

Uganda

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<p>Is there a refugee protection program?</p>	<p>Yes, according to the UN Development Program:</p> <p>“Uganda has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers since achieving its independence in 1962. The country has been praised for having one of the most progressive and generous refugee laws and policy regimes in the world. In fact, the 2016 United Nations Summit for Refugees declared Uganda’s refugee policy a model. The 2006 Refugee Act and 2010 Refugee Regulations allow for integration of refugees within host communities with refugees having access to the same public services as nationals. They have freedom of movement and are free to pursue livelihood opportunities, including access to the labour market and to establish businesses.”</p> <p>According to the UNHCR:</p> <p>“In February 2010 the Government issued new regulations to give effect to the 2006 Refugees Act. The legislation conforms to international refugee law and recognizes persecution on the basis of gender as grounds for asylum”</p> <p>Note that in March 2020, Uganda barred the arrival of all new refugees due to the pandemic. According to the UNHCR, a small number of new refugees have been able to enter the country in 2021. However, recent surges in COVID-19 cases in Uganda have led to new lockdowns within the country.</p> <p>Thus, it is not clear if new refugees will be able to enter the country now, especially given the uncertain COVID-19 situation in Uganda.</p>
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<p>Who runs any available refugee protection program? Who determines which applicants qualify for refugee protection?</p>	<p>According to the U.N. Development Program, the Ugandan government funds the refugee program. It appears that the government runs the program and also determines eligibility:</p> <p>“The typical journey of a refugee in Uganda is characterized by an entry phase, settlement and integration phases. During the entry phase, refugees spend between one to three days in a reception centre, where they undergo health screening, registration of all household members and are provided with nonfood items. If prima facie refugee status is not granted, a fact sheet for each refugee is generated and used by the Refugee Eligibility Council (REC) to grant or deny refugee status.”</p>
<p>Is the refugee protection program functional? For example, how long does it take for decisions to be issued? What percentage of applications are granted?</p>	<p>Yes it is functional; Uganda is “the largest refugee hosting country in Africa and the third largest in the world.”</p> <p>This paper from the Norwegian Refugee Council details the process. It looks like for some refugees, the process can be extremely quick, taking only a few days to a week. However, there is also an appeals process for those initially denied refugee status. The same paper also states that success rates and the amount of time to reach a determination vary depending on a refugee’s country of origin.</p>
<p>Do refugees have a right to work? A right to education? A right to medical care?</p>	<p>The Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has adopted a Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda to help refugees integrate and to help them find more economic and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The UNHCR projects that all refugee children will have access to education this year; in 2019, 73% of registered refugee children received education. There are both primary and secondary schools for refugees. All refugees receive primary health care. The UNHCR</p>

	assists refugees by providing water, food, and latrines.
Are those seeking refugee protection free to live freely or forced to reside in camps?	There are 13 housing districts for refugees in Uganda: Adjuman, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Koboko, Lamwo, Madi-Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe; within these districts are 13 settlements where the refugees are hosted: Adjumani, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Lobule, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja, in addition to the urban refugees in Kampala.
Does a grant of refugee protection result in a pathway to permanent status? In other words, can a refugee eventually become a citizen? Is there another form of legal permanent status available for people with refugee status?	No; it appears that a recent controversial court decision decided that refugees cannot become full citizens.
Does the country offer temporary protections available other than refugee status? If so, what are they?	Unknown
What, if any, penalties are there for people without status or people who are denied refugee protection?	It looks like there is an appeals process for those denied refugee status . If a refugee exhausts his or her appeals and is not granted refugee status, he or she will be deported.
What organizations exist in-country that can help displaced people seek available protections? What other organizations in the country may be able to help displaced people access services and rights, even if their mission is not to specifically work with refugees and displaced people?	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is active in the country and has several offices in the country.

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<p>Is there other information that might be valuable for displaced people arriving in that country to know?</p>	<p>Fully vaccinated individuals can enter Uganda without COVID-19 testing. It appears that those who enter Uganda without being vaccinated will be quarantined for four hours and administered a COVID-19 test at the cost of \$65 to the traveler. Those who test negative will be released while those who test positive will be further quarantined.</p>
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