

Uganda's history is one of internal conflict and humanitarian crises. The civil wars which took place across the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s - including the LRA uprising - caused widespread terror across the civilian population. Despite its own turbulent humanitarian situation, Uganda is currently host to over 1 million refugees from neighbouring countries.

Key individuals, Groups & Places

Yoweri Museveni: President
Uganda People's Defence Force (UGDF): Armed forces of Uganda
Lord's Resistance Army (LRA): Militant group
Joseph Kony: Leader of LRA
Kampala: Capital city

Key dates

1962: Gained independence from British colonial rule
1986: UGDF led by Museveni seized power
1987: Creation of LRA
1994: LRA Gained support of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir
2002: Uganda launched Operation Iron Fist to try and defeat the LRA
2005: ICC issued warrants against Kony and 4 other commanders
2006-2008: Juba peace talks between Uganda and LRA
2017: Uganda takes in 1.3 million refugees from neighbouring countries (1 million from South Sudan)



LRA Conflict

The LRA insurgency was at its peak during the 1990s to 2000s and received international attention for extensive human rights violations particularly against women and children.

At least 25,000 children were abducted and trained as soldiers, and they were used to spread fear by forcing them to attack their own families and communities.

Approximately 1.6 million people were displaced by LRA.

HIV Epidemic

Uganda ranks 10th in the world for most AIDS related deaths at 28,000 per year (2016). 67% of adults and 47% of children are on antiretroviral medication. Prejudice and social discrimination are a major factor in many Ugandans not seeking treatment for HIV.

Refugee Crisis

Uganda's refugee hosting model has been hailed as one of the most progressive in the world. Refugees are given freedom of movement, equal access to primary education, health care and other basic social services, and the right to work and own a business. They are also allocated a piece of land where they are allowed to put up shelters and grow food. This model, however, is becoming unsustainable.

Uganda is now hosting over 1 million refugees, of which 900,000 are fleeing the war in South Sudan. The provisions for refugees in Uganda are underfunded and rich countries are not helping out in the resettlement of refugees.

The increased numbers of people working the land and consuming food is steering Uganda towards its own food crisis. Karamoja in northeastern Uganda is particularly affected by food shortages.

There have also been clashes between refugees and local Ugandans.

Uganda is pleading with South Sudan to come to a peace agreement and end the strain on the region.

HART's Partner in Uganda

PAORINHER

The Patongo Orphans Infants' Health Rehabilitation Centre is a life-saving health and psychosocial support centre for children with HIV with an on-site primary school. The Centre provides clinical and social services to children living with HIV, including health screening, monitoring of drug use, treating infections, nutritional support and counselling. PAORINHER also runs a primary school for children with HIV which both expands access to education within the wider community and helps break down the stigma of HIV, which is very prominent in Uganda.

Some useful links for more information:

Amnesty - www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/uganda/

Enough Project - <https://enoughproject.org/blog/lords-resistance-army-who-are-they>

Avert - www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/sub-saharan-africa/uganda

UN Development Programme - <http://www.ug.undp.org/>

UN Refugee Agency - <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/5129>

If you have any queries, please visit www.hart-uk.org or contact office@hart-uk.org