

FAC Joint Field Mission to Uganda

June 24 – June 29, 2018



Introduction by FAC Chair 2018

Based on discussions at the Food Assistance Committee (FAC)'s 9th formal Session on 10 November 2017, FAC members conducted their second joint field mission to Uganda from 24 June 2018 to 29 June 2018 to explore the food security situation in the country. This field mission covered a wide variety of food assistance programmes both in humanitarian and development areas.

As stated by many participants at the reflection meeting we hold after the visit of many sites in Northern part of that country, in summary, joint field mission can be described as fruitful and successful. I noted those statements on this report in the item 'Lessons Learned'.

To see is to believe.

On this trip, we could directly see situation of sites facing insecurity of food, talked to local people, refugees, governmental officials and development partners in the field. I believe those experiences will contribute for more deliberate consideration of food assistance for all of participants

As the 2018 FAC Chair, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Uganda and the people concerned in Uganda for warmly accepting our FAC mission. I also appreciate the Field Task Force Team and all the participants for their cooperation making this field mission fruitful and successful.

Shuichi Akamatsu

*Minister for Economy, Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom
(2018 FAC Chair)*

Purpose

The objective of the Food Assistance Committee (FAC) field mission was to give participants the opportunity to see how the broader objectives of the FAC are operationalized at field level, as well as to give members with limited field presence the opportunity to see humanitarian and development programs first-hand.

Uganda was selected as the destination of the 2018 field trip due to a number of reasons, including:

- increasing numbers of refugees from South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo make Uganda's food security vulnerable;
- it was a safe and accessible location; and
- there were a number of FAC member-funded programs as a broad spectrum of both humanitarian and development programmes.

Basic facts and overview

(1) The Republic of Uganda

Uganda is located at the core of the Northern corridor in East Africa which links Rwanda, Burundi, Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Northern Tanzania, with Kenya's outer harbor, Mombasa. Uganda is said to have the highest population growth rate in the world, which is estimated to be 3.5 percent¹, and its population is expected to increase from current 40 million to over 100 million by 2050. More than majority of the labor force is engaged in agriculture, with 6 million working persons in subsistence production².

(2) Uganda's food security situation

According to Uganda National Planning Authority (NPA) and World Food Programme³, four out of every ten Ugandans are unable to meet the required dietary intake. The high reliance on staples for caloric intakes and their low productivity likely to affect future food security prospects in Uganda. Although stunting rates have been

¹ Uganda's Second National Development Plan (2015)

² *ibid.*

³ "Strategic Review of Sustainable Development Goal 2 in Uganda. Executive Summary". May 2017. NPA & WFP.

reduced from 33 percent in 2009/2010 to 27 percent 2015/2016, 16 % of households remain chronically undernourished, and only 4 percent is food secure.

(3) Uganda's refugee situation

Prolonged conflicts in neighboring countries have resulted in multiple waves of refugee influxes to Uganda over the past few years. Despite its magnitude of hosting more than 1.4 million refugees, the Government of Uganda has been maintaining its open door policy and asylum space in the country. Aside from granting refugees freedom of movement, the government also provides refugees with a plot of land for agriculture, with an aim to enable them to become self-reliant. Refugees and host-community residents also share public facilities and services such as schools and health centers. In June 2017, UN Secretary General and the President of Uganda co-hosted Uganda Solidary Summit on Refugees to call for international support refugee response in the country. Uganda is a one of the countries piloting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which aims to inform the Global Compact on Refugees, expected to be endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2018. One of the key components of the Ugandan CRRF model is a transformative strategy, the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Strategic Framework. It aims to bring together a wide range of stakeholders including humanitarian and development actors for more effective programming in more harmonized and coherent way. With the guiding principles of ReHoPE, stakeholders are encouraged to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance.

Delegation

Participants of the mission, headed by Mr. Shuichi Akamatsu, Minister for Economy, Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom (Chair), were made up of 16 officials from 8 countries, namely, Australia, The European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Additionally, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office (UNHCR) staff joined as Task Force members of the mission.

A full list of participants can be found in **Annex A**.

Itinerary

Participants visited 3 Districts bordering South Sudan and/or Democratic Republic of the Congo in Northern Uganda - Adjumani, Koboko and Arua Districts - and 10 food-assistance-related project sites in those Districts.

