

**High Level Side Event
Concept Note**

**“Uganda’s Transformational Approach to Refugees and Host Communities –
Dealing with Multiple Vulnerabilities”**

Conference Room 12, Conference Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York
Wednesday, 14 December 2016, 10:00-11.30

I. Introduction/Purpose

The side event aims to highlight the deteriorating vulnerability situation in Uganda because of a confluence of vulnerability factors such as: number of refugees and asylum seekers greatly exceeding the planned for numbers, increasing strain on the environment and social services in refugee-hosting communities, increasing food insecurity affecting the refugee-hosting districts and Karamoja, and continued instability in several of Uganda’s neighboring countries.

By the end of 2015, Uganda was host to the third-largest refugee population in Africa and in 2016 the number of refugees in Uganda has roughly doubled and it is likely that Uganda will reach one million refugees by the end of this year. Uganda’s refugee policy and approach to refugee protection and management is widely regarded as an inspirational model. Rather than being hosted in camps, refugees are settled in villages.

The side event will highlight the opportunities and challenges faced by Uganda’s leaders and partners in implementing the transformational approach to addressing vulnerabilities and refugee and host community needs in the country. It will focus on experiences and approaches to date and highlight current response and gaps, inviting participants to consider investing in social infrastructure, combating climate variations, and sustainable water and harvest management in Uganda.

The side event will engage representatives of Member States, business leaders and others on the margins of the CERF High Level Event.

II. How

A high level panel discussion will present the current response, challenges and opportunities in the following areas:

- The role of national leadership in the solutions-oriented response to refugees and host communities
- Identifying new investment partnerships for action to deal with vulnerabilities from climate change, poor water and harvest management in Uganda

III. Why

Even as Uganda continues to open her doors to refugees several concerns are arising, and other vulnerabilities:

- a) The strain on the environment and social services in the refugee-hosting districts, impacting both refugees and host communities;
- b) The cross-border events that include attacks on transport systems, abductions of people by and into armed groups; and
- c) Prolonged drought and deterioration of the food security situation, related to climatic change, poor water and harvest management practices.

There is an urgent need to address these challenges in a comprehensive and holistic way, building on the National Development Plan II and the UNDAF (2016-2020) to mobilize additional resources as existing resources will not be sufficient to deal with the scale of these challenges concurrently.

IV. Outcomes

- A greater understanding of the Uganda transformational approach to refugee hosting;
- Appeal for social and economic investment in the refugee hosting districts in water and harvest management, irrigation, education, health and in social cohesion; and
- Call on Member States, business leaders, philanthropists to action partnerships for the projected Solidarity Conference on Uganda in early 2017.

V. Format

Format (Total Time: 90 minutes)

1. Introduction and welcome by Permanent Representative of Uganda
2. Remarks
 - Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General delivered by Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs
 - Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa
3. Video: 'Uganda: transforming vulnerability into opportunity' (3 minutes)
4. Keynote Remarks
 - His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, Minister Foreign Affairs of Uganda and President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly

5. Interventions from the Floor

6. Closing

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