

Increasing Access to Energy in Rwamwanja & Kiryandongo Refugee-Hosting Areas

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Uganda Refugee Response – HH Lighting



- Lighting is key to mitigate security risks and enable school-aged children to participate in education
- Access to Energy
 - Objective to increase access to sufficient and sustainable basic energy services for lighting, power and cooking with reduced reliance on wood and fossil fuels thereby mitigating climate change drivers.
 - # of households using alternative and/or renewable energy (e.g. solar, biogas, ethanol, briquette, lpg)
- Guiding Principles in Increasing Access to Sustainable Energy
 - Self-reliance and empowerment
 - Access to Quality Products
 - Coordination & Coherence

Humanitarian to Development



- Shift from single-year to multi-year programming (RRP 2019-2020), with medium to long-term livelihood support to beneficiaries to strengthen livelihoods and resilience
- Investments in the refugee hosting districts by Development Partners including but not limited to; World Bank, USAID, DANIDA, JICA and EU
- Market-systems development; a shift towards market-based programming based on value chain and market assessments
- Integration of refugees in the Government plans - NDP II, the District Development Plans
- Private sector engagement: financial institutions, telecom and mobile money companies, traders and processors.
- UNHCR is working with WFP on a joint plan of action, including opening bank accounts for each refugee household, to scale financial inclusion and assistance for refugees through cash based interventions (CBI).
- Minimum Expenditure Basket developed to define basis for programming and unconditional cash transfers to replace in-kind support

Kamwenge District – Economic Landscape



- District population was 429 236 as of Feb 2018
- 85 % of the population (approximately 442 600 by 2016) practice subsistence agriculture
- Major crops grown are: maize, beans, coffee, tea, fruits and livestock mainly cattle and goats
- Refugees mainly grow maize, beans and potatoes and have turned the area in to a major producing area attracting traders from the rest of the country and from neighboring DR Congo and Rwanda.
- Kibale Forest attracts an estimated 12 455 tourists per annum
- The district is endowed with lakes and rivers such as: Lake George, River Mpanga, River Dura, River Rushango
- Access to Energy: 2018 Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment found that 54% of host community HH had access to at least 1 source of light

Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement



- Established in 1964 to host Rwandese refugees and closed in 1995 when most repatriated, then re-opened in 2012 to host refugees from DR Congo
- As of January 2019, the population was 65 542, about 16% of the population in Kamwenge District – almost 40 000 (62%)
- UNHCR and partners support both on-farm and off-farm interventions: such as agricultural production, value addition, business development, vocational skills development with environment as a key cross-cutting theme.
- 16 000 HH received technology support for production in 2018
- 2 560 HH participate in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)
- 1 018 HH have members in the Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCO)
- 3 796 HHs have income-generating activities, especially micro-enterprises in 2018
- 4 287 refugees received Vocational Skills Training in 2018
- 87% of HHs that had access to agricultural land in Uganda during the most recent harvest season:
- 66% of HHs report having access to local markets within walking distance.
- Access to Energy: 2018 Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment found that 44% of refugee community HH had access to at least 1 source of light

Kiryandongo District – Economic Landscape



- According to national census of 2014 the poverty levels of Kiryandongo district was 24.5% (income poverty) above the national average of 19.1%. However the population slipped further into poverty to 21.4% according to Uganda household survey of 2016/17
- About 85% of the households depend on agriculture as a source of livelihood
- About 75% of the farmers are small holder farmers with average land holding of 2 acres
- Commercial farms have been established recently (maize, sugarcane, bananas) Maize is the major crop produced for both food security and cash. The other important crops include; cassava, beans, bananas
- Small ruminants, especially goats and local poultry are the major livestock enterprises.
- Vegetables (cabbages, collards, tomatoes, onions, amaranthus) supplement the nutrition of the households. The refugee settlement produces the highest volume of vegetables in the district per capita.
- Youth unemployment is high, however some of the youth are employed in services including salons, motor-vehicle repairs, boda boda, grain business, mobile money, hawking, restaurants among others.
- Access to Energy: 2018 Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment found that 50% of HH had access to at least 1 source of light

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



- Originally established in 1990, but re-opened in 2014 to host South Sudanese refugees
- As of Jan. 2019, 55 594 refugees (20% of District), mostly from South Sudan – almost 30000 (54%) are under 18 years-old
- 6 880 HHs received technology support for production in 2018
- 4 727 HHs participate in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), organized in 43 groups with over UGX 200 million in savings
- VSLAs received financial literacy training and were linked to Post bank
- 2 709 HHs have income-generating activities, especially micro-enterprises
- 4 287 refugees received Vocational Skills Training
- Collective marketing of produce by farmer associations - e.g. 56.9 MT of maize and 13 MT of Chia were sold in 2018 to Maganjo millers and Segal(U)ltd respectively
- Access to Energy: 2018 Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment found that 30% of HH had access to at least 1 source of light

Opportunities to Manage Risk



- Work with established financial institutions such as SACCOs and established traders as agents, including existing dealers of solar energy products
- Consult with settlement leadership, national & settlement-level coordination structures, UNHCR, partners ... we're here to help Persons of Concern!

Questions?



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