



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The transformative role of agriculture in refugee settings

**Amplifying the voices of refugees
and host communities**

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PLEASE CITE THIS PUBLICATION AS:

FAO. 2023. *The transformative role of agriculture in refugee settings – Amplifying the voices of refugees and host communities*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8864en>

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ISBN 978-92-5-138408-4

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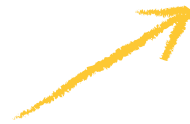
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Acknowledgements



This publication is the result of a collaborative effort between a multidisciplinary team of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) Office of Emergencies and Resilience including Xabier Goiria Cortajarena, Sally James, Aisha Jatta and Katie Nelson.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the refugees and host communities who dedicated their time and effort to share their stories. In Uganda, a huge thanks to Betty, Christine, Miriam, Prisca, Rosalyn, Stephen and

Susan and in Kenya, Adukon, Ereng, Ester, Mary, Peter and Samuel, who made this publication possible.

Additionally, we are deeply thankful to our colleagues from the FAO Country Offices in Uganda and Kenya and FAO's Resilience Team for Eastern Africa who guided us throughout this process. Thank you to Happy Kenneth, Joshua Nahurira, Paul Opio, Sergio Rivero and James Terjanian from the FAO Country Office in Uganda, Francies Ekiru from the FAO Country Office in Kenya, and Deborah Duveskog and Judith Mulinge

from FAO's Resilience Team for Eastern Africa.

A huge thank you to Hugh Rutherford and Vincent Tremeau for the wonderful videos and pictures that capture the stories and experiences of the refugees and host communities that are featured throughout this document.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Anneta Bou Saleh who completed the maps, design and layout of this publication and brought it all together so these stories could be shared.



June 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District, Uganda

Along with other women from the settlement, Prisca heads to the market to sell the vegetables she harvested and the eggs she collected thanks to support from an FAO and Innovation Norway project.

Overview



Over 110 million people are currently estimated to be forcibly displaced. According to UNHCR, this scale of displacement is the highest seen since records began.

Over 110 million people are currently estimated to be forcibly displaced.¹ According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), this scale of displacement is the highest seen since records began. Assumptions are often made that most people who experience forced displacement leave their homes or places of residence to journey as asylum seekers and refugees to high-income countries that are located thousands of miles away. But this is inaccurate. Seventy percent of those who seek refuge outside of their own country are hosted in neighbouring countries, and almost 80 percent of all refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries.¹ Many of these countries have limited resources and face environmental, economic and sociopolitical challenges that make it difficult for refugees to build a life alongside local communities, whether temporarily until they can return home, or permanently.

Out of the 35.3 million people who were forcibly displaced across national borders in 2022, over 7 million – 20 percent of the total – were hosted in sub-Saharan Africa.¹ Over half are in East Africa, where countries like Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda host a significant number of refugees. Uganda in particular hosts 1.5 million people – one of the world’s largest refugee populations.

In this document, we focus on the individual stories of South Sudanese refugees who have benefitted from FAO’s

agricultural livelihood interventions in refugee settings. One such story is that of Prisca, who, for the past six years, has found sanctuary in Palabek Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. She has lived there with her husband and children since 2017, after making the treacherous journey from South Sudan alongside 668 000 people, mostly women and children.

Displacement has not only increased to unprecedented levels, but so too has its average duration. Two in three refugees are projected to live in a long-term displacement situation, with estimates ranging between 10 and 26 years on average.² For many people, this means leading lives, growing up and raising children away from home for far longer than they imagined.

When people are forcibly displaced, their lives hang in the balance. Often, they have lost everything. Whether uprooted by slow-onset disasters like drought or sudden events like conflict, in many cases, people lose their income, land, animals, social networks, legal documents – and in the most tragic cases, their loved ones. Mary, like Prisca, is a South Sudanese refugee, in the Turkana region of Kenya, who knows the harsh reality of this firsthand. “I heard that people were taking refuge in Kenya. All my brothers were killed, and I got scared of being there. That is why I brought my children to Kenya,” she recalls.

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Having resettled in unfamiliar rural regions in foreign countries, people like Mary have no choice but to rebuild their lives. They find themselves relying on the good will of extended family and even strangers, as well as seeking support and protection from the international community and local governments.

When forcibly displaced people arrive in a new place, whether it is a settlement, camp, or local village, food and a way to provide for their family are immediate, urgent needs. In many displacement settings, people rely on emergency distributions of food or cash from humanitarian agencies to feed their families. For a long time, the humanitarian sector has used emergency food distributions as the primary solution to prevent malnutrition and hunger. But with decades-long displacement as the norm for the majority of refugees, applying short-term responses to a long-term problem cannot deliver solutions.

Forcibly displaced people – whether they are refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) or those returning home – deserve, require, and wish for long-term solutions that allow them to build dignified lives whether in their current location, in their communities of origin, or somewhere else they might choose to move. Forcibly displaced people across the world, like Prisca and Mary, are determined to use their knowledge and skills to become self-reliant, contributing members of their communities.

FAO's vision is that forcibly displaced people have access to opportunities to build sustainable lives and livelihoods and meet their own food and nutrition needs, by leveraging



agrifood systems. FAO believes that participating in agriculture (be it farming, livestock keeping, fishing, beekeeping or other agriculture-based livelihoods) can transform the lives of forcibly displaced people. It can build their resilience to climate change, their self-reliance to dictate their own futures, and contribute to local peace between refugees and host communities.

This document explores FAO's life-saving and resilience-building work with refugees in Uganda and Kenya, but the

lessons and approaches are applicable to all forcibly displaced people. The projects mentioned have been made possible with the generous support of Innovation Norway, the IKEA Foundation and the European Union, who share FAO's belief that agricultural livelihoods are a key part of the solution to forced displacement. They were also made possible through strong partnerships with UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP). It is important to share and amplify the stories of people like Mary and Prisca who demand the right resources to achieve the dignified, secure lives they deserve.

Impact of forced displacement on lives and livelihoods

SECURITY

- ▶▶ Increased vulnerability to exploitation, trafficking, forced labour and gender-based violence, especially among women, children and marginalized groups.

LIVELIHOODS

- ▶▶ Disruption and loss of livelihoods, jobs, land, and sources of income leading to poverty and economic vulnerability.
- ▶▶ Challenges exacerbated due to limited access to skills development and financial resources, making it even more difficult to rebuild livelihoods.

EDUCATION

- ▶▶ Limited access to education facilities and resources disrupts education for both children and adults, with far-reaching consequences on future opportunities.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶▶ Loss of home, property and possessions.

FOOD SECURITY

- ▶▶ Increased levels of food insecurity and hunger, linked to disrupted agrifood systems and dependency on food assistance.

HEALTH

- ▶▶ Increased risk of malnutrition and wasting, lack of diverse diets.
- ▶▶ Inadequate living conditions and limited access to healthcare leads to increased vulnerability to diseases.
- ▶▶ Psychological issues, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder caused by trauma and stress associated with displacement.

ENVIRONMENT

- ▶▶ Increased pressure on natural resources, such as clearing of land to build shelters and for firewood, unsustainable farming practices, resulting in deforestation, overexploitation of natural resources, and environmental degradation.

SOCIAL LIFE

- ▶▶ Loss of communities, social support networks and cultural ties.
- ▶▶ Potential discrimination and marginalisation in new settings, often resulting in isolation, resentment and lack of integration.

LONG-TERM DISPLACEMENT AND DEPENDENCY

- ▶▶ Long-term displacement (most people displaced for more than ten years) leading to dependency on food assistance, hindering self-reliance and efforts to rebuild livelihoods and communities.

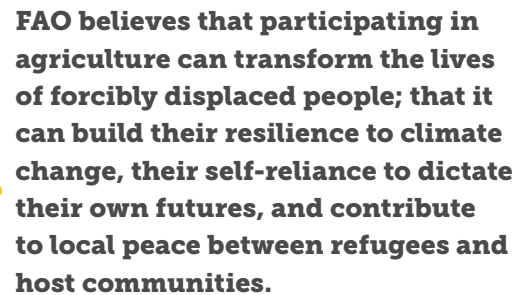


FAO's comprehensive approach to forced displacement

Given the protracted nature of displacement, investing in the self-reliance of refugees should be prioritized from the moment of their arrival in their host community, rather than waiting until after the “crisis phase” has passed. Agriculture can be both a short- and a long-term solution to food insecurity and loss of livelihoods.

From the immediate onset of a displacement crisis, FAO provides refugees and their host communities with the tools and skills to start or sustain a livelihood as farmers, fishers, or pastoralists. This helps them lay the groundwork to earn income, produce enough food, and become self-reliant over the long-term.

Whether refugees ultimately choose to return home, stay in their new location, or move somewhere else, they will bring the skills, knowledge, and a financial safety net gained from their experience in agriculture to the rest of their lives, moving them towards a durable solution to their displacement. Indeed, many displaced people were producers prior to being forced to move,^a and so providing them with the tools to resume an agricultural vocation can help to restore their dignity and self-reliance.



FAO believes that participating in agriculture can transform the lives of forcibly displaced people; that it can build their resilience to climate change, their self-reliance to dictate their own futures, and contribute to local peace between refugees and host communities.

Supporting the development of agricultural livelihoods and linking this to the food system in rural areas can benefit both refugees and the communities hosting them. In many countries where refugees live, agriculture accounts for a substantial percentage of gross domestic product. Therefore, building an inclusive food system that addresses the needs of refugees and leverages their skills – from farmers to agroprocessors to traders and consumers – can benefit everyone.

It is also critical that refugee-hosting communities are provided with agricultural livelihoods support. They are often located in remote, rural areas that are lacking investment in critical infrastructure and services. As a result, high levels of acute food insecurity are prevalent in the host population.

