are shared with clients on request.

15. Sources

All web addresses were accessed between 27 and 31 October 2026. Reference numbers in square brackets in the text, for example [S3], refer to this list.

Ref	Source	Web address
S1	OPM and UNHCR (2026). Uganda: Refugee and asylum-seeker population, figures as of 30 September 2026. UNHCR Operational Data Portal.	https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga/220
S2	UNHCR (2026). Uganda Fact Sheet, January to March 2026 (figures as of 31 March 2026).	https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/123053
S3	UNHCR (2026). Uganda Annual Results Report 2025.	https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2026-06/unhcr-annual-results-report-2025-uganda.pdf

Ref	Source	Web address
S4	UNHCR and partners (2025). Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2026 (figures at launch, December 2025). Humanitarian Action.	https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1526/article/uganda-country-refugee-response-plan
S5	Daily Monitor (21 September 2026). Uganda appeals for EU refugee funding as 88% budget gap strains public services.	https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uganda-appeals-for-eu-refugee-funding-as-88-budget-gap-strains-public-services-5603730
S6	Global Compact on Refugees (2025). Uganda GRF pledges: Outcomes Report of the National Stocktaking Event, 16 December 2025.	https://globalcompactrefugees.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/Outcomes%20Report_National%20Stocktaking%20Event_16-12-25.pdf
S7	WFP (23 March 2026). Funding shortfalls push Uganda's refugees deeper into hunger.	https://www.wfp.org/stories/funding-shortfalls-push-ugandas-refugees-deeper-hunger
S8	FEWS NET (2026). Uganda Food Security Outlook, June 2026 to January 2027.	https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda/food-security-outlook/june-2026
S9	FEWS NET (2026). Uganda Key Message Update, September 2026 to January 2027.	https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda
S10	FAO GIEWS (8 May 2026). GIEWS Country Brief: Uganda.	https://cb.apps.fao.org/country.jsp?code=UGA
S11	Nile Post via AllAfrica (26 October 2026). 3.6 million Ugandans face acute food insecurity as crisis threatens to worsen.	https://allafrica.com/stories/202610270101.html
S12	Daily Monitor (26 October 2026). Food insecurity hits Uganda as government, UN appeal for urgent action.	https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/food-insecurity-hits-uganda-as-government-un-appeal-for-urgent-action-5646392
S13	Atamanov, A., Hoogeveen, J. and Reese, B. (2024). The Costs Come before the Benefits: Why Donors Should Invest More in Refugee Autonomy in Uganda. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10679. Summary via the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center.	https://www.jointdatacenter.org/literature_review/the-costs-come-before-the-benefits-why-donors-should-invest-more-in-refugee-autonomy-in-uganda/
S14	UBOS (2026). Preliminary Annual Gross Domestic Product 2025/26.	https://www.ubos.org/preliminary-annual-gross-domestic-product-2025-26/
S15	Nairametrics (14 October 2026). Bank of Uganda raises benchmark interest rate to 12% amid currency, inflation pressures.	https://nairametrics.com/2026/10/14/bank-of-uganda-raises-benchmark-interest-rate-to-12-amid-currency-inflation-pressures/
S16	Trading Economics (2026). Uganda inflation rate, September 2026 (citing UBOS).	https://tradingeconomics.com/uganda/inflation-cpi

Ref	Source	Web address
S17	Parliament of Uganda via APO Group and Zawya (15 September 2026). Uganda Government to roll out US$328m Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project Phase II in October.	https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/africa-press-releases/uganda-government-to-roll-out-328m-development-response-to-displacement-impacts-project-phase-ii-in-october-733106
S18	World Bank (9 March 2026). Countries eligible for new IDA financing to support refugees and hosts.	https://www.worldbank.org/en/brief/2026/03/09/countries-eligible-for-new-ida-financing-to-support-refugees-and-hosts
S19	World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center (18 March 2026). Update on the socio-economic performance of refugees and host communities in Uganda.	https://www.jointdatacenter.org/activites/socioeconomic-performance-in-uganda/
S20	Daily Monitor (10 September 2026). Uganda refugee sanctuary cracks under own weight.	https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uganda-refugee-sanctuary-cracks-under-own-weight-5589926
S21	OPM and UNHCR (2 October 2026). Uganda: Refugee Statistics September 2026, Active Population by Settlement.	https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/124319
S22	Pulse Uganda (30 March 2026). Concerns rise as Uganda's refugee population set to exceed 2 million.	https://www.pulse.ug/story/concerns-rise-as-ugandas-refugee-population-set-to-exceed-2-million-2026033011065965199
S23	OPM and UNHCR (31 December 2025). Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan: Detailed Planning 2026 to 2030.	https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/123506
S24	UNHCR Operational Data Portal. Funding working group, Uganda.	https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/170?geo=0&sv=0
S25	KPMG (2026). Uganda Budget Brief 2026.	https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmgsites/ke/pdf/thought_leaderships/tax/2026/Uganda-Budget-Brief-2026.pdf
S26	Brown, C. and Torre, C. (2024). Key considerations: Food assistance prioritisation in refugee settlements in Uganda and its impacts. Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform (SSHAP).	https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/resources/key-considerations-food-assistance-prioritisation-in-refugee-settlements-in-uganda-and-its-impacts/
S27	FEWS NET via ReliefWeb (2026). Uganda Key Message Update: High need exists among large and still-growing refugee population, March to September 2026.	https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/uganda-key-message-update-high-need-exists-among-large-and-still-growing-refugee-population-march-september-2026
S28	World Bank (22 October 2019). Turning challenge into opportunity: informing Uganda's refugee policy response (blog).	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/africacan/turning-challenge-opportunity-informing-ugandas-refugee-policy-response
S29	The Independent (Kampala) via AllAfrica (16 June 2026). As aid budgets shrink, refugees in East Africa show a path to self-reliance.	https://allafrica.com/stories/202606160192.html

