



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

# THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF)



## Annual Newsletter

• DECEMBER 2023







OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



# **THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF)**

**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

December, 2023

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## IN THIS EDITION

### WE BRING YOU;

- MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION OF REFUGEE POPULATIONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN DECISION – MAKING AT THE SG
- SUPPORTING INCLUSION OF REFUGEES IN NATIONAL PLANNING.
- STRENGTHENING FEEDBACK MECHANISMS AMONG CRRF STAKEHOLDERS
- NATIONAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING FOR SUCCESSFUL CRRF IMPLEMENTATION
- UGANDA'S JOURNEY TO THE GRF AND UGANDA AT THE 2023 GRF IN GENEVA



*I must say that the progress registered in 2023 would not have been possible without the continued support of our humanitarian and development partners.*

## MINISTER'S REMARKS

I would like to commend the CRRF multi - stakeholder fraternity for the unwavering commitment to the refugee response through 2023, the GRF year. Uganda's co convenorship at the GRF was a success and Uganda remains at the forefront of international and moral obligations to refugees and asylum seekers due to the collective effort of all our stakeholders. I must say that the progress registered in 2023 would not have been possible without the continued support of our humanitarian and development partners.

I thank you all for the direct and indirect support rendered towards implementation of the CRRF in Uganda. As Government, we are committed to advancing the GCR and its CRRF.

We continue to invest significant domestic resources to uphold the safety, well-being and dignity of refugees and host communities in Uganda. I pray that our partners rally around us to ensure that we uphold the commitments we have made to better the lives of refugee populations and the communities that host them.

For God and my country.

**Hon. Eng. Hilary Onok**  
**Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees**



***I urge you to continue rallying behind Uganda in a collective effort towards successful implementation of the CRRF in Uganda.***

## **THANK YOU NOTE** FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE **FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES**

*Dear CRRF fraternity,*

**W**ith great pleasure, I extend my sincere gratitude to you all Partners and Stakeholders, with whose unwavering support Government of Uganda has registered considerable outcomes in implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. This would not have been possible without your invaluable input.

I profoundly thank the CRRF Steering group Co – Chair; the Minister of Local Government and all members of the Steering Group for the active participation and dedication over the last year. The decisions you made steered implementation of the CRRF to new heights and propelled Uganda's Refugee Response as the best in the world.

I also take this opportunity to thank all donors and partners for the support towards Uganda's refugee response, you have demonstrated that responsibility sharing is a fundamental principle in supporting our brothers and sisters in the hour of need, and the communities that host them. I urge you to continue rallying behind Uganda in a collective effort towards successful implementation of the CRRF in Uganda.

For God and my country

**Hon. Esther Davinia Anyakun**  
**MSRDP&R**



**HELEN BUGAARI**  
CRRF Director



*The CRRF Secretariat coordinated different actors to identify the theme and thematic areas that culminated into Government of Uganda Pledges*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### 2023, A YEAR OF THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM - DEMONSTRATING A WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH

#### Dear CRRF Community,

As the year draws to a close, I am thrilled to reflect on the incredible achievements we have collectively accomplished. You all have demonstrated resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of refugees.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Secretariat played a crucial role in leading the coordination of the GRF (Global Refugee Forum) in Uganda.

Under the Government leadership, the CRRF Secretariat worked closely with the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, UN bodies, Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders to ensure effective organization and leadership of the GRF in Geneva, where Uganda was chosen as a co-convenor country.

The CRRF Secretariat coordinated different actors to identify the theme and thematic areas that culminated into the Government of Uganda Pledges, played a significant role in mobilizing resources for the GRF preparations including implementing an ambitious roadmap which was met with financial support from donors and partner organizations.

The Secretariat further ensured the active involvement and representation of key stakeholders, such as relevant Government Ministries, UN agencies, civil society, and refugee communities, as well as facilitating their participation in the actual GRF sessions, workshops, and side events.

Overall, the CRRF Secretariat's coordination role together with the OPM leadership was critical in ensuring a successful GRF in Uganda and was able to foster collaboration,

knowledge-sharing, and accountability among stakeholders.