Host communities, many of whom welcome refugees, are also impacted by the increased strain on the natural resources they rely on when a large influx of people arrives. FAO helps provide both refugee and host communities with strategies to reduce the strain on natural resources (like low-water agricultural techniques and alternatives to firewood for cooking), while also supporting local governments to manage their natural resources in an equitable way that reduces the risk of tensions or conflicts between communities.

Stretched resources, in combination with the impacts of climate change, can lead to their degradation and depletion, as well as competition over them between host and displaced communities. This, in turn, can cause tensions and even conflict.

^a Food producers include people engaged in farming, fishing, livestock keeping and other activities such as beekeeping, or those whose livelihoods depend on forest products.

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FAO contributes to building local level peace by supporting community platforms for refugee and hosts to manage resources together; building relationships; conducting joint learning; and by creating opportunities for communities to gather, discuss and resolve important issues.

In forced displacement contexts, FAO considers a person's skills, priorities and needs, to tailor comprehensive agricultural livelihood packages suitable to their success. This can include cash, seeds, equipment, knowledge and capacity building (both financial and technical). A group setting, such as a Farmer Field School (FFS), likewise enables people to learn while earning, supporting their inclusion in the local economy.

FAO ensures that these approaches are adapted to the realities of climate extremes, such as droughts and floods, and increase refugees' resilience against a changing climate. FAO also helps prevent and mitigate the drivers and devastating impacts of climate shocks that would destroy critical infrastructure, disrupt people's lives and livelihoods, and potentially lead to more displacement. Furthermore, FAO works with local governments to take anticipatory actions and put in place early warning systems in advance of a crisis to help people protect their assets, avoid displacement, or limit the duration and impact of displacement.

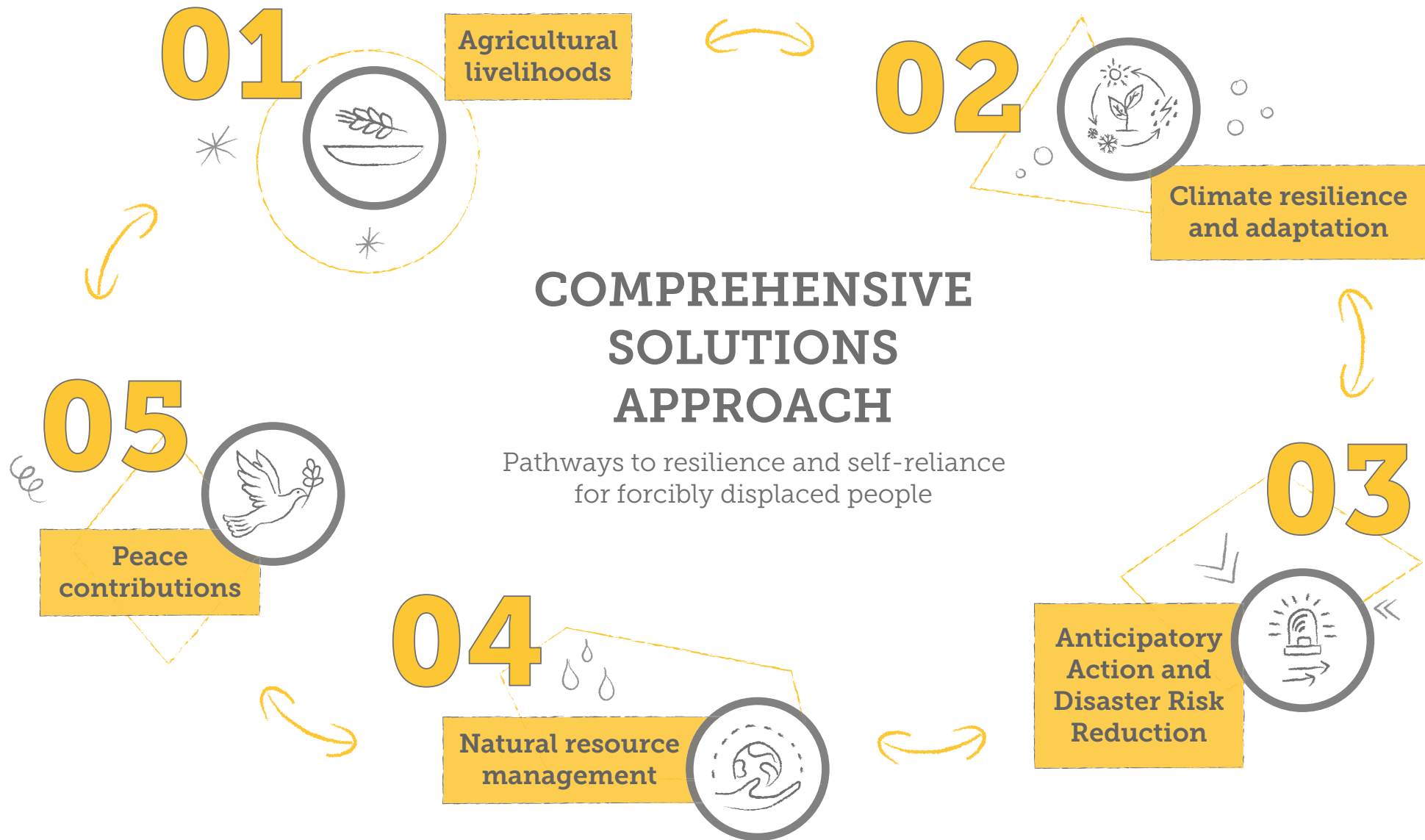


July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda

Denis Ojok, an FFS facilitator,
trains a group of participants.

Agriculture: what does it encompass?

FAO defines agriculture to include the cultivation of crops and animal husbandry, as well as forestry, fisheries, and the development of land and water resources. In broader terms, agriculture also refers to agro-industries, manufacturing of agricultural inputs and machinery, such as seeds, fertilizers, tractors and irrigation systems, regional and river development, and rural development.³



Source: FAO. 2023. Q&A: Forced displacement. In: *FAO emergencies and resilience*. Rome. [Cited 1 August 2023]. [fao.org/emergencies/our-focus/forced-displacement/q-a--forced-displacement/en](https://www.fao.org/emergencies/our-focus/forced-displacement/q-a--forced-displacement/en)

Voices and actions: the value of agriculture

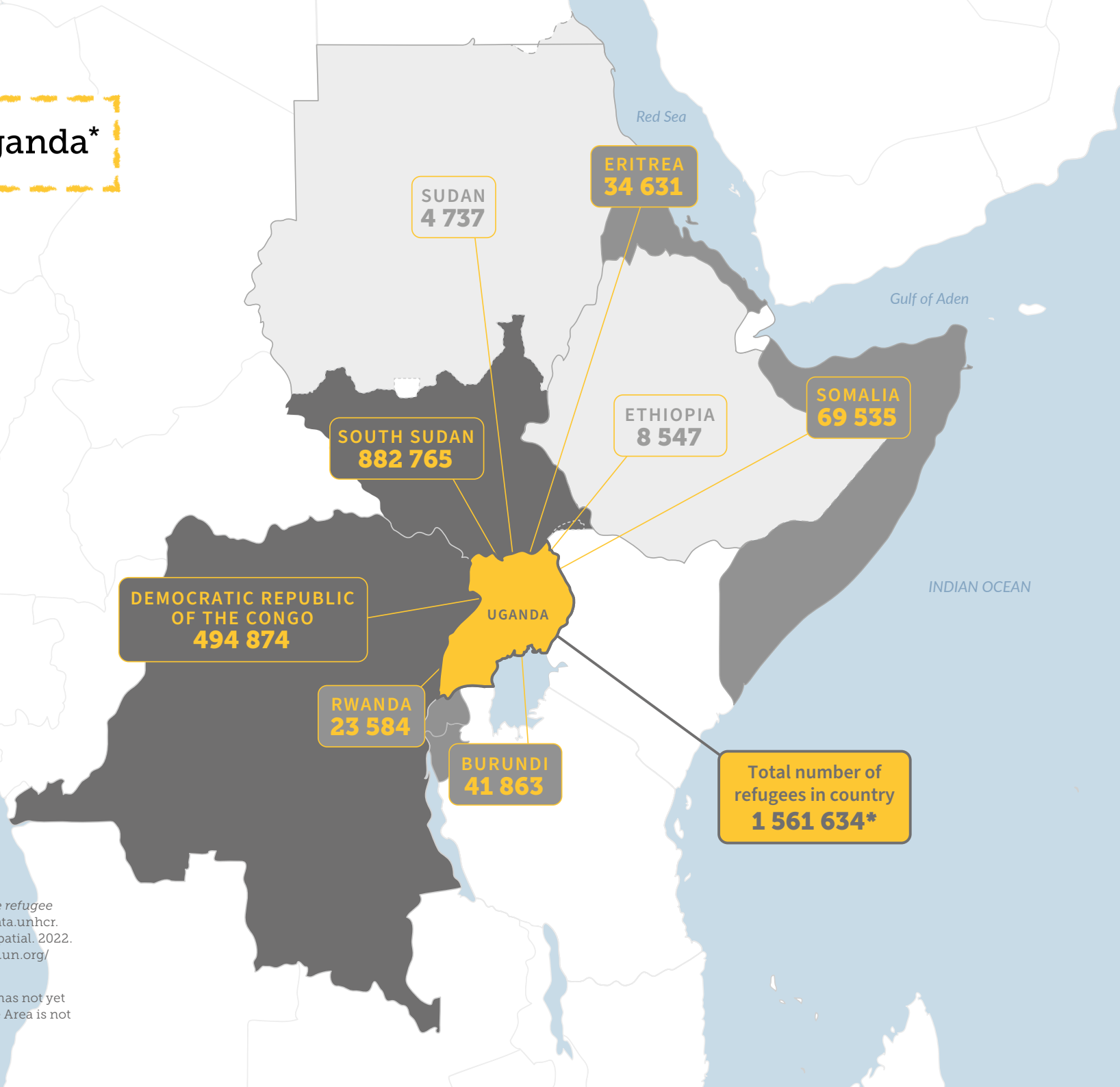


Refugee flows to Uganda*

COUNTRY COLOUR LEGEND

- Up to 10 000 people
- Up to 100 000 people
- Above 100 000 people

Note: Lines do not represent actual routes of movement.