Participants also had discussions and exchanged views regarding food assistance with officials of the Government of Uganda, Local Authorities and UN officials in each district, implementing partners of those projects, local people and refugees from neighbouring countries at each project sites.

Details of Site Visit Itinerary and Map of Uganda can be found in **Annex B**.

Site Visits

Briefing paper and fact sheets of projects provided by related organizations can be found in **Annex C**.

On **Sunday June 24**, participants arrived in Entebbe, near the capital of Uganda, Kampala, from respective countries and were given briefings at the Protea Hotel Entebbe by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the World Food Programme (WFP) Uganda office regarding general security situation and overview of food security and nutrition situation in Uganda. (See Annex-C-1).

On **Monday June 25**, participants moved to Adjumani District in northern Uganda where 236,034 refugees from South Sudan are staying in 18 settlements. The flight was provided by ECHO free of charge for the FAC mission participants. Thanks to this support, our mission could visit many programme/project sites in limited short time.

Shortly after arriving at Adjumani Airstrip, Participants had a meeting with local authorities headed by the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), a representative of the President of the Republic of Uganda in this District,

UN agencies staffs and implementing partners of the UN. They explained the situation and effort by the government of Uganda.

Participants also had a lunch meeting with the UN staffs (UNHCR / FAO / WFP) and an expanded meeting which partners of the UN agencies joined. (See Annex-C-2, C-3).

On **Tuesday June 26**, participants visited 6 project sites in Adjumani District (No.1.~No.6. below).



Entrance of poultry project site

No.1 Poultry Project by FAO

Participants visited some families at Maaji □ refugee settlement including persons with special needs who arrived in Uganda in 2016. In 2017, they were given poultry under this SIDA-funded project. (See Annex -C-4)



Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)

No.2 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)

This project is implemented through a consortium comprised of Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Windle Trust and REACH to rebuild livelihoods (See Annex-C-5).



Lion Livelihood Cassava growing group

No.3 Lion Livelihood Cassava growing group

This project is jointly implemented by three partners namely (1)Belgian Development Agency (Enabel), (2)Austrian Development Agency (ADA), (3)NGO consortium (SCI,ZOA and CEFORD) led by Danish Refugee Council(DRC) Initiatives to achieve home based food security and income. (See Annex-C-6)



Nutrition clinic at Ayiri health center

No.4 Nutrition Clinic

This project is implemented by Medical Team International (MTI) and WFP. It focuses on both preventive treatment interventions: the targeted supplementary feeding programme(TFSP) for treating moderate acutely malnourished priority groups and the preventive approach through maternal child health nutrition programs (MVHN). (See Annex-C-7)



Soya bean garden in Mungula

No.5 Soya bean garden and demonstration of Lorena stoves

This project is implemented by DRC with funding by UNHCR.

The interventions focuses on self-reliance and livelihood improved with two major outputs: Access to agricultural / livestock / fisheries production enabled and Access to self-employment and business facilitated. (See Annex-C-8)



FAC participants experienced to plant seeds of NERICA(New Rice for Africa) 4 variety rice at PRiDe project site

No.6 PRiDe (Promotion of Rice Development)

This project is an initiative supporting Uganda to achieve its national rice production targets through increasing rice production in the country. In Adjumani District, the project targets at least 50 farming households yearly in 9 settlements and 4 rice millers and traders from all the sub-countries based on agro-ecological zones. The project is implemented by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNHCR, DRC, National Crops Resources Research Institute (Nacri), Government of Uganda and WFP. The project is promoting a new variety of rice NERICA (New Rice for Africa) 4, which refugees and farmers in the West Nile region are encouraged to grow. (See Annex-C-9)

In the morning of **Wednesday June 27**, participants crossed the Nile by ferry and moved to Koboko District. Participants visited 3 project sites there (No.7~No.9 below) and moved to Arua district.



