

Uganda (56)

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U.S. Committee for Refugees World Refugee Survey 2002 – Uganda

June 2002

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Violence kept an estimated 500,000 Ugandans internally displaced at the end of 2001, including at least 50,000 persons who became newly uprooted during the year. About 20,000 Ugandans were refugees, including some 10,000 in Congo-Kinshasa, about 5,000 in Sudan, and 5,000 in Kenya.

Uganda hosted approximately 175,000 refugees at year's end, including about 150,000 from Sudan, nearly 15,000 from Rwanda, some 8,000 from Congo-Kinshasa, and 1,000 from Somalia. An estimated 10,000 new refugees and asylum seekers fled to Uganda during the year, although some rapidly departed before the year ended.

Background

Despite relative peace and economic growth in much of Uganda, armed insurgencies and violent communal clashes have plagued three areas of the country for years, causing an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 deaths. The U.S. government placed two Ugandan rebel groups on its list of international terrorist organizations during 2001. Hundreds of thousands of Ugandans remained internally displaced, including many who originally fled their homes in 1996.

The security situation improved somewhat during 2001. Rebel attacks on villages and ambushes along rural

highways occurred less frequently than in previous years, while the number of Ugandans in need of humanitarian assistance declined by nearly half during 2001, to about 600,000.

Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni announced on national radio in late 2001 that "I would like to assure those Ugandans that are still in those [displacement] camps that they will be able to go back to their homes" in 2002.

UN officials warned in late 2001 that "the humanitarian crisis in Uganda is far from over" and noted that the country's humanitarian programs were poorly funded by donor nations. UN relief agencies received less than half of the \$80 million needed to assist Ugandans during 2001.