*As of 30 June 2023

Source of data: UNHCR. 2023. In: *Uganda comprehensive refugee response portal*. Kampala. [Cited 1 August 2023]. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga> **Source of map:** United Nations Geospatial. 2022. Map of Africa. In: *United Nations Geospatial*. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/africa-2>

The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei Administrative Area is not yet determined.



Palabek Refugee Settlement





Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District, Uganda

Located in Lamwo District in northern Uganda, Palabek Refugee Settlement was established in 2017 to host refugees from South Sudan. Although still relatively new, it has become one of the largest human settlements in the area, hosting almost 77 000 refugees, representing more than a third of the total population.

Source of map: UNHCR. 2023. In: *Uganda comprehensive refugee response portal*. Kampala. [Cited 1 August 2023]. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>

Source of satellite imagery: Google Earth. [Accessed 20 September 2023]. Data attribution: Airbus, Maxar Technologies. Imagery from dates: 1/10/2020 – newer





Farmer Field Schools: the journey from beginner to expert

On their arrival to Palabek Refugee Settlement in 2017 from eastern Equatorial State in South Sudan, twenty-four-year-old Prisca and her family received emergency food rations. But after a while, the rations they depended on were drastically reduced, leaving them unable to meet their daily food needs. Determined to provide for her family, Prisca began farming, despite having no previous experience with agriculture in South Sudan. She planted crops like cowpeas and okra using traditional farming methods, and raised chickens. But her efforts yielded low harvests, and her chickens kept dying.

In 2021, Prisca had an opportunity to learn new skills to improve her harvests and the health of her chickens and build her confidence as a farmer. She joined an FAO FFS programme and received seeds, chickens and valuable training from local facilitators.

Prisca, eager to share her newfound knowledge, explains, “Of the different seeds given to me by FAO, for kale you need to heap soil [into a nursery bed] then create furrows and sow the seeds then cover with dry grass.”

“Immediately after germination you raise the grass up and support it using some sticks. I have learned from the start of growth to maturity,” she continues.



© FAO/V. Tremeau

Prisca’s life has transformed since joining the programme. The chickens provided by FAO and its partners have multiplied, enabling her to sell the surplus eggs and the crops she harvests from her garden at the market to both refugees and the host community. This income has improved her family’s well-being and she adds a portion to the communal savings pot in her FFS. The rest she uses to meet other household needs, like purchasing clothes for her loved ones and paying for school fees and uniforms for her children.



Watch Prisca’s story on
FAO’s YouTube channel

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“From the poultry perspective, you need to keep the poultry house clean and keep drinking water clean every time. Poultry requires good conditions for survival just like humans.”

Prisca’s life has transformed since joining the programme. The chickens provided by FAO and its partners have multiplied, enabling her to sell surplus eggs and the crops she harvests from her garden at the market to both refugees and the host community. This income has improved her family’s well-being. She adds a portion to the communal savings pot in her FFS and the rest she uses to meet other household needs like purchasing clothes for her loved ones and paying for school fees and uniforms for her children. “I feel at ease now because of the lessons that FAO has offered me in my life,” Prisca says. “I want to be here in Uganda with my family.”

Participating in the FFS has helped Prisca to cultivate friendships with both fellow refugees and host community members like Rosalyn, a 25-year-old woman who lives close to Prisca.

Given the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, Prisca is building a life and a livelihood in Uganda. Like many others who have been forcibly displaced, Prisca and her family remain in Uganda, hoping that conditions will eventually allow them to return when the time is right – and if they do, she will return home with the skills to be a successful farmer in South Sudan.



June 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda

Prisca talks with facilitators from the FFS.

© FAO/N. Trémeau



I feel at ease now because of the lessons that FAO has offered me in my life. I want to be here in Uganda with my family.



Prisca, South Sudanese refugee

PALABEK REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, LAMWO DISTRICT, UGANDA

June 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda

Prisca sells her vegetables in an improvised
market on the outskirts of her village.



The transformative power of agriculture and Farmer Field Schools

Prisca's story illustrates the transformative power agricultural activities can play in refugees' lives. Through FAO's FFSs, agriculture has provided Prisca, her husband, and children with an opportunity to meet their own food needs and increase their economic independence. The seeds, tools, poultry, and, most importantly, the training Prisca received means she has a way to provide for her family, both through the food she cultivates and the income she earns.

A key element of this success are **Q Farmer Field Schools**. Through an educational participatory approach, farmers, with or without previous farming experience, are brought together to solve challenges they face when producing food, develop their skills and knowledge, and build community. In what many call "a school without walls", farmers learn by doing in a group environment. As a result, they more easily retain the information they have learned, applying it outside of the FFS.

In most cases, the farmers engaged through FFSs have limited access to education, information, extension services (which provide technical agricultural support), markets and financing. The FFSs aim to build farmers' capacities in food production and ensure their integration in markets, which in turn means rural communities can increase their production, productivity and economic development.



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July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District, Uganda

Winnie Kobucsigyi, an FFS facilitator, trains a group of participants.

FFSs are adapted to the context in which they are being carried out, and to the needs of the members. The topics covered and skills taught are designed to reflect participants' realities and may also include topics that are outside of agriculture, like financial and business management skills. In displacement settings, this also means making sure that FFS groups include members from both refugee and host communities. In addition, experts are included to facilitate sessions on gender-based violence, protection and other topics that heavily impact refugees and other displaced people.

The FFSs ensure that the support provided by FAO goes beyond distributing seeds and tools in the short term.

Training and supporting farmers over time means that they can better utilize the resources they have received while gaining knowledge that they will continue to use throughout their lives.

For Prisca, the tailored FFS curriculum enabled her to move from subsistence farming to producing a surplus which could be sold. As a result of the training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), which included poultry production and the importance of hygiene, Prisca was able to improve her chickens' health so they could breed and produce more eggs. She was also taught financial literacy and joined her group's Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), helping her to save for the future and build resilience against future shocks.

Good Agricultural Practices⁴

A collection of environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable principles and practices that are applied to on-farm and post-production processes, resulting in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products.

What is a Village Savings and Loan Association?⁵

A VSLA is a group of people who save together and take small loans from those savings. The activities of the group run in cycles of one year, after which the accumulated savings and the loan profits are distributed back to members.

The purpose of a VSLA is to provide simple savings and loan facilities in a community that does not have easy access to formal financial services.



© FAO/V. Tremeau

In Palabek Refugee Settlement, FFSs bring refugee and host communities together, serving as a platform for them to learn, share experiences and work towards a common goal. By meeting and interacting more frequently, people from both communities can benefit from learning about the other community, helping to break down prejudices and allowing for friendships to flourish. The benefits of FFSs are thus wide-reaching. They not only include production and financial benefits, but also social and cultural benefits that contribute to local-level peace between communities.

The integrated FFS approach has created an opportunity for Prisca, and many refugees like her, to reduce their dependence on aid, such as food rations, to feed themselves and their families. They can produce their own food, earn their own income, and have a platform where they can manage their savings and access financing if they need it, all while building relationships with their neighbours.



Friendship and the economic benefits of hosting refugees

June 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda

Prisca and Rosalyn talk while fetching water.



Hosting refugees can bring forth a multitude of challenges: the need to share limited resources; acceptance of diverse cultures, perspectives and languages; and tensions arising from how aid is distributed. However, amid these challenges, positive outcomes can emerge with the right enabling environment.



It has been beneficial having refugees here. The arrival of refugees has created an open market for our farm produce. We buy from them, and they buy from us.



*Rosalyn,
host community member*

PALABEK REFUGEE SETTLEMENT,
LAMWO DISTRICT, UGANDA



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Rosalyn understands the value of having refugees in her community. “It has been beneficial having refugees here, we received a health facility because of them. We also got to know one another which makes us happy.”

“The arrival of refugees here has created an open market for our farm produce. We buy from them, and they buy from us. Before we had to look for markets in far places,” she adds.

Rosalyn and Prisca, brought together by the necessity of accessing the same water point, now have a deep bond. Their shared experiences and interactions – fetching water, attending church, and walking their children to school – have created a sense of belonging and a genuine friendship.

By overcoming challenges, learning together, and embracing diversity, communities can experience growth, friendship, and economic opportunities that enhance the lives of the host population and refugees alike.

Refugees can also bring economic development to the areas where they are hosted. By producing more and better-quality food, refugees can gain both financial and food security for themselves and their immediate family. Unlocking this potential also means they can participate in and strengthen local markets, helping to boost the local community and develop refugee-hosting areas that often lack investment. As a result of these benefits, host communities are more willing to interact with and welcome refugees.



The vision road map journey: a Farmer Field School tool for refugees to determine their own lives

An innovative addition to FAO's refugee response in Uganda, the vision road map acts as a tool for self-determination. As part of their training, FFS participants from both refugee and host communities, are encouraged to create a map of their family's goals or "journey". They start with where they are now and plan out the next three to four years, illustrating where they hope to be during each, and most importantly, where they want to end up. Potential opportunities and challenges that may arise are also mapped out. This enables them to take a holistic and inclusive approach to managing their households.

