



COUNTRY PROFILE: UGANDA

Nature of Conflict

Uganda has been involved in both an internal struggle and the regional conflict. Internally, it is mainly in conflict with the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) in the north of the country. To secure its borders against cross-border attacks by other rebel groups, Uganda has been an actor in the regional conflict centered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DRP)

National Program From 1992 to 1996, the Uganda Veterans Assistance Program (UVAP) demobilized and provided reintegration support to approximately 37,000 Government soldiers. Many lessons were learned from the Uganda experience that helped inform similar programs in other countries. An ongoing review of past experience and lessons learned will be used for preparing a new national program.

Government recently conducted a defense review, with support from DFID, the findings of which will result in security sector reforms and will inform the development of a potential national DRP.

Special Projects The Government's Amnesty Commission (AC), responsible for the demobilization of irregular forces in Uganda, has provided reintegration assistance to ex-combatants who received amnesty under the Amnesty Act of 2000. The AC has not yet been able to provide support to all those eligible. In early 2004 it provided support—with assistance from UNDP and the Governments of Denmark and Ireland—to about 500 members of a former rebel group that returned from the DRC and Sudan in mid-December 2003 with MONUC facilitation.

A Special Project proposal has been submitted by the Amnesty Commission for reintegration support to all eligible former combatants. The proposal was recommended for approval by the Local Ad-hoc Committee (LAC) and the Grant Agreement between the World Bank and the Government was signed in August 2004.

Donor Technical Group (DTG) on Northern Uganda, Amnesty and Recovery from Conflict – International Member Organizations

Bilateral Members

- Austria
- Denmark
- UK (DFID)
- Germany (GTZ)
- Ireland
- Italy (Italian Cooperation)
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- United States (USAID)

Multilateral Members

- European Commission
- EU/DANIDA Human Rights & Democratization Program
- MDRP
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- The World Bank

Observers

- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements

<u>AGREEMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MAIN POINTS</u>	<u>SIGNATORIES</u>
<u>Luanda Agreement</u>	Sept. 2002	Removal of Ugandan forces from DRC territory; cooperation on security measures and defense; Joint Pacification Committee on Ituri; Joint Ministerial Commission for Cooperation	Government of: DRC, Uganda
<u>Nairobi Agreement</u>	Dec. 1999	Re-establish normal relations; halt support to rebel groups on respective territories; disband and disarm these groups; refrain from negative propaganda campaigns against; return prisoners of war; facilitate the return or resettlement of refugees; offer amnesty and reintegration to ex-combatants who renounce use of force	Governments of: Uganda, Sudan
<u>Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement</u>	July 1999	Cessation of hostilities in DRC; release/exchange of prisoners; withdrawal of foreign forces; normalization of borders; control of illicit arms trafficking and infiltration of armed groups; Inter-Congolese Dialogue; army restructuring; disarmament; repatriation of foreign combatants; Joint Military Commission (JMC); UN peacekeeping force	Angola, DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe; <i>Mouvement de Libération du Congo</i> (MLC)

Links with other conflicts in the region

<u>Country</u>	<u>Involvement</u>
DRC	Uganda sent troops into the DRC in 1998 to secure its borders from rear-base attacks of rebel groups, such as the LRA and the ADF. It also supported two Congolese rebel groups, the MLC and the RCD-ML, who launched a rebellion to oust then-DRC President Laurent Désiré Kabila. The UPDF, who had previously withdrawn and then redeployed in eastern DRC, completed their withdrawal in May 2003.
Rwanda	Tensions between Uganda and Rwanda emerged in 1999, with multiple clashes between the rebel movements they backed and their own forces taking place in eastern DRC. Over the past year, tensions have been considerably reduced and direct discussions between the governments take place on a regular basis.

Internally Displaced and Refugees

Internally Displaced	According to the Global IDP Project, the number of internally displaced persons in Uganda had nearly doubled from 650,000 in July 2002 to about 1.4 million in December 2003, due mainly to frequent attacks of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) on the civilian population in northern Uganda. As of March 2004 that number had increased to 1.6 million, according to OCHA.
Refugees in Uganda	As of end February 2004, Uganda housed approximately 211,000 refugees, mainly from Sudan, DRC, Burundi and Rwanda (OCHA).
Ugandan Refugees	A small number of Ugandan refugees, approximately 25,000, were residing in other countries (mainly DRC and Kenya) as of June 2003, according to UNHCR.