The next steps will be to ensure that commitments from partners at GRF are translated into tangible gains. As we celebrate these achievements, let us carry this momentum into 2024. Your passion and collaboration have been the driving force behind the success of the CRRF in Uganda, and I am confident that the impact made in 2023 is just the beginning of a brighter future for the refugee response in Uganda.

I take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the leadership in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Department of Refugees and all stakeholders for their active involvement in the GRF process.

**Warm regards**



# THE CRRF; FOSTERING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

## International Partnerships;

### Uganda at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum



**T**he RT Hon Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja led the Ugandan delegation to Geneva as a Co-convenor country.

At the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister gave a key note address and announced Government of Uganda pledges to the International community on behalf of H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda;



**THE STATE MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES REPRESENTING UGANDA AT THE HDP NEXUS SIDE EVENT 2023 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Uganda's Co-convenorship at the GRF made Uganda highly visible drawing increased attention through various bilateral engagements and side events in which Uganda took part.**

#### **These included;**

Agriculture, Food security and Food systems, Climate action, Innovative Climate Finance, Economic Inclusion and social protection, Access to Protection, Child Rights, HDP Nexus, Inclusive Education, Data Inclusion, Human Settlements,

Cities and Urban Policy, Housing, Land and Property, Meaningful Refugee Participation, District Coordination, Private Sector Engagement, Refugee Labour Mobility, Advancing Localisation, IGAD Support Platform, Sudan Situation and Durable Solutions.

*Challenges were discussed, Lessons Learnt and Best Practices shared to inform future action.*



## **THE PRE GRF CONFERENCE; COMMITTING TO SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES**

**T**he RT Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda presided over the PRE GRF conference that took place on 9th November, 2023 at Speke Resort Munyonyo. The conference was well attended by the CRRF Stakeholders including World Bank, DPG, UN AGENCIES, JAPAN, FRANCE, IGAD, PSFU, HINGO, URC, AVSI, Refugees through the REF and Government of Uganda officials. The CRRF stakeholders demonstrated unwavering support to the Uganda Refugee Response through their commitments. At the conference, Government of Uganda and its partners demonstrated collective commitment in creating sustainable solutions for refugees and host communities.



**THE RT HON PRIME MINISTER WITH GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA OFFICIALS, MINISTERS, AMBASSADORS, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS AT THE PRE GRF CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER, 2023.**

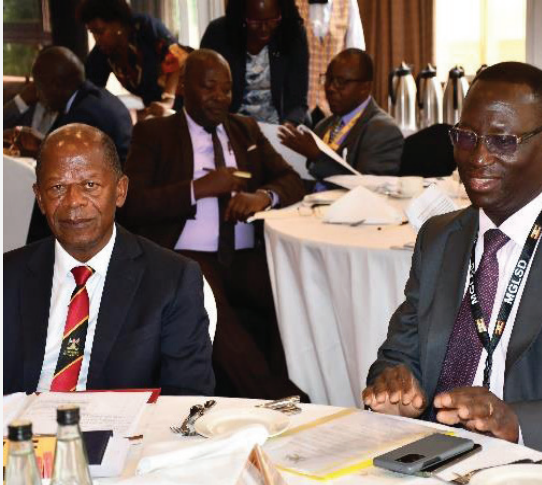


## International Responsibility Sharing – Committing to Uganda’s Refugee Response



*Delegates at the PRE GRF Conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo, 9th November, 2023*

# Ministers endorsing Uganda's pledges at the Ministerial meeting at Serena Hotel – 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023





## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

A key interest for the CRRF is Partnering and Networking with National, Regional and International organisations and governments to explore durable solutions for refugees and refugee-host countries. One of such partnerships was the IGAD – EAC high level Ministerial Conference on durable solutions for Refugees which was held from **13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**, co convened by OPM/CRRF Secretariat together with IGAD and EAC secretariats.

Highly attended by Ministers from the EAC Partner states and IGAD member states, the conference was officiated by **RT Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda** and **Minister for East African Community Affairs**. Good practices, lessons learned and recommendations for durable solutions were documented and a joint IGAD-EAC Pledge for the 2023 GRF identified at the end of the 4day Conference.