Vision road maps give refugees, host community members and others who are part of FFSs the opportunity to determine how they want their lives to look, choose their own solutions and live with dignity knowing that despite the challenges, they are empowered to reach their goals.

In January 2019, two years after Prisca and her family's journey, Susan and Stephen left their home as the crisis worsened in South Sudan. Leaving behind the familiarity of their village in Central Equatorial State, they began a journey with their young son and relatives that led them to Palabek.

*July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda*

Susan and her husband Stephen check the eggplants they will harvest soon.



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© FAO/V. Tremeau

Unlike many of South Sudan’s population who rear livestock and have limited experience with farming, Stephen comes from a line of crop producers. “I remember growing cassava, sim sim [sesame] and maize in my village,” he says. These were his father’s favourites.

Arriving in Palabek, they faced severe challenges. There were no mattresses to sleep on, and food was scarce. Like many others, they relied on humanitarian aid and food rations to survive.

The little money they had lasted only a few months, pushing them to grow vegetables to sustain themselves. However, the income they earned from selling collard greens, as little as Uganda shillings (UGX) 1 000 per week (less than USD 0.30), was insufficient. Life was incredibly tough. But from Stephen’s experience, “Suffering is a part of life.”



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In June 2019, two months without food assistance led to a state of extreme hunger among families, Stephen recalls. They resorted to boiling leaves to stave off starvation. Malaria and other diseases spread throughout the settlement. Stephen and Susan, like other parents, sacrificed their own meals to ensure their children had food to eat.

“We sat together as a family. We know what has happened in 2019. What can we do to avoid what has happened?”

CLOCKWISE:

July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District, Uganda

Susan and Stephen's vision road map.
Stephen feeds his chickens.
Susan holds an eggplant from her farm.



July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda

Susan feeds her guinea pig.
Stephen feeds the chickens.

Stephen asks. “As you see that one there. We call it a vision road map journey,” he says, pointing at a canvas decorated with drawings depicting their aspirations and hopes. For Stephen and Susan, this vision is their driving force.

As illustrated on the vision road map, their journey began to improve in 2021. They had a thatched house, a small plot of land, a hoe, seeds and a chicken. Like Prisca, Susan became a member of an FFS: Waneyin Farmer’s Group. It was through the group that she, and by extension Stephen, developed their family’s vision road map and

learned GAP to help them reach their goals. By 2022, their progress materialized into visible improvements. They now owned multiple goats and chickens, and had enough land to cultivate vegetables. Susan utilized the skills and knowledge she gained in the FFS to produce and harvest eggplant and other vegetables, providing for their family, and earning an income of around UGX 200 000 (almost USD 54) per month, depending on rainfall. Their vision road map serves as a clear compass, guiding them towards their goal: investing in livestock as a pathway to financial security and self-determination.

Stephen acknowledges that their dreams would not be possible without the support of the host community in Uganda. “We also thank them for just hosting us. You know, it is very hard for a country to accept millions of people. So, we are happy with Uganda,” he says.

While Stephen envisions returning to South Sudan if peace prevails, he recognizes the opportunity and importance of taking the knowledge they acquired in Uganda with them. However, he remains cautious. “I will not go and just play with the lives of my children.”

Perspectives from Farmer Field School facilitators

Teaching farming as a personal mission

“The Farmer Field School is a school without classes, windows, a building. What we do is study through observation,” explains Winnie, an FFS facilitator. She describes an experiment underway in response to farmers’ complaints about pest issues with their kale. She and the other facilitators have introduced onion as a natural pest repellent. In one plot of the demonstration garden, onions are intercropped to test their effectiveness in repelling pests, while the other plot serves as a control with no onions. As a group, they record and analyse any differences in pest presence.

According to Winnie, the impact of the FFS is evident in the members’ increased knowledge, improved public speaking skills, and growing confidence in expressing their views. Prisca’s case illustrates this – she has successfully replicated the learned techniques at her own home, demonstrating the practical application of the knowledge she’s gained. Prisca’s family has not only gained knowledge through her own membership in the FFS, but, as Winnie explains, the vision road map also “enables all members of the household to participate in agriculture.”

“The Farmer Field School is a school without classes, windows, a building. What we do is study through observation.”

Winnie Kobucsigyi
FFS facilitator

PALABEK REFUGEE SETTLEMENT,
LAMWO DISTRICT, UGANDA

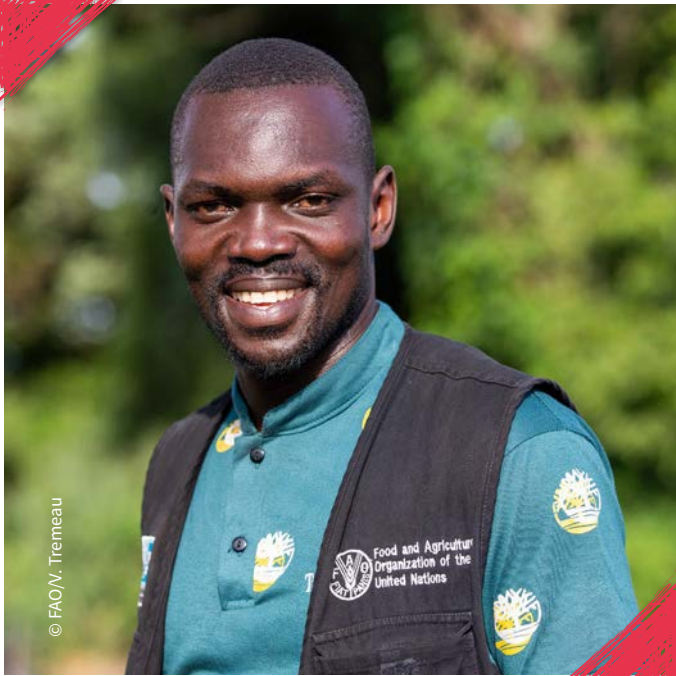
Winnie is determined to make a difference. “Well, I just like being a facilitator because me personally, I have a personal mission of positively impacting every person I come in contact with, especially for refugees. They’re really vulnerable...and if they get this skill, it is a lifetime skill. It will never go away.”

Winnie is proud of the strong bond and sense of belonging they have cultivated as a group. “We have become like a family. I feel comfortable around them. They feel comfortable around me. It’s an opportunity to learn from them too,” she adds.



July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District, Uganda
Winnie trains FFS participants.





Becoming a facilitator: a dream come true

For Denis, being an FFS facilitator is a realized dream. “Personally, I’ve always wanted to be a farmer, so actually I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, but not a teacher teaching in class,” he shares. “I’ve always wanted to be a teacher for farmers, so the knowledge that I have, I feel so proud when I instill it into someone and then that someone goes on to do something that has got a tangible result.”

Denis’ mission is to guide the participants through various agronomic practices, but his role extends beyond the fields. He assists FFS members in connecting with potential buyers when they have surplus produce. Equipped with his training, he also tackles cross-cutting issues when

they arise, such as gender-based violence. He encourages members to embrace work with enthusiasm, hoping to foster positive behaviour change. He explains that the vision road map is a valuable tool, serving as a guide that ensures their work is driven by purpose and clear goals.

He and the FFS members also visit other successful FFS participants to learn from what they have done when they have a very productive growing season. He encourages his members to build savings, which in turn allows them to further invest in their agricultural livelihoods. “This year, one of my FFS group members managed to hire land where they planted beans. They had never done that before,” Denis says with excitement. His hope, and one of the goals of the project, is that the knowledge gained from the demonstration plots will not only benefit the FFS members,

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher for farmers, so the knowledge that I have, I feel so proud when I instill it into someone and then that someone goes on to do something that has got a tangible result.”

