UGANDA PRESENTATION ON LOCAL INTEGRATION.

Presented by
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CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Uganda refugee legal framework.
4. Why the large numbers.
6. Existing opportunities for refugee local integration/self reliance.
7. Challenges being faced.
8. Recommendation/Way forward
DEFINITION OF LOCAL INTERGRATION

- Local Integration is “a situation in which host and refugee communities are able to co-exist, sharing the same resources — both economic and social — with no greater mutual conflict than that which exists within the host community.”
What does it take?

Characteristics of successful integration

- Socio-cultural change permits them to maintain an identity of their own and adjust psychologically to their new situation.
- Friction between host populations and refugees is not worse than within the host population itself.
- Refugees do not encounter more discrimination than exists between groups previously settled within the host society.
Legal Framework

- Uganda is signatory to - 1951 UN Refugee Convention/1967 protocol, which provides for refugee protection.

- Uganda is also signatory to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, by which refugees fleeing from conflict can be granted refugee status.

- Article 195 of Uganda 1995 Constitution reaffirms Uganda’s commitments to international humanitarian law.
Legal Framework

- Refugee function is a Centralised Government mandate/Service and responsibility under the sixth schedule Art 189 of the Constitution.

- The 2006, Uganda Refugee Act guarantees refugee rights, protection and administrative matters for refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda.
Refugee trends in Uganda

• Uganda has consistently hosted refugees since the second World War; on an average of 150,000 refugees at anyone time.

• Polish refugees in Uganda: 1945 - 1951.


• Sudanese refugees at different waves from 1950s to-date
Refugee trends in Uganda

- Congolese refugees since the Lumumba era in 1960s to-date.

- Burundian refugees with different political upheavals at different times since 1960s.

- Others from Somalia, Eritrea, etc.
Current Refugee Statistics

Total refugees and asylum-seekers: 1,205,913

### Countries of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Refugees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>794,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>319,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>35,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>25,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>14,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>16,747</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Refugees per Settlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bidibidi</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjumani</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palorinya</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakivale</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhino Camp</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyangwali</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyaka II</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imvepi</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiryandongo</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwamwanja</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palabek</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oruchinga</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobule</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Refugee hosting Areas/ Settlements

- Uganda historically hosted refugees in local settlements.
- The settlements offer a more permanent departure from the temporary ‘transit camp’.
- Objective of the local settlement policy is to promote a degree of self-sufficiency for refugees coupled with freedom of movement.
- Makes refugees economically and socially independent.
Why the large numbers???

- Conflicts are lasting longer than in the past – DRC, Somalia, etc

- Conflicts are occurring more frequently. In the past six years alone, six plus nations globally have seen new or reignited conflicts.
Why the large numbers???

• The rate at which aid agencies are funding “solutions” for displaced people have been on decline since cold war.

• Large numbers are staying in a state of persistent vulnerability.
What solutions for refugees in Uganda look like; “Durable solutions”

- **Voluntary Repatriation**, remains the most viable option. *Note, Conditions for return must be conducive for sustainable return.*

- **Resettlement into a third country**, done through close collaboration with the UNHCR and other international Humanitarian Organizations.

- **Local Integration**, where refugee planning, management and service delivery has been integrated into the overall NDP II
Existing opportunities for refugees local integration/self reliance.

1. Refugee policy in Uganda promotes self reliance/local integration through;
   - Agriculture
   - Business Activities.
   - Other Livelihood Activities/Income generating activities.

2. Strategic Initiatives
   - Inclusion of Refugees into the National Development Plan.(NDP II), Integrated Education and Health Refugee Response plans
   - ReHope Strategy.
   - Settlement Transformation Agenda(S.T.A) that has birthed DRDIP
Opportunities continued

Legal rights

- Right work
- Right to Education
- Right to Own property
- Free movement
- Access to Health
- Right to form and belong to non political associations
- Right to practice culture, religion etc
CHALLENGES Faced

- Sustainability of current Refugee Policy
- Increasing refugee populations against land scarcity and conflicts.
- Funding challenges and gaps.
- Environmental degradation.
- Security concerns
- Capacity issues.
CHALLENGES . . .

- Some refugees spend their entire lives in Uganda, raise families and consider it their home.

- Have not in the least been provided with the opportunity to legally become Ugandan.

- Refugee status has become a permanent limbo for such migrants – they are unable or unwilling to return to their home countries because of the persecution suffered there, but not permitted to integrate in their adopted home.

- Lack of citizenship results in many tangible consequences, such as the inability to vote or participate in the political
CONCLUSION

• Nothing in Ugandan law prohibits a recognized refugee from being considered to reside in Uganda for purposes of naturalisation under Sec. 16 of the UCICA.

• Also no legal bar to refugees meeting the requirements of language, good character, and intention to settle in Uganda.

• Refugees are fully capable of becoming naturalised citizens.
Recommendations

- Continued efforts to achieve lasting peace in countries with conflict as a lasting solution to refugees.
- International burden sharing in terms of open doors to refugees.
- Increased funding to refugee solutions.
- De-radicalisation of the world.
Thank you

“ For God and my Country”