



**AURORA**  
CHILDREN'S  
FOUNDATION

## **ACFN and LFF**

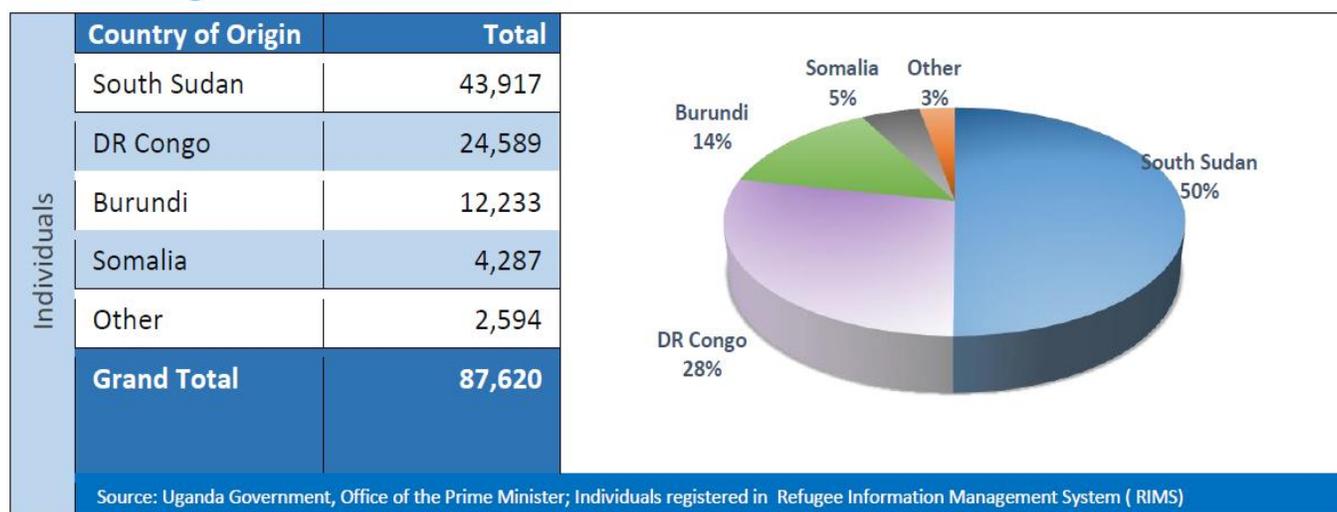
Nutrition Project for Refugees in West Nile Region (*Koboko, Yumbe & Adjumani*)  
Districts, Uganda



**Introduction:** This brief document details the key areas of focus and priorities for Nutrition programming interventions targeting refugees in the Western Region of Uganda specifically focusing in the Districts of Koboko, Yumbe and Adjumani. The main intervention strategy is to provide nutrition services targeting refugee children and mothers in the settlement camps. Aurora Children Foundation (UK) and Lugei Family Foundation Inc. (Uganda) will work closely in partnership with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Ministry of Health (MoH), District Local Government of the host Districts and the Refugee Settlement Management, in planning for service delivery and evaluation of the programme.

**Background:** Uganda is currently hosting about 87,620 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority of whom reside in refugee settlements provided by the Government of Uganda. Thanks to Uganda's generous asylum policy, refugees from neighbouring countries continue to access the territory and the asylum procedure. At present, 50% of all refugees in Uganda are from the Republic of South Sudan 28% from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 15% from Burundi, 5% from Somalia and 3% from other countries. South Sudanese and Congolese fleeing to Uganda are granted prima facie refugee status. Other nationalities are granted refugee status through an Eligibility process. According to the United Nations Press Centre, most of the majority of the people fleeing South Sudan are women and children, including survivors of violent attacks (UNHCR, 2016).

## 2016 Refugee Influx



**Table 1: Uganda Monthly Refugee Statistics Update**

**Rational for the Intervention:** A joint nutrition assessment Mission of 2014 found high rates of global acute malnutrition in Refugee Settlements including Lobule in Koboko District and Rhino Camp in Arua District. Malnutrition levels were established to be as high as 15.2% global acute malnutrition and above 40% rates of anemia among children. Anaemia among non-pregnant women is around 23.3%. Poor dietary diversity, which is linked to under-nutrition (e.g; anemia, micronutrient deficiency), as a result of weak dietary practices and limited access to other fresh food stuff. The lack of income to purchase food, rather than the lack of availability of fresh foods in market, is the major challenge for refugees to access diversified diets. Markets in close proximity settlements have majority of the commodities refugees require. Compounding limited dietary diversity is the limited diversity of food

production at the household level. Limited types of crops grown, livestock, and land, negatively impact household's own production. More sensitization, increased number of demonstration plots, and higher quality training can build knowledge, attitudes and practices among refugees for the need for a diversified diet.

Therefore, the need to immediately start an intervention aimed at creating access to nutrition services through establishing a feeding programme and promotion of food production & productivity.

### **Programming Areas**

- Nutrition
- Health
- Education

### **Overview of the Current Situation of Refugee Mothers and Children & the Humanitarian Needs**

According to UNHCR and Office of Prime Minister (OPM) in Uganda, an estimated 85 per cent of the new arrivals since 7 July 2016 are women and children and 73 per cent are children. UNICEF and other partners are conducting sectoral assessments to plan further for specified interventions.

### **The need**

Nutrition screening of all newcomers by health and nutrition partners is ongoing by some partners and needs to be scaled up. Children are at risk from an existing malaria outbreak in the hosting West Nile region and other communicable diseases due to the congestion. The inter agency assessment on Education confirmed gaps in early childhood development facilities, as well as community based institutions. Classrooms, supplies, as well as teachers with orientation on refugee education are very limited, for both primary and secondary education. Services for accelerated learning are limited. Teachers' accommodation and Water Sanitation & Hygiene facilities for pupils and teachers is a challenge. Upcoming schools will require instructional and scholastic material. There is need for teacher recruitment and capacity strengthening to support learning of refugee children, learning spaces, desks, latrine stances for children and teachers, recreation kits, school in a box and replenishment kits among others.

### **Programming Opportunities for ACFN AND LFF**

- Setting up an early childhood centre focusing on feeding child with acute malnutrition cases
- Training mothers on food production, hygienic food handling practices
- Distribution of tools, seeds and training on kitchen and small scale farming
- Basic health screening for mothers and children including de-worming
- Distributing recyclable pads to women and young girls and teaching them how to make their own

**Some pictures on the current refugee situation in West-Nile Region, Uganda.**



**South Sudan Refugees on their arrival to the reception centre in Adjumani District, Uganda**



**A young South Sudanese Refugee girl cooks food at a reception Centre in Adjumani District**



**Refugee mothers in a reception centre in West Nile region, Uganda**