Denis Ojok, FFS facilitator

PALABEK REFUGEE SETTLEMENT,
LAMWO DISTRICT, UGANDA

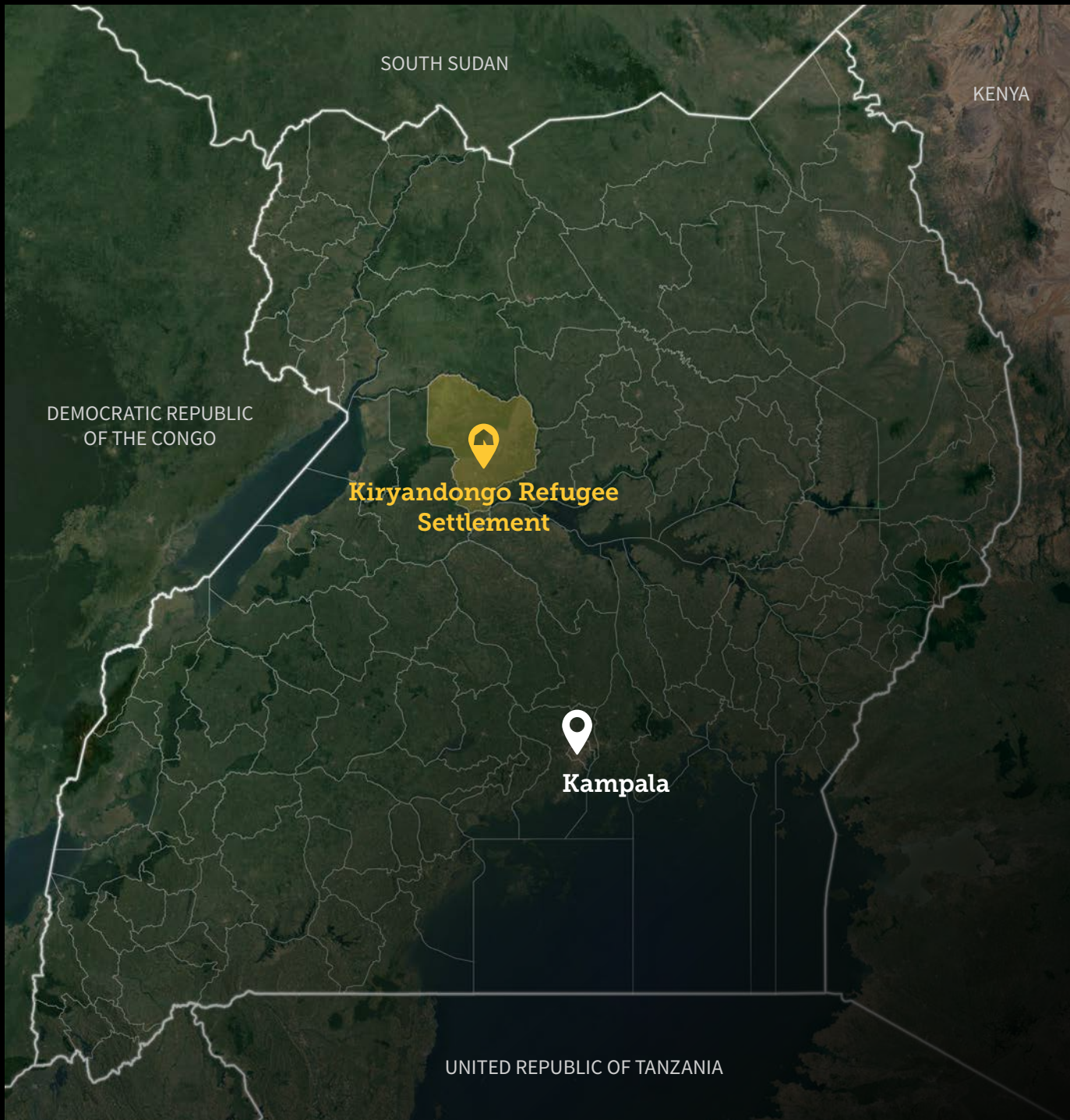
but also others from the host and refugee communities. He explains, “When FAO came in and brought them on board, they inspired the refugees, and as a result they have a larger garden of two acres where they are planting beans, maize and sesame.”



Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Christine makes juice for her children
with the passion fruit she grows in her field.



Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, 250 kilometres southwest of Palabek, is home to 65 000 refugees. Kiryandongo has a long history as a refugee-hosting area, intermittently hosting refugees and IDPs since the 1950's.⁶ The current settlement was established in 1990 and reopened in 2014 to host refugees fleeing the crisis in South Sudan.⁷

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement is located next to the town of Bweyale, a vibrant economic hub where refugees and host communities interact and engage in numerous activities including those related to business, culture, religion and education.

Source of map: UNHCR. 2023. In: *Uganda comprehensive refugee response portal*. Kampala. [Cited 1 August 2023]. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>

Source of satellite imagery: Google Earth. [Accessed 20 September 2023]. Data attribution: Airbus, Maxar Technologies. Imagery from dates: 1/10/2020 – newer





Passion fruit and clean energy sources as opportunities for change



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June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Developing inclusive value chains to build resilience

Carefully straining passion fruit through a small colander, Betty allows the fresh juice to flow into a glass pitcher. Across from her, Miriam skillfully prepares food for the women, using briquettes made from agricultural waste (such as maize cobs and groundnut shells) as a fuel source.

Both women share a common experience of seeking refuge from violence in South Sudan. Betty became the sole provider for her five children and Miriam survived a treacherous border crossing that claimed the lives of many of her travel companions. With the support of the Government of Uganda, both Betty and Miriam made homes in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. Despite receiving land (30 m x 30 m plots) from the government to build their houses and the right to work and attend school, life was challenging for both women. With the little money she had, Miriam rented a piece of land from a host community member but found herself in a difficult situation when some harvests yielded nothing.

In 2021, Betty and Miriam joined Aber's Farmers' Group, an FFS established through an FAO project that aimed to introduce profitable and inclusive agricultural value chains to refugees and host communities, helping them build resilient livelihoods and foster peaceful coexistence.

Inclusive value chains⁸

Value chains, which cover the full process from production to consumption, are inclusive when they are economically viable, socially beneficial and environmentally sustainable. Particular emphasis is given to including people who do not typically experience the benefits of agricultural or economic activity, such as refugees and women.



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COUNTERCLOCKWISE:

June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Betty filters passion fruit juice.
Betty processes passion fruit to make juice.

Miriam prepares food using clean energy from agricultural waste fuel briquettes.

Through the FFS, Betty, Miriam, and their fellow members received seeds, chickens and fuel briquettes. FAO's local partner, KadAfrica, complemented this by providing training in GAP specific to growing passion fruit, equipping them with new skills that have led to positive impacts on their lives and livelihoods. "I realize that the skills I have gained have changed my life. I know how to keep poultry and plant passion fruit, crops and vegetables," says Betty.

Passion fruit, previously not a commonly cultivated crop in the area, has gained popularity among refugee and host communities largely due to its great earning potential. For members of Betty and Miriam's FFS, it has created a new income stream. Thanks to the training from KadAfrica, members are able to get good prices when selling their high-quality passion fruit in the settlement's surrounding areas, where this new, delicious and nutritious crop is now in high demand. While currently sold at a small scale, the project aspires to support the FFS members in expanding their production and selling the fruit to bigger buyers in other Ugandan cities at better prices. The juice they currently make for themselves also has the potential to be sold for higher profits, benefiting both their livelihoods and their community.

Beyond the financial gains, the FFS has offered Betty and Miriam a supportive social network and a space to form friendships. Through their savings group, they have also gained an opportunity to save collectively. They can set aside funds for emergencies and invest back into their agricultural enterprises, contributing to their resilience and self-reliance.



Yes, I have made up my mind to stay in Uganda. Because the people here have happily welcomed me, and I know I am going to be okay in the future.



Miriam, South Sudanese refugee
KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT,
UGANDA

An alternative source of fuel

Aber's Farmers' Group, and others in Kiryandongo, have also benefited from a complementary FAO project that tackles competition for firewood, depletion of native forests, and the lack of safe access to cooking fuel, a common issue in refugee-hosting areas. The collection of firewood exposes refugee women and girls, who are primarily responsible for this task, to high risks of gender-based violence. Refugees and host communities cutting down trees to build shelters or to use for firewood and charcoal production has also resulted in environmental degradation, disputes between communities, and health risks related to the burning of charcoal. In response, FAO introduced clean energy sources, such as improved stoves and briquettes. Miriam shares the impact this sustainable, healthier fuel has had. "The briquette has positively changed my life because it is easily accessible. It lights with a stronger flame, and is cheaper when compared to firewood."

The project has adopted an e-voucher system to encourage both refugees and host communities to utilize briquettes as a sustainable energy source. These vouchers can be redeemed through local agrodealers supplied by Mandulis Energy, a Ugandan social enterprise that specializes in converting agricultural waste into briquettes.

Through this initiative, the project not only promotes the use of briquettes but also creates a local market that benefits the community as a whole. Local agrodealers are supported through increased demand for briquettes, which

June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Alex Ahabwa, Field Officer with Mandulis Energy, trains participants on how to cook using briquettes.



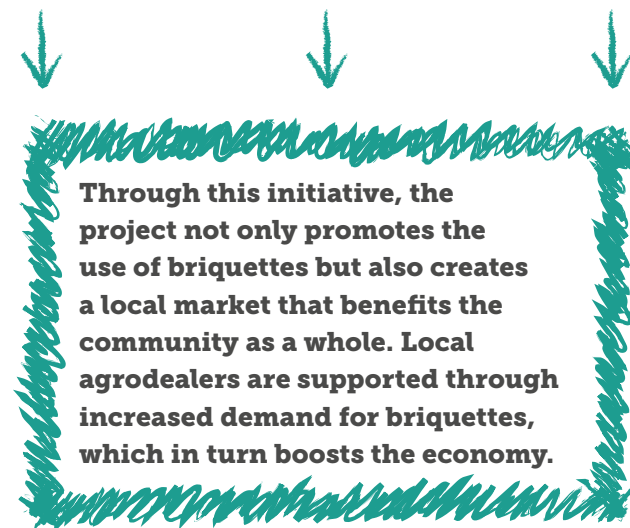
June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Alex demonstrates how to use a briquette made from agricultural waste.



© FAO/V. Tremeau

in turn boosts the economy. Furthermore, the project aims to generate additional income opportunities for farmers by connecting them with Mandulis Energy, enabling them to sell their agricultural waste as a valuable raw material to produce briquettes. Building connections between private sector organizations, like Mandulis Energy, refugees and host communities ensures that the benefits of the project are long-lasting.



Through this initiative, the project not only promotes the use of briquettes but also creates a local market that benefits the community as a whole. Local agrodealers are supported through increased demand for briquettes, which in turn boosts the economy.

June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda
Christine and Night work among the passion fruit vines,
as part of their training.





Working for the future

Christine, a 47-year-old Ugandan woman, proudly serves as the chair of Odokomit Farmers' Group. With their motto, "Work for the Future," they began as a women's-only drama group performing traditional dances and later transitioned into farming activities. When FAO initiated a project in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, the group flourished and expanded to 30 members, comprising men, women, refugees and host community members. Striving for unity and progress, Christine selflessly offered a piece of her land as a learning site for the group's FFS, emphasizing that as hosts and refugees, they are all one community, living in peace and harmony.

With the guidance of FAO and local partners, the farmers' group established a revolving fund and cash box through their VSLA, empowering them to take control of their financial future. They also received valuable resources, such as farm tools and seeds to grow vegetables and passion fruit. "We also receive extension services [skills/knowledge]. We no longer do basic farming," adds Christine.



© FAO/V. Tremeau



There has been a lot of positive change. I got a lot from the vegetables around the homestead here. My children are healthy, there is no sickness.