## UGANDA PARTICIPATES AT THE IGAD ANNUAL MINISTERIAL STOCKTAKE MEETING IN ADDIS ABABBA - ETHIOPIA

At the Annual Ministerial Stock take meeting in Addis Ababa, Uganda was represented by the Department of Refugees, Ministry of Education and sports, Ministry of Foreign affairs, selected refugees, and the CRRF Secretariat. At the conference, IGAD member states took stock of the implementation of the Nairobi declaration and its thematic declarations from 20th – 23rd November 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

As outcomes of the meeting, two regional mega pledges for the GRF were agreed upon as Delivering Comprehensive Solutions and Scaling up Climate Action for Displaced Populations and Host Communities. The IGAD Support Platform Results Monitoring Framework was validated and a Ministerial Communique was signed by member states present.

### THE UGANDAN DELEGATION AT THE STOCK TAKE MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA



## Engaging Parliament of Uganda in CRRF mechanisms



*In the Spirit of the whole of society approach to the refugee response, the CRRF Secretariat covered a consultative meeting with Members of Parliament of Uganda (October 24th - 25th)*

**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS**



**Left to right; The Hon MRDPR, the Chairperson, Parliamentary Forum on Refugees, The UNHCR Uganda Country Representative and the CRRF Director at the Consultative meeting with Members of Parliament**

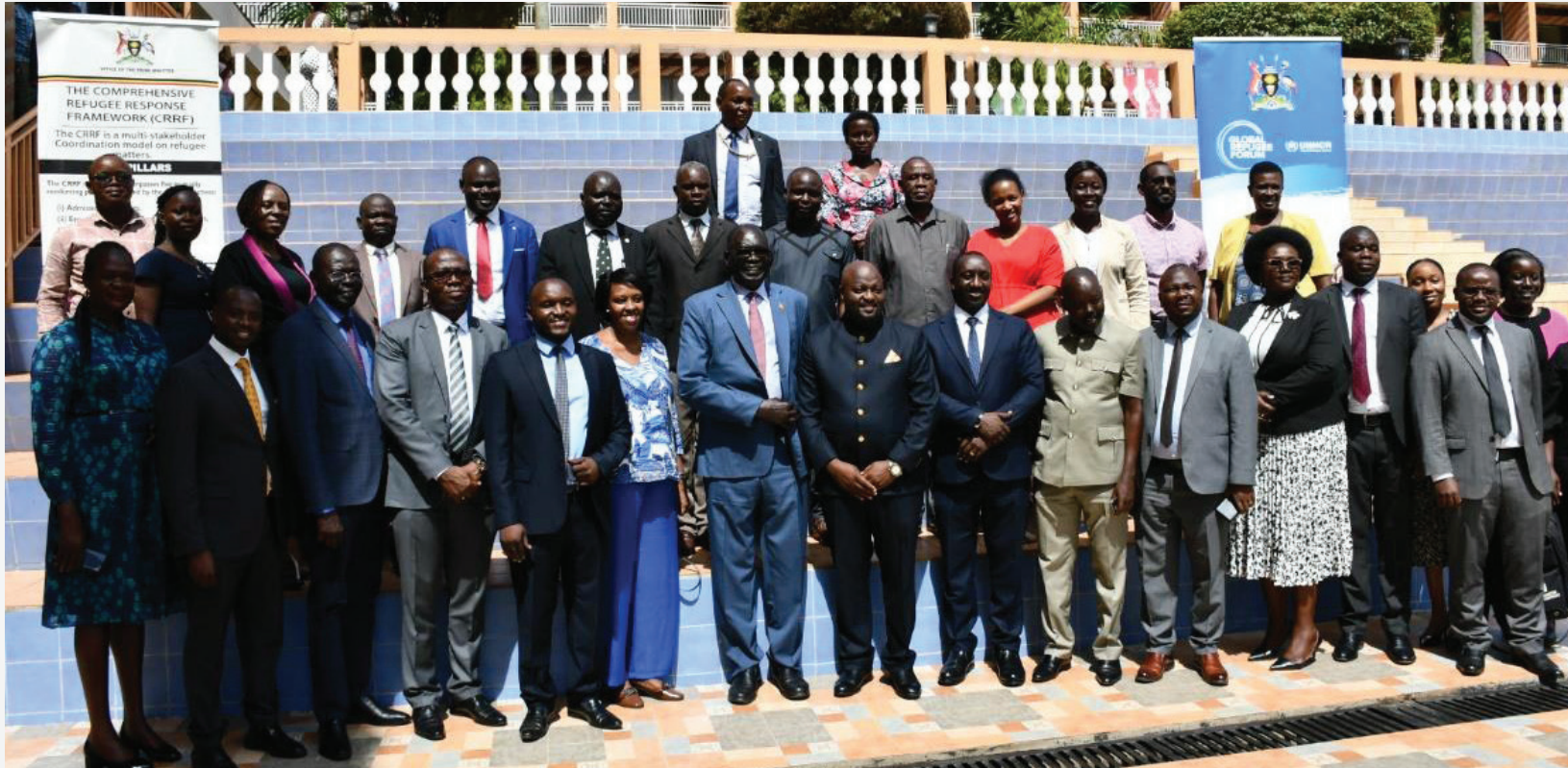
The Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees convened a meeting with members of the Parliamentary forum on refugees on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

