

## FACT SHEET

### Uganda – an extraordinary approach to receive refugees

#### General information about Uganda

Current population (2016): 40,3 Mio<sup>1</sup>. 48% of the population is under the age of 14<sup>2</sup>

Number of refugees in July 2017: 1,326,750<sup>3</sup>

Countries of origin:<sup>4</sup>

South Sudan:	995,092
Democratic Republic of Congo:	222,082
Burundi:	36,331
Somalia:	35,732



#### Migrants & Refugees in Uganda

Due to the crisis/conflict in South Sudan, which so far made 1.4m<sup>5</sup> people leave, Uganda became the country in Africa hosting the largest numbers of refugees. According to UNHCR, 2000 people arrive on average each day. More than 86% of the new arrivals are women and children.

In Africa migration and flight are topics mainly concerning the youth (people below the age of 35). While the median age of continental emigrants is 39 years, emigrants leaving Africa have a median age of 29.

It is striking that Uganda has one of the most generous and progressive approaches to receiving refugees in the region, if not the world. Refugees are granted relative freedom of movement, equal access to primary education, healthcare and other basic social services, and the right to work and own a business – indeed immediately after arrival. This approach is remarkably different to the very regulated and bureaucratic handling of refugees in European countries, where various restrictions and long waiting periods result in their full dependence on social welfare as long as the asylum application is processed.

**Where the world's displaced people are being hosted**

**55% of refugees worldwide came from three countries**

**Top hosting countries**

will no longer depend on humanitarian aid. Uganda admits refugees on its territory irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, or religion. They are warranted security and legal, physical and social protection (Amnesty International). (5)

Bidi Bidi, opened in August 2016, has become the largest Refugee Settlement in the world with estimated 270,000 persons living there.

„The refugee influx and pressure on the host communities coupled with the drought in the Horn of Africa, and therefore challenges the Uganda transformational approach. Uganda needs the support of the international community to uphold its progressive approach and provide a model for other countries in terms of a new way of

1 United Nations Populations Fund: World Population Dashboard – Uganda. Online available: <http://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/UG>  
 2 United Nations Populations Fund: World Population Dashboard – Uganda. Online available: <http://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/UG>  
 3 UNHCR: Fact Sheet – Uganda. Online available: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Uganda%20Factsheet%20July%202017.pdf>  
 4 UNHCR: Fact Sheet – Uganda. Online available: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Uganda%20Factsheet%20July%202017.pdf>  
 5 UNHCR: Figures at a Glance. Online available: <http://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>



working.” - Musa Ecweru, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees

## Migration and Flight in and from Africa

### Flight in and from Africa

- 65.6 Million forcibly displaced people worldwide
- highest ever recorded number
- Africa hosts 30% of all forcibly displaced persons, (compared to 17% in Europe)
- 21.3 Million of them are refugees
- Over half of them are under the age of 18
- In 2016, conflict and violence displaced more people in Sub-Saharan Africa than in the Middle East.<sup>6</sup>
- Of the 6.9 million recent internal displacements by conflict in 2016, 2.6 million took place in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 2.1 million in the Middle East and North Africa<sup>7</sup>
- In 2012, the Kampala Convention came into force, the world’s first continental convention aiming to protect and assist IDPs. It addresses both the needs of the people concerned, as well as the needs of the hosting communities.<sup>8</sup>

### Migration in and from Africa

- Migration mostly happens in the region. Urbanisation is an ever-increasing phenomenon in Africa.<sup>9</sup>
- Only 2% of the African population leave the continent (this proportion is lower than the world average of extra-continental migration, the rate for Europe is 10%).<sup>10</sup>
- 7% of this extra-continental emigration aspires towards Europe (2015).<sup>11</sup>
- 65% of the migration in Sub Sahara Africa happens within the region<sup>12</sup>
- While migration out of Africa swells, not all head towards Europe. The Arab countries become more important as receiving countries.<sup>13</sup>
- Contrary to the assumption that mainly poor Africans leave for Europe, it is in fact the middle class, that can afford to venture the long journey to Europe<sup>14</sup>
- unlike the image created by the media, most Africans reach Europe with valid visa, not in overcrowded boats crossing the Mediterranean<sup>15</sup>
- Africa’s international migrants are remarkable young, their median age being 29 – compared to 39 for all other international migrants.

6 <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/>

7 <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/>

8 <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2013/201312-af-kampala-convention-media-guide-thematic-en.pdf>

9 Flahaux and De Haas(2016): African migration: trends, patterns, drivers. Comparative Migration Studies. Online available: <https://comparative-migrationstudies.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6?site=comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com>

10 UN Migration Report 2015: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015\\_Highlights.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf)

11 UN Migration Report 2015: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015\\_Highlights.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf)

12 African Development Bank Group (2010): Migration Patterns, Trends and Policy Issues (Abebe Shimeles); <https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Procurement/Project-related-Procurement/WORKING%20119%20word%20document%20AA.PDF>

13 Flahaux and De Haas(2016): African migration: trends, patterns, drivers. Comparative Migration Studies. Online available: <https://comparative-migrationstudies.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6?site=comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com>

14 Flahaux and De Haas(2016): African migration: trends, patterns, drivers. Comparative Migration Studies. Online available: <https://comparative-migrationstudies.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6?site=comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com>

15 Flahaux and De Haas(2016): African migration: trends, patterns, drivers. Comparative Migration Studies. Online available: <https://comparative-migrationstudies.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6?site=comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com>



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