Christine,
host community member

KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT,
UGANDA



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The impact of their hard work and FAO's support is evident. "There has been a lot of positive change. The poultry are laying, and my children are enjoying the eggs. I got a lot from the vegetables around the homestead here, it is a source of [nutrition] for us. In fact, my children are healthy. There is no sickness," says Christine. By selling surplus crops, Christine can invest in more seeds, pay for her children's school fees, and afford medical expenses.

As group leader, Christine values the bonds she has made with her fellow farmers. She explains that the FFS keeps them busy and focused. It also gives them a platform to share their difficulties with the group and help each other. Their collective efforts generate income, with onion, tomatoes, eggplant, and passion fruit sales yielding substantial returns. The benefits gained empower the group, reinforcing their commitment to work for a better future.



© FAO/V. Tremeau

June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Christine makes juice for her children with the passion fruit she grows in her field.



Enabling environments for refugee resilience and self-reliance: from Uganda to Kenya

The policies and legislation a host country establishes have a direct impact on the social safety nets and opportunities available to forcibly displaced people. They play a vital role in determining their lives and the viability of durable solutions. Over the years, Uganda has adopted progressive refugee policies, such as the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. This legislation allows refugees to move freely, work, set up a business, own property and access land and national services, including education and health care.⁹

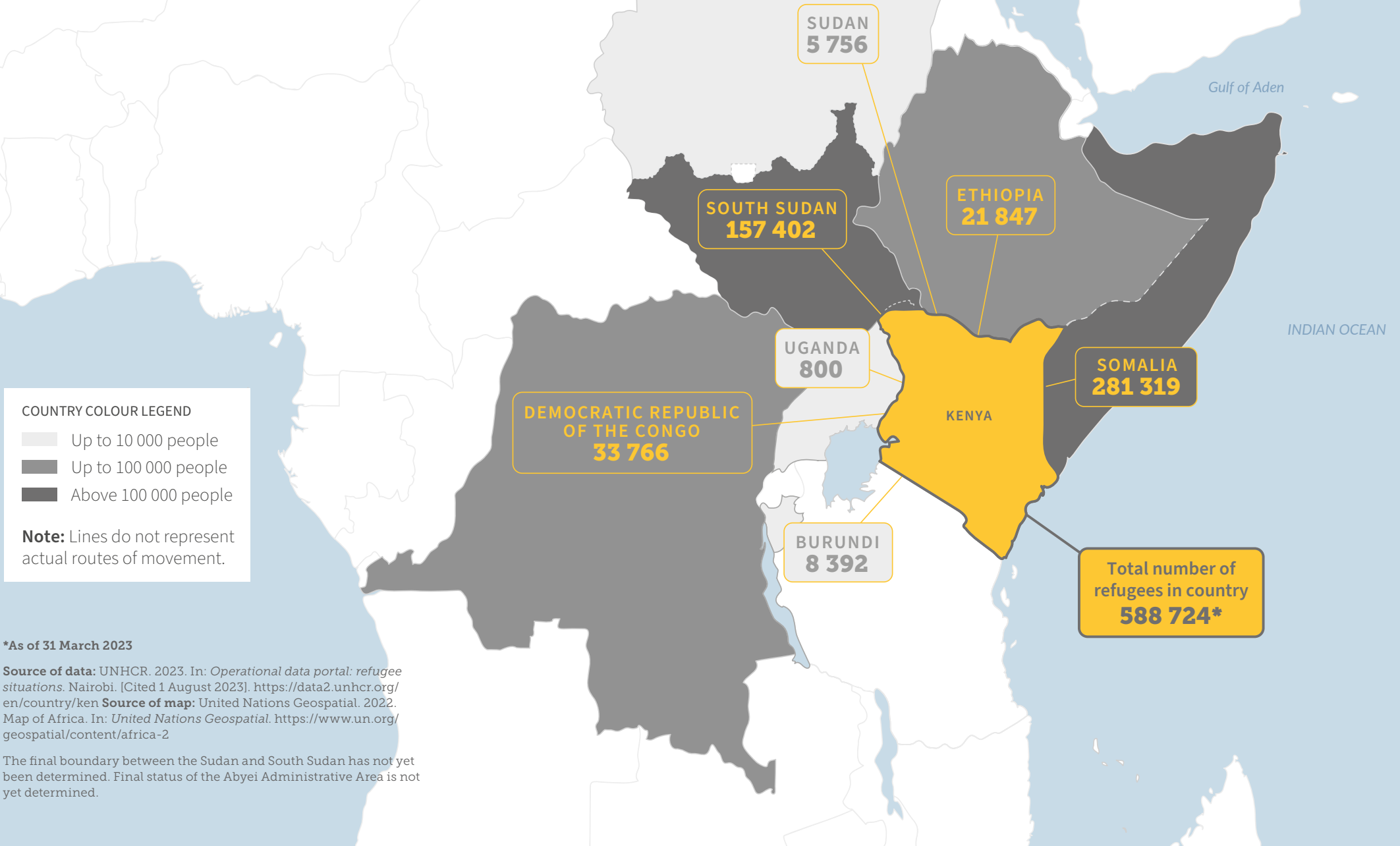
Kenya has also made steady progress since 2017 towards achieving refugee resilience and self-reliance by promoting solutions through integration. Prior to passing a new Refugee Law in 2021, Kenya followed a policy that required all refugees to remain in camps, restricting their freedom of movement and right to work. The new legislation reverses these previous restrictions, adopting a settlement-based approach that grants refugees expanded rights to move, access education and financial services, and seek employment.⁸

In 2018, in Kenya's Turkana region, which hosts Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, the local government launched the multisectorial and multipartner "Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme". Regarding refugees as a catalyst for local development, it is a model of how government, humanitarian and development partners can come together to build more liveable, resilient, sustainable communities that benefit both refugees and host communities.



July 2022 – Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya

Refugee flows to Kenya*



COUNTRY COLOUR LEGEND

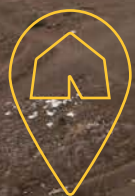
- Up to 10 000 people
- Up to 100 000 people
- Above 100 000 people

Note: Lines do not represent actual routes of movement.

*As of 31 March 2023

Source of data: UNHCR. 2023. In: *Operational data portal: refugee situations*. Nairobi. [Cited 1 August 2023]. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/ken> **Source of map:** United Nations Geospatial. 2022. *Map of Africa*. In: *United Nations Geospatial*. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/africa-2>

The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei Administrative Area is not yet determined.



Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement



Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya

Just over the border with Uganda, in the northwest of the country is Turkana County, Kenya's largest and least-developed region.

Turkana County hosts almost 43 percent of the total refugee population (255 000 people) in Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement and Kakuma Refugee Camp – one of the world's oldest and largest refugee settlements in Kenya.

Source of map: UNHCR. 2023. In: *Operational data portal: refugee situations*. Nairobi. [Cited 1 August 2023]. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/ken>

Source of satellite imagery: Google Earth. [Accessed 20 September 2023]. Data attribution: Airbus, Maxar Technologies. Imagery from dates: 1/10/2020 – newer





Feeding your children in the drylands

Recognizing the challenges faced by families like Mary's, FAO supports vulnerable refugee and host community families by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to engage in sustainable agricultural livelihoods and improve their self-reliance, food security and nutrition.

Mary left South Sudan in 2016 after losing all her brothers to horrific violence. After hearing that people were taking refuge in Kenya, she made the decision to leave in order to protect herself and her children.

Upon their arrival in Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, Mary received cash assistance which she used to buy maize, beans, fish and cooking oil to feed her family. However, the limited food options in the market meant their diets lacked diversity, and they found themselves eating only beans every day. The challenge of providing for her children's nutritional needs weighed on her. "I struggled to get a balanced diet for my children to enable them to fight diseases by having vitamins in their bodies," says Mary. Relying on cash assistance was not a sustainable way to support her family.

Recognizing the challenges faced by families like Mary's, FAO supports vulnerable refugee and host community families by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to engage in sustainable agricultural livelihoods and improve their self-reliance, food security and nutrition.

Mary was allocated a piece of land by WFP and FAO within purpose-built horticultural shade nets. The shade nets, which were constructed by WFP, enable refugees and members of the host community to cultivate vegetables and



© FAO/V. Treméau

cereal crops together. This contributes to a sense of unity and shared purpose. “FAO provided me with this garden and seeds, and dug the water pump for us,” says Mary.

Through FFSs and nutrition trainings facilitated by FAO, Mary and her fellow members also learned the crucial art of preserving vegetables and cooking nutritious food effectively. Understanding preservation practices is especially valuable in the face of scarce rainfall due to climate change and the increasingly challenging conditions of the drylands.

The training sessions empower individuals to preserve their food, preventing spoilage and ensuring a steady supply of nutritious meals. Mary witnessed firsthand the positive impact on her children’s well-being. “I see that my children’s health is good, and they are growing well.”

The training programme has not only transformed Mary’s family’s diet, but it has also opened up new opportunities for her. The cultivation of crops and the knowledge she has gained through agricultural training allowed her to generate an independent source of income. This income has been vital against the backdrop of reduced food rations and humanitarian assistance. Having gained a sense of stability and empowerment, Mary can look toward achieving her ultimate wish of one day returning to South Sudan.



July 2022 – Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement,
Turkana County, Kenya

Mary and her children eat the food she prepared for them using vegetables from the horticultural farm.