The engagement meeting provided an excellent platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and Learning on the GCR and its CRRF in Uganda as well as the upcoming GRF and Uganda's commitments. Participants also discussed challenges of hosting large numbers of refugees and possible durable solutions.

By the end of the 2 days' engagement, there were firm commitments from all participants to further cooperation and collaboration. The meeting concluded on a positive note with a shared vision of making Uganda's refugee response sustainable.

Members made a proposal to have a regional Parliamentary Forum on Refugees where they will continue to have more engagements such as this.





**MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON REFUGEES AT THE MEETING CONVENED BY THE MRDP&R**



## THE SG PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN DECISION-MAKING

Through a well-established national arrangement of the CRRF SG, the REF continues to be a model for refugees worldwide.

The Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) brings together refugee leaders from all settlements across the country.

In the course of 2023, the REF met three times and discussed a diverse set of issues, ranging from climate change to self-reliance and transition of education, water and health services.

**Through these engagements, Refugees made pledges towards the 2023 GRF.**

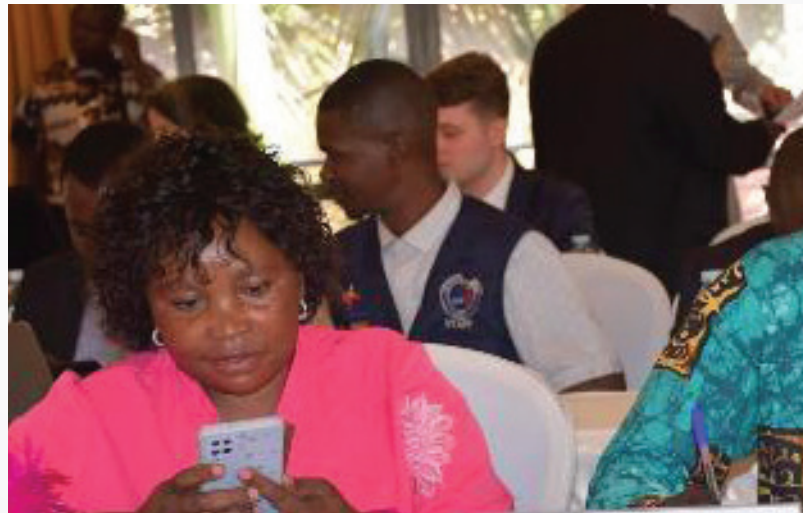
**The refugees pledged to;**

- Support actions and interventions towards environmental protection and restoration for refugees and host communities by planting 7.5 million trees around households and woodlots by 2027.
- Continue advocacy to all refugee parents to enrol children of school

- going
- o age to early childhood development, primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions and actively participate in education and embracing cost – sharing and monitoring children’s performance at school.
- Use their skills, knowledge, and available assets to engage in on –

farm and off- farm income- generating activities to improve on household income.

