

The Republic of Uganda - October 2015

FACTS & FIGURES

Capital city: Kampala

Surface: 241,038 Km²

Population (2013): 36,824,000

Official languages: English,
Swahili

Religions: Roman Catholic,
Protestant, Muslim, others

Administrative divisions: 111
districts and one capital city,
divided into four regions
(Northern, Eastern, Central and
Western)

Form of Government:
Presidential Republic

President: Yoweri Kaguta
Museveni

Prime Minister: Ruhakana
Rugunda

Parliament: 388 members

Elections: last held on 18
February 2011 (next to be held in
February 2016)

Army: Uganda People's Defence
Force (UPDF)

Police: Uganda Police Force
(UPF)

Armed groups: Lord's Resistance
Army (LRA), Allied Democratic
Forces (ADF)

Registered refugees and asylum-
seekers: 495,110 as of 29
September 2015

Human Development Index:
0.484 (rank: 164)

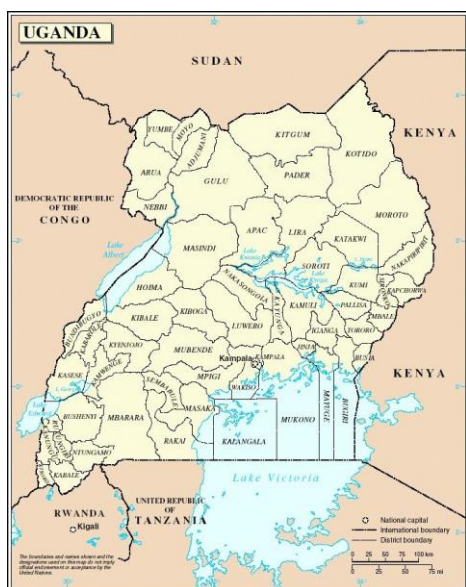
GEOGRAPHY

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. It is bordered to the East by Kenya, to the North by South Sudan, to the West by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), to the South-West by Rwanda, and to the South by Tanzania. The southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, situating the country in the African Great Lakes region.

“For magnificence, for variety of form and color, for profusion of brilliant life – bird, insect, reptile, beast – for vast scale... Uganda is truly the pearl of Africa.” – W. Churchill, 1907

HISTORY

Uganda gained independence from Britain on 9 October 1962. The first post-independence elections were held that same year; as a result, the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) and the Kabaka Yekka (KY) formed the first post-independence Government, led by Milton Obote. After a military coup on 25 January 1971, Obote was deposed from power and Idi Amin seized control of the country. Amin ruled Uganda for eight years (1971-1979); an estimated 300,000 Ugandans lost their lives during his regime. The end of the Amin regime saw the return to power of Milton Obote. In 1981, the National Resistance Army (NRA) led by Yoweri Museveni started a guerrilla war against the Obote Government. Concurrently, two other rebel groups, the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF) and the Former Uganda National Army (FUNA), formed from the remnants of Amin's supporters, fought against Governmental forces loyal to Obote. The latter was deposed again in 1985 by General Tito Okello, who ruled Uganda for six months until he was also deposed by the NRA and its allies. Yoweri Museveni became President on 26 January 1986.



The Republic of Uganda

THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was created in the early 1980's as the Holy Spirit Movement led by Alice Lakwena, who claimed the Holy Spirit had ordered her to overthrow the Ugandan Government, accused of treating the Acholi people of the North unfairly. The Holy Spirit movement gathered momentum, until a battle won by Governmental forces led to Lakwena's exile. Joseph Kony took over as leader and, in 1986, rebranded the movement as the Lord's Resistance Army, whose mission was to overthrow the Government and rule Uganda based on the Ten Commandments. Between 1987 and 2006, the LRA abducted at least 20,000 Ugandan children; more than 1.9 million people were displaced. Various military campaigns against the LRA pushed the group across the border into southern Sudan (now South Sudan), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the Central African Republic (CAR). Since 2006, when the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) pushed the LRA out of the country, relative peace has returned to northern Uganda; addressing the aftermath of the war and displacement, however, remains a challenge.

SECURITY SITUATION

The terrorist threat in Uganda is considered high. Uganda was the first country to deploy troops under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in March 2007, and the Ugandan contingent remains the largest one in AMISOM, with 6,223 troops. Al-Shabaab militants have threatened to carry out attacks in Uganda in retaliation for the presence of UPDF troops in Somalia. On 11 July 2010, explosions in a restaurant and a club in Kampala, where crowds were watching broadcasts of the World Cup final between the Netherlands and Spain, killed at least 70 people; al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Contact Us

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THE UNITED NATIONS IN UGANDA

The UN system is headed by a Resident Coordinator (RC), who is the designated representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the coordination of development operations at the country level. Uganda is one of the countries where the UN adopted the "Deliver as One" (DAO) approach.

The RC heads the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), which consists of both resident and non-resident entities: UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, UNAIDS, OHCHR, FAO, WHO, WFP, IFAD, UN-HABITAT, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, ILO, IAEA, UNCDF, UNV, MONUSCO (Uganda Office), UNDSS and non-UN entity IOM as an invitee to the UNCT meetings.

UN activities in Uganda are determined by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020. Revised every five years in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda and its development partners, the UNDAF is the framework which sets the priorities for the UN system in the country. The current UNDAF focuses on three priority areas: governance, human capital, and sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Peace it!



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

As of 29 September 2015, Uganda was hosting 495,110 registered refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi. Roughly two-thirds of the refugees in Uganda depend on the World Food Programme (WFP) to meet their basic food needs.

POLITICAL SITUATION

President Museveni has been in power since 1986. That same year, political parties were restricted in their activities and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) became the only political movement allowed in the country. In 2005, the Constitution was amended to provide for a multi-party political system. According to the Electoral Commission (EC) of Uganda, there are currently 29 political parties registered in the country. Elections were held in 2006 and 2011; the next elections are scheduled for early 2016.

MONUSCO Uganda Office

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ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

- Liaise with the Government of Uganda, the Diplomatic Corps and the UN system in-country to promote understanding of and support for MONUSCO mandate
- Monitor relations between Uganda and the DRC as well as actions aimed at promoting regional cooperation
- Monitor cross-border issues, including the illegal exploitation of DRC's natural resources and violations of the arms embargo
- Facilitate the movement of UN military personnel and equipment in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF)
- Support the repatriation of ex-combatants in collaboration with the UPDF and the Uganda Amnesty Commission (UAC)
- Liaise with the UPDF for information sharing

STAFF

Head of Office
1 Political Affairs Officer
1 Senior Military Liaison Officer
1 Military Liaison Officer
2 Administrative Assistants
1 Driver

KEY PARTNERS

The Government of Uganda, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of State for Security, the Uganda Amnesty Commission, the UPDF, the Diplomatic Corps, the United Nations Country Team, MONUSCO offices in Bunia, Beni/Butembo, Dungu and Goma, and the World Bank.

Peace it!