Maize and eggplant

No.7 Food production by FAO

This project is implemented by FAO in zone 2, Imvepi settlement. Refugee households are assisted with vegetable seed kits comprising cow-peas, eggplants, okra and collards and host community households are assisted with staple crop seed kits comprising maize and beans. The assistance is provided in Nov. 2017 funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Fall Armyworm, a new and fast-spreading crop pest in sub-Saharan Africa, is widely infecting in maize field and threatening the food security of people in the region. (See Annex-C-10, C-11)



Armyworm on a leaf of maize



Inside the tent of food distribution center



Biometrics (ration card scan, iris scan and finger authentication)

No.8 Food Distribution

The Global Distribution Tool (GDT) / Food Distribution – Zone 1 – Point H, Imvepi settlement is implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, WFP and World Vision.

In March 2018, UNHCR began a biometric verification of all refugees residing in Uganda. In coordination with the biometric exercise, WFP has introduced a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the collection of food assistance. The SOP enforces individual household food collection to ensure assistance is provided only to those verified households eligible to receive it.

New steps to collect food:

- a) Queue at new food distribution center
- b) Ration card scan to verify beneficiary
- c) Iris scan
- d) Collect food in scoops and weigh
- e) Ration card scanned and receive food
- f) Take food home

(See Annex-C-12)



Refugees at the waiting tent of cash distribution center



Cash collection point of cash distribution center

No.9 Cash Distribution

The Global Distribution Tool (GDT) / Cash Distribution at Lobule settlement is implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, WFP, World Vision and Post Bank.

WFP currently provides cash transfers in 7 refugee settlements in Uganda, reaching over 200,000 refugees in Jan. 2018. Based on continuous market price monitoring and analysis, WFP determines the amount of cash transfers equivalent to the market price of staple food commodities, currently UGX 31,000 (8.6 US\$) for refugees receiving 100 percent of their food assistance through cash transfers. Like Food Distribution project in No.8, biometrics is used to ensure assistance is provided only to those verified households eligible to receive it.

(See Annex-C-12)

On **Thursday June 28**, participants were given briefing by Arua local government officials. The officials explained current situation of food security in Arua District including cooperation from external donors.

After the meeting, participants visited project site in Abi Zardi (No.10 below) and left Arua District for Kampala.



Demonstration plot with 7 types of crops

No.10 Food production demo plot

This project is implemented for improvement of small holder production through participatory learning and demonstration in Abi Zardi. The demo plot has 7 types of crops such as maize and carrot for training of District Local Government extension officers and other technical staff.

Participants moved from Arua District to Kampala, capital of the Republic of Uganda, by ECHO flight and had a reflection meeting at the ECHO office.

After the reflection meeting, participants attended the reception party hosted by Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, H.E. Mr. Kazuaki Kameda. Honorable Mr. Hilary Onek, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of the Government of Uganda, was the main guest. In his speech, Minister Onek explained the effort of the Ugandan government and expressed appreciation and expectation of continuous support from the international community.

Nearly half of participants left Uganda on 28 June after the reception party.



Hon. Mr. Onek, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees



FAC participants and other invited guests

On **Friday June 29**, participants had a meeting with officials of the Office of the Prime Minister and a meeting with development partners in Kampala.

All programmes ended and the field mission was dismissed on that day.

Lessons Learned

Following the site visits and discussions held with partners, FAC members present the following key reflections from the mission.

The importance of a long-term approach to build resilience and encourage food security

The situation in Uganda presented a unique opportunity to explore the value of working across the spectrum of development and humanitarian activities, to promote longer-term outcomes and build resilience of both refugee and host populations. It was well established that food assistance alone would not lead to food security. Key to this was planning for both host communities and refugees in national and district development plans.

Livelihood opportunities are best when diverse and scalable

The field mission provided many examples of successful agricultural-based livelihood opportunities that were supporting both refugees and host communities. It was recognised that there was an opportunity to promote more production and engagement in local markets, as well diversify livelihood opportunities beyond agriculture. This could potentially include new partnerships with the private sector.

Cash assistance was a positive method of assistance

The provision of cash assistance to both refugees and host communities was providing benefits both for the beneficiaries, as well as for local markets. However some members of the FAC mission noted to think that the opportunities are not being fully exploited, need to look at the context of assistance and have to see what works well from viewpoint of sustainability.

Food security relates to a broad range of development activities

During the mission, FAC members noted that issues such as protection, disability inclusion, energy and environmental considerations were of key importance to promoting food security.