- Refugee leaders pledged to encourage community members to champion positive mind set change and actively participate in capacity building, skilling and entrepreneurial training programs for both youth and adults



**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REF AT THE SG, PETER GIFT AND NEEMA BAZUNGU**

## ENSURING PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION OF REFUGEE HOST COMMUNITIES

Through the CRRF District Engagement Forum, technical and political leadership (Chief Administrative Officers and LC5 Chairpersons) of all refugee hosting districts came together to deliberate on refugee matters.

- This enhanced representation of the Refugee Hosting Communities in the SG decision making platform, provided space for peer-to-peer support, benchmarking, learning and served as a bi-directional feedback mechanism to and from the SG to the RHDs.
- Supported by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the year 2023 saw two vibrant DEF meetings that focused on the areas of transition management, the DEF's role in advocacy, strengthening the feedback mechanisms from host communities to the Steering Group and vice versa as well as making DEF an effective body for joint planning and coordination.



**Members of the District Engagement Forum during one of the meetings**

## SUPPORTING INCLUSION OF REFUGEES INTO NATIONAL PLANNING

On the 17th – 18th April, 2023 and 21st – 22nd November, 2023, the CRRF Secretariat organized Inter-Sector dialogue meetings for MDAs coordinating the implementation of Sector Response Plans. We brought together Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies participating in Uganda’s refugee response to share implementation experiences and lessons learnt. This year, the focus was on preparations for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. Discussions centred around organising multi stakeholder Round Table engagements leading to policy recommendations that later culminated into



*Representatives of mdas during the 2nd inter sector dialogue held from 21st – 22nd november, 2023*

In 2024, the CRRF Secretariat will continue to facilitate knowledge transfer among the various sector response plan secretariats and will focus on positioning Sector Response Plans in the National Development Plan IV as well as their inclusion in District Development Plans



## THE CRRF STEERING GROUP – SHAPING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCR/CRRF IN UGANDA

The CRRF Steering Group, is the high level decision making body that guides implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Uganda with support from the CRRF Secretariat. In 2023, the SG made major decisions and recommendations that shaped Uganda's Refugee Response landscape.

### Strengthening feedback Mechanisms of the CRRF Steering Group;

Together with Ministry of Local Government and Department of Refugees, the CRRF Secretariat, prioritized the dissemination of SG decisions and recommendation as a feedback mechanism from the SG to the 12 RHDs of Adjumani, Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi okollo, Terego, Obongi, and Yumbe. This exercise attracted participation of various district officials both technical and political, staff of OPM, Sub County chiefs and Local Council Members of the host communities, Refugee Leaders and Partners. Dissemination of the SG decisions was very successful with all its objectives fulfilled. The exercise resulted into increased district stakeholder awareness of; the GCR and CRRF application in Uganda, District Engagement Forum activities, Government of Uganda Priorities for the refugee response, the roles and obligations of District Local governments in the refugee response.



## The 2023 GRF; Preparatory Process



*Steering Uganda To The 2023 Global Refugee Forum In Geneva- Our Journey*

## LOCALISING UGANDA'S REFUGEE RESPONSE

The preparatory process was widely consultative and participatory, involving representatives of Refugees, Host Communities, NNGOs, INGOs, Humanitarian Partners, Development Partners, International Financial Institutions, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society as well as the Private Sector in Round Table discussions that led to policy recommendations that culminated into Uganda's pledges at the GRF.



Following successful discussions at the localisation round table, Government of Uganda came together with Local, National and International actors on 11th October, 2023 to discuss ways to carry forward the Localisation agenda. The meeting focused on positioning Local and National actors in readiness for Localisation of refugee response.



*The jlirp coordinator, madam lucy otto presenting at the resilience and self reliance rt while the director crf, the ps ministry of gender and the commissioner refugees look on*





## STAFF OF THE CRRF SECRETARIAT



## Acknowledgement of support to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

Funding Agency	
01	CARE
02	European Union
03	European Union
04	GIZ/BMZ
05	IGAD
06	International Labour Organisation
07	IOM
08	JICA
09	World Bank
10	U LEARN
12	UNHCR





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