© FAO/V. Trémeau

Using shade nets to mitigate and adapt to climate change

In 2019, just three years after Mary's arrival in Turkana County, the Horn of Africa began experiencing the worst drought it had seen in decades. The lack of rainfall and desiccated pasture and farmland sent millions of people away from their homes in Somalia and Ethiopia and plunged millions into food insecurity. The impacts of the drought highlight the need for local Disaster Risk Reduction approaches, including early warning that triggers anticipatory actions taken before the drought hits crisis levels. FAO's agricultural livelihoods approach includes the adoption of climate-smart agricultural techniques, such as drip irrigation and improved seed varieties adapted to each context. It also includes infrastructure rehabilitation, such as sand dams and water storage and catchment systems, which help people better manage the impacts of extreme weather conditions.

The shade nets that cover the horticultural farms where Mary cultivates the food she eats and sells were also used to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. Installing shade nets is an effective initiative in areas like Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, and Turkana County as a whole, where water is scarce and failed rainy seasons are putting further strain on the availability of water. The shade nets reduce the amount of sunshine that reaches the crops and vegetables and help to reduce water use and retain moisture during periods of prolonged drought.



© FAO/V. Trémeau

July 2022 – Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya

With support from the European Union Trust Fund, FAO trains refugees and host communities in shade nets, established by WFP, which allow vegetables to grow despite the impacts of climate change.

The horticultural farms are also equipped with small-scale drip irrigation infrastructure to help ensure farmers have equal and consistent access to water. Additionally, FAO is using its technical expertise to work with the local government and other partners to explore other opportunities to increase water availability in Kalobeyei and Turkana, including the construction of larger infrastructure like boreholes or dams.

In Kalobeyei, one horticultural farm serves 300 families, comprising an equal split of refugee and host community members. Together, both groups cultivate their plots. FAO and its partners, including the local government, also ensure they receive training, coaching and mentoring through FFSs, and are linked to markets. These horticultural farms are one of the key sources of livelihoods for families in Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

Access to land

Success stories like Mary's would not be possible if she was not able to access productive land to grow her crops. In many refugee-hosting contexts, access to land is governed by systems of legal and informal or traditional rights and can be a contentious issue. Some refugee-hosting countries, like Kenya and Uganda, are taking positive steps by providing refugees with the right to use land, and agencies like FAO are helping refugees and host communities negotiate land access agreements that work for everyone.



Displacement, food security, conflict and climate change

Forced displacement and food insecurity are closely interlinked. Drivers of displacement, like conflict and climate change, have devastating consequences on food production. For example, armed groups may deliberately target and destroy land and other food production assets, food storage facilities, markets and roads. Additionally, climate shocks, such as floods and drought, kill livestock, destroy crops and erode the fertility and productive potential of soil.

Drivers of displacement can also interact with each other. Climate change and its

impacts can worsen and trigger conflict. For instance, drought can make fertile soil – suitable for both agriculture and livestock grazing – scarcer. As a result, livestock keeping and farming communities may compete over the same land, triggering conflict that could drive people to flee their homes. These events can cause or worsen food insecurity, which in combination with other factors, can increase the risk of displacement.

When people are forced to flee, having lost their productive assets (animals, tools and

fields), they often lack the startup capital, opportunities or access to land to resume their livelihood activities. Without these resources, people are less able to cultivate or buy food. In addition, the areas where people settle may already have limited resources, such as water and infrastructure, or food production systems that are unable to cope with population influxes. Consequently, displacement can trigger disputes and tensions between refugee and host communities and add enormous pressure to host countries, increasing the risk of food insecurity and further displacement.



Shade nets: contributing to inclusion

Adukon, a sixty-two-year-old Turkana woman, takes a break from her farm work and sits in a shaded shelter near the shade nets. She has come to check on her vegetables and assess their progress.

“I received some seeds from FAO. I planted the seeds and they germinated,” she explains. “Thereafter, I harvested and divided into two portions. I sold some so that I can get cash and buy what I don’t have, like cooking oil and sugar cubes,” she says. “The other portion I used to sustain my family. I used the vegetables to change our diets at home.”

The formation of mixed FFSs and the chance for host communities and refugees to engage in farming together within the shade nets have provided opportunities for mutual learning and collaboration. Bringing together refugees who originate from different countries and local Turkana people through the horticultural farms has improved the coexistence of communities living in Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement. Both groups support each other. For example, each tend to the other’s plots of land when they are unable to. They also share knowledge and expertise. The Turkana people, who are historically livestock keepers, have also learned a great deal from refugees who have come to Kenya with their own experiences with farming and agriculture.



July 2022 – Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya
Adukon, a Turkana woman, in the horticultural farm.

© FAO/V. Tremeau

Diversifying diets and preventing malnutrition

Another climate adaptation-related initiative that FAO has implemented in Kaloybei Refugee Settlement is training on nutrition. Practical and theoretical sessions are offered to refugee and host communities, during which they learn how to preserve vegetables, and are provided with recipes to improve their family's nutrition. This is particularly valuable in a context where resources like water are scarce.

Training on vegetable preservation ensures that in times of abundance, when water is available, they have a solid food reserve for when access to food is more limited. By following the methods taught, vegetables can be kept safe, nutritious and edible for over six months.

Vegetables, whether fresh or dried, are part of a balanced diet. For children, poor nutrition can affect their well-being and ability to learn, and may mean a limited future. Supporting the improvement of nutrition in Kalobeyei is not only essential in fighting diseases, but also to ensuring refugees and Turkana locals, in particular children and women, can lead long, active, healthy lives.

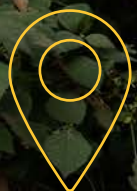


July 2022 – Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya

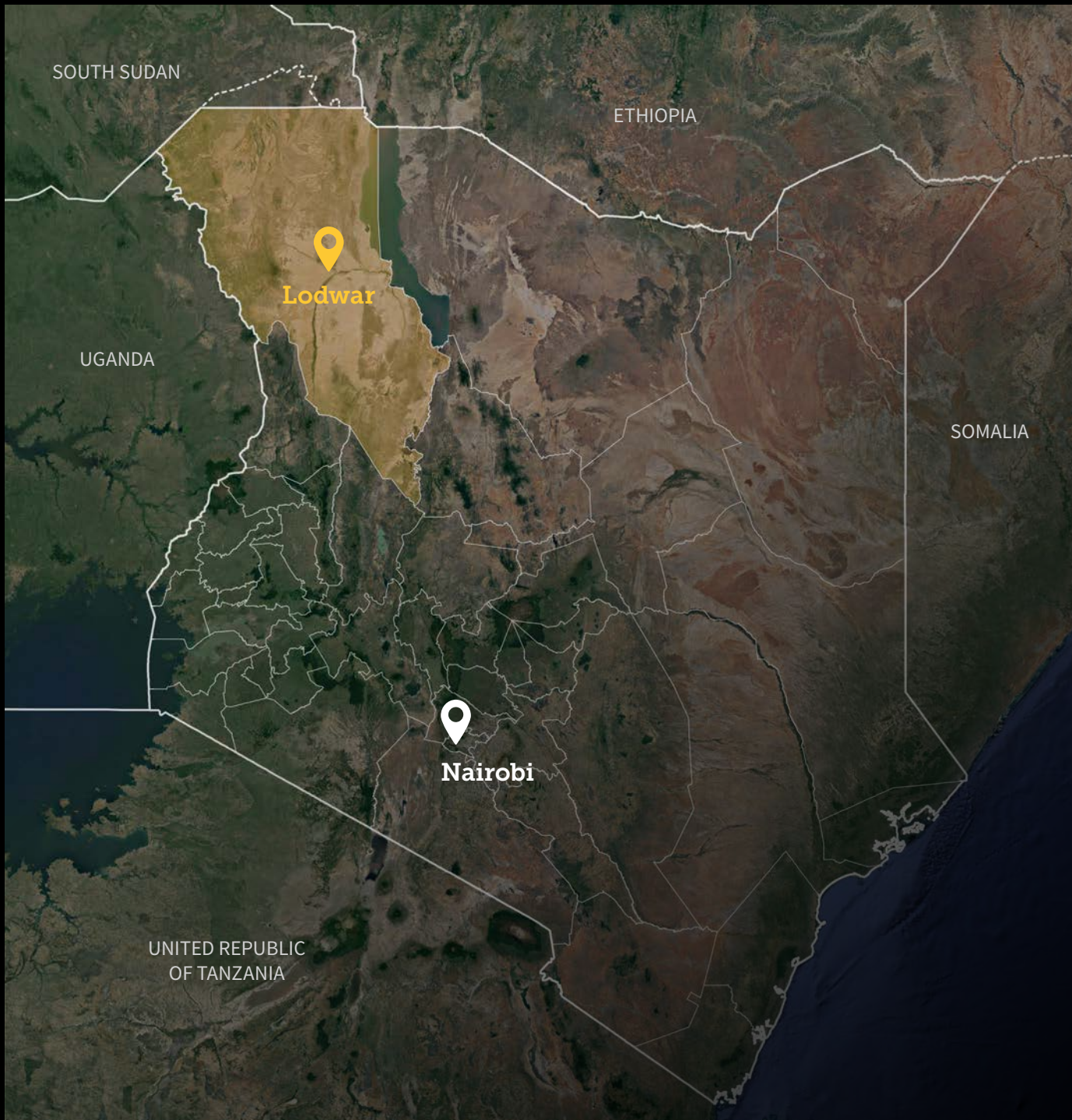
During a nutrition training, a trainer shows the different types of food that can be prepared.

© FAO / V. Treméau





**Lodwar,
Turkana
County**



Lodwar, Turkana County, Kenya

In Lodwar, one of the biggest towns in Turkana County, FAO is supporting host communities – who belong to the Turkana people – by establishing a value chain based on groundnuts.

The Turkana people are mainly pastoralists, and growing groundnuts is new to them. However, they have quickly embraced it after witnessing the promising earning potential and nutritional benefits of the groundnuts.