Annex A: FAC Delegation Member List

Shuichi Akamatsu, FAC Chair, Japan

Irma Sinkovec, Slovenia

Debbie Rubas, USA

Zachary Blackburn, USA

Danielle Mutone-Smith, USA

Juma Afidra, USA

Hideyuki Yazama, Japan

Hanae Mouri, Japan

Naho Sakano, Japan

Tanja Rajamäki, Finland

Josephat Kibinza, France

Katharina Jenny, Switzerland

Stephanie Werner, Australia

Solomon Ngari Mwangi, Australia

Matthew Keyes, ECHO

Calum Mclean, ECHO

(Task Force in Kampala)

Kathryn Clark, FAO

Agatha Ayebazibwe, FAO

Giorgio Carrato, UNHCR

Annex B: Site Visit Itinerary and Map of Uganda

Site Visit Itinerary

Sunday 24 June

Arrival in Uganda
19:00 – 20:30 Briefing/Dinner

Monday 25 June

09:00 ECHO flight departure
10:10 Arrival to Adjumani
11:00 – 12:30 Meeting with authorities
13:00 – 14:30 Lunch briefing at UNHCR canteen (Pakelle)
14:30 – 17:00 Meeting with Partners at UNHCR boardroom (Pakelle)

Tuesday 26 June

09:00 – 09:30 Visit to poultry project at Maaji III refugee settlements (FAO)
09:40 -10:10 Meeting with Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) group at Maaji III
10:20 – 10:50 Lion Group Cassava at Maaji II (DRC)
11:00 – 11:30 Visit of Nutrition Clinic at Ayiri Health Center, Maaji II (MTI/ WFP)
12:00 – 12:30 Soya beans garden and demonstration of Lorena stoves at Mungula (DRC/ UNHCR)
13:40 – 15:00 Visit to PRiDe project and post-harvest handling at Mireyi (JICA/ DRC/UNHCR/ DRC/ WFP)
15:00 – 16:00 Return to Adjumani
16:00 – 17:00 Debriefing

Wednesday 27 June

08:30 Take ferry from Sinyanya to Obongi, Moyo
09:00 – 10:15 Leave ferry port to Imvepi
10:15 – 10:45 Visit FAO programme in zone 2 at Imvepi settlement (FAO)
11:00 – 12:15 Global Distribution Tool (GDT)/Food Distribution at Imvepi settlement (Point H) (OPM/UNHCR/WFP/World Vision)
13:15 – 14:30 GDT/cash distribution at Lobule settlement – Kuku (OPM/UNHCR/WFP/World Vision/Post Bank)
14:30 – 16:00 Leave Lobule settlement for Arua town