Ref	Source	Web address
S30	Daily Monitor (2026). Services lead economy as industry drives expansion (reporting UBOS preliminary GDP 2025/26).	https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/business/markets/services-lead-economy-as-industry-drives-expansion-5485904
S31	Bank of Uganda (August 2026). Monetary Policy Statement at a glance, August 2026.	https://bou.or.ug/uploads/Monetary_Policy_Statement_at_a_glance_August_2026_9d35b9c264.pdf
S32	IMF (28 July 2026). IMF Executive Board concludes 2026 Article IV consultation with Uganda. Press Release 26/265.	https://www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2026/07/28/pr26265-uganda-imf-concludes-2026-aiv-consultation
S33	Daily Monitor (31 August 2026). How different regions will be affected by El Nino rains in Uganda (reporting the Ministry of Water and Environment seasonal outlook).	https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/how-different-regions-will-be-affected-by-el-ni%C3%B1o-rains-in-uganda-5577882
S34	Parliament of Uganda (26 March 2026). Uganda's refugees to top two million.	https://fin.parliament.go.ug/news/4314/ugandas-refugees-top-two-million
S35	World Bank (19 March 2026). Building livelihoods and trust in Uganda's refugee-hosting communities (feature story).	https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2026/03/19/building-livelihoods-and-trust-in-uganda-s-refugee-hosting-communities
S36	IDinsight (2026). Delivering Resilient Enterprises and Market Systems (DREAMS) impact evaluations.	https://www.idinsight.org/project/delivering-resilient-enterprises-and-market-systems-dreams-impact-evaluations/

Annex A: Indicator definitions

Term	Definition used in this Outlook
Refugee	A person recognised as a refugee by the Government of Uganda under the Refugees Act 2006, as recorded by OPM and UNHCR.
Asylum-seeker	A person who has applied for refugee status and whose claim has not yet been decided.
CRRP	The Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan, the inter-agency plan and appeal led by the Government of Uganda and UNHCR.
IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse	Households with food consumption gaps reflected in high or above-usual acute malnutrition, or marginally able to meet minimum food needs only by depleting livelihood assets or using crisis coping strategies, as classified by the IPC.
Global acute malnutrition (GAM)	The share of children aged 6 to 59 months with weight-for-height z-score below minus 2, or with bilateral oedema.
Self-reliance	The social and economic ability of an individual, household or community to meet essential needs in a sustainable manner and with dignity (UNHCR usage).
Inclusion dividend	The reduction in the cost of meeting refugees' basic needs that results from their access to economic opportunities, as defined by Atamanov, Hoogeveen and Reese (2024) [S13].
Refugee-hosting district	A district with a gazetted refugee settlement or a significant registered refugee population.

Annex B: Data release calendar for the 2027 edition

The next edition will draw on the releases below. Dates are indicative and depend on the publishers.

Release	Publisher	Usual timing	Use in the Outlook
Monthly population dashboards	OPM and UNHCR	Monthly	Population, settlement table
Quarterly factsheets and funding updates	UNHCR	Quarterly	Funding, nationalities, arrivals
Annual Results Report	UNHCR	Around June	Services, livelihoods, inclusion indicators
CRRP launch and mid-year review	Government of Uganda and UNHCR	December and mid-year	Requirements and priorities
IPC acute food insecurity analyses	IPC partners and Government of Uganda	Usually twice a year	Food security, malnutrition
Food Security Outlook and Key Message Updates	FEWS NET	Monthly to quarterly	Projections, prices, assistance
Consumer price index	UBOS	End of each month	Inflation, food crop prices
Monetary Policy Statements	Bank of Uganda	Every two months or as needed	Rates, growth, inflation outlook
Annual GDP	UBOS	June (preliminary)	Growth, sector shares
Refugee and host welfare analysis of UNHS 2023/24	World Bank and UNHCR	Expected 2026 to 2027	Poverty, food security, self-reliance

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