Source of map: UNHCR. 2023. In: *Operational data portal: refugee situations*. Nairobi. [Cited 1 August 2023]. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/ken>

Source of satellite imagery: Google Earth. [Accessed 20 September 2023]. Data attribution: Airbus, Maxar Technologies. Imagery from dates: 1/10/2020 – newer

July 2022 – Lodwar, Turkana County, Kenya

A group of host community farmers
tend to their groundnut farm.





Groundnuts: an inclusive value chain in the Turkana drylands



July 2022 – Lodwar, Turkana County, Kenya
A host community member tends to the groundnut farm.

© FAO/W. Treméau

FAO's work does not stop with assisting individual farmers and training groups to build their skills and knowledge. Strengthening local markets and making connections between farmers and traders, processors, and other parts of the food system are a critical part of making agriculture a sustainable livelihood.

As part of the inclusive value chain project that taught Betty and Christine in Uganda to grow and sell passion fruit, FAO and its partners have trained Turkana people and refugees in groundnut (peanut) production. This new livelihood

activity not only provides an additional source of income but also introduces a new crop that is well-adapted to the environmental conditions in the region.

In an area where malnutrition levels are high and food and economic security are pressing concerns, the introduction and development of the groundnut value chain offers a sustainable solution. Groundnuts are a nutritious, high-value crop that farmers can feed their families and sell to earn additional income.

FAO is helping to make agriculture a viable economic activity for farmers growing groundnut by connecting the producers with a private company, INSTA Products, which has agreed to purchase groundnuts in bulk from the farmers at a previously-negotiated price, guaranteeing the farmers a predictable source of income. Developing these links between refugee and host farmers in remote refugee-hosting areas and bulk buyers from cities helps to build rural/urban connections and increase the interconnectedness of the food system in a way that benefits everyone.

July 2022 – Lodwar, Turkana County, Kenya
Farmers monitor their groundnut crops.



What does farming mean to you?



The proceeds from groundnuts helped me and my family. I hope to learn more about the crop and become an expert farmer.



Ester, groundnut farmer
LODWAR, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA





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Farming is changing my life each day.
I want to continue with farming so that
I can send my children to school.



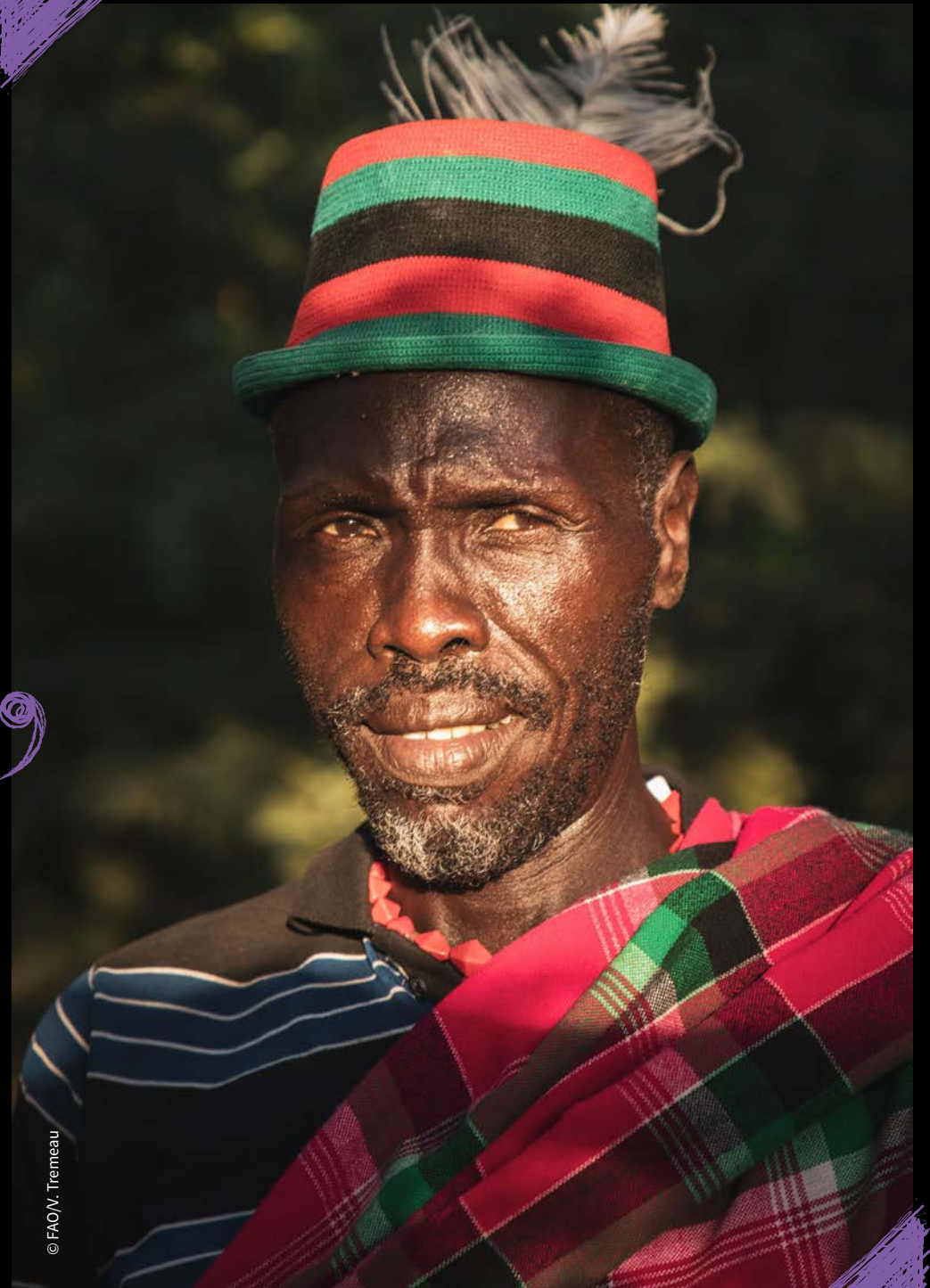
Ereng, groundnut farmer
LODWAR, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA

“

I make porridge with the groundnuts to eat with my children. I am happy with the training. I would like to be trained more so that I can do farming that produces more things.

”

Peter, groundnut farmer
LODWAR, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA





© FAO/V. Tremeau



Farming is a profit to me. It helps my family a lot. I am happy about it.



Samuel, groundnut farmer
LODWAR, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA





A way forward



June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

FAO team member Xabier listens to the stories of refugees.

© FAO/V. Tremeau

The stories above demonstrate that agricultural livelihood interventions, when applied effectively, can be a driving force to transform lives and achieve durable solutions. But more needs to be done. Earlier and increased investment in agricultural livelihoods is needed. As the climate crisis worsens, greater emphasis must be placed on climate-adapted livelihoods and climate change mitigation.

Refugees have frequently said they do not want to be dependent on humanitarian assistance.¹⁰ We must listen and provide the tools and the support they are asking for so they can reach their goals and find the right solution to their displacement.

Based on FAO's experience in displacement settings and the testimonies of people affected by forced displacement, the needed responses to deliver durable solutions require stakeholders to:

- ▶ **Invest in agricultural livelihoods that are inclusive and adapted to climate change.** This can prevent or reduce the associated exposure to external shocks, such as food price increases, food ration reductions, conflict, and importantly, the need for decades-long investment in short-term food assistance.



- ▶ **Acknowledge the link between investing in livelihoods and reaching long-term food security, the economic independence of refugees and solutions to displacement.** Investing in inclusive agricultural livelihoods and value chains has huge potential to improve the food security of refugees, while at the same time providing sustainable sources of income, boosting the development of local areas, and building local peace and social cohesion between communities.
- ▶ **Recognize the transformative potential agricultural livelihoods offer forcibly displaced people who live in rural, remote, and peri-urban areas.** In addition, leverage their agricultural skills to break the cycle of dependency on humanitarian aid and unleash their potential as active contributors to local economies. But it must also be recognized that agriculture is not just for farmers: it also offers huge opportunities for refugees and other forcibly displaced people who have never farmed.
- ▶ **Support climate-adapted agricultural livelihoods and food systems.** Climate resilience is a necessary precondition to sustainable agricultural livelihoods. Climate-related shocks, like drought and floods, are leading to a loss of livelihoods and increased competition over natural resources, as well as driving food insecurity, conflict and displacement, particularly for people who depend on agriculture. It also increases the vulnerabilities of people already forcibly displaced.
- ▶ **Be better at listening to and being guided by the needs and priorities of refugees and host communities,** who are calling for greater autonomy and investment in their ability to be more self-reliant and less dependent on external assistance. This includes flexible funding that enables programmes to be adapted to their preferences. Partners should include guidance and feedback from refugees into every aspect of humanitarian project cycles. Resource partners should invest early in innovative approaches that can help refugees contribute towards their own food security and household income.
- ▶ **Increase access to multi-year funding cycles** that drastically increase the prioritization (and funding) for comprehensive livelihood and agricultural assistance.
- ▶ **Deliver sustainable responses,** so that forcibly displaced people and host communities are more self-reliant and resilient to shocks (economic, climactic).
- ▶ **Lay the foundations for peace to break the cycle of displacement,** which is increasingly caused by conflict, climate change and their interactions.

July 2022 – Palabek Refugee Settlement,
Lamwo District, Uganda

Winnie Kobucsigyi, an FFS facilitator,
poses with participants for a group photo.



Notes

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June 2022 – Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Betty tends to vegetables in the FFS demonstration garden.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union, the IKEA Foundation and Innovation Norway. Its contents are the sole responsibility of FAO, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the IKEA Foundation or Innovation Norway.



**Co-funded by
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of the United Nations**
Rome, Italy

ISBN 978-92-5-138408-4



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CC8864EN/1/11.23