Thursday 28 June

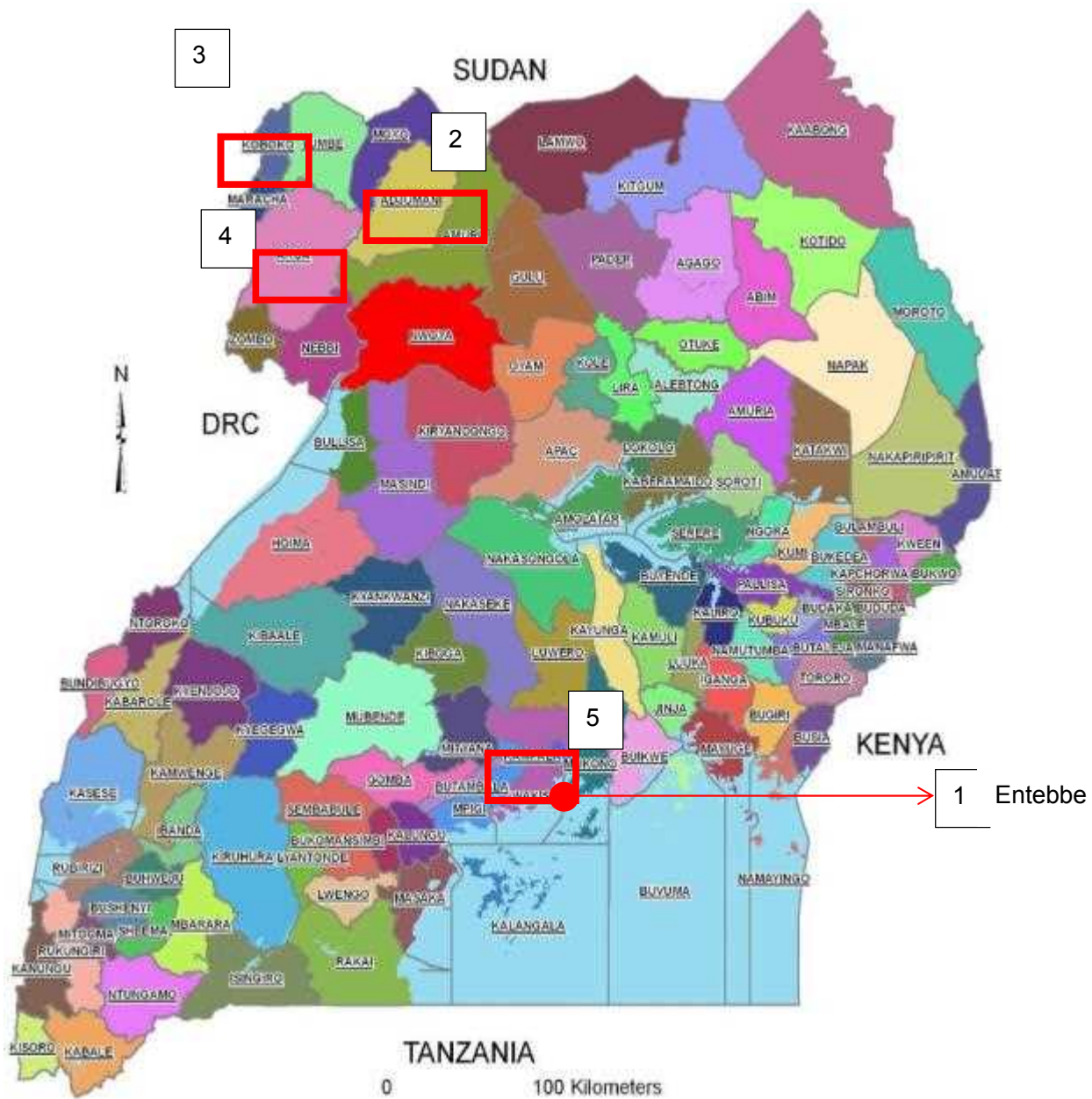
08:30 – 09:15 Meeting with Arua District Local Government
09:30 – 10:30 Visit Abi ZARDI - FAO+ PRiDe JICA team
12:00 – 13:10 Depart from Arua to Entebbe by ECHO flight
16:30 – 17:30 Reflection meeting with UN technical staff at ECHO Office
18:00 – 20:00 Reception at Japanese Ambassador's Residence

Friday 29 June

9:00 – 10:00 Meeting with the Government officials from the line ministries at Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
10:30 – 11:30 Meeting with local development partners' at ECHO office
Departure from Uganda

MAP of Uganda

1. Entebbe Municipality – Where Entebbe International Airport is located. Briefing will be held here.
2. Adjumani District – Field visit on 25th and 26th
3. Koboko District – Field visit on 27th
4. Arua District – Field visit on 27th and 28th
5. Kampala City – Capital of Uganda, reception on 28th and meetings on 28th and 29th will be held here.



Annex C: Briefing Paper and Fact Sheets (see the attached)

Sheet number is printed in the upper-right corner of the first page of each sheet.

Sheet No. title

Annex-C-1 Overview of Food Security & Nutrition Situation in UGANDA

Annex-C-2 South Sudan Refugees Crisis

Annex-C-3 paper prepared by UNHCR for meeting with partners

Annex-C-4 Emergency Agricultural Livelihood support for improved resilience and self-reliance of refugees from South Sudan in North and North-western Uganda

Annex-C-5 Meeting with Village savings and Loan Association (VSLA) group

Annex-C-6 Meeting with Lion Livelihood Cassava growing group

Annex-C-7 Visit of Nutrition Clinic

Annex-C-8 Soya beans garden and demonstration of Lorena stoves

Annex-C-9 Visit to PRiDe project and post-harvest handling

Annex-C-10 FAO's program to support refugees and the host community in Uganda

Annex-C-11 (News Release) Nuru becomes African farmers' newest ally against Fall armyworm

Annex-C-12 WFP Uganda Refugee Response