WHY THE RUSH?
Some opposition MPs questioned both the urgency and procedure of the request.

Medard Lubega Sseggona (Busiro County East, National Unity Platform) reasonable, several issues remain unanswered, Sseggona argued that some expenditures were foreseeable a swearing-in? LC elections are long overdue, yet we are being rushed to a report to the Parliament.

U.S boosts Uganda's humanitarian response with sh280b

By John Musenze

Uganda's humanitarian response has received a significant boost after the United States committed $75m (about sh280b) to support refugees and vulnerable communities facing rising hunger, disease outbreaks and climate-related shocks. The funding, announced on April 29, by United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Leonard Zulu, came at a time when nearly 2 million refugees and host communities are grappling with worsening food insecurity, malnutrition and limited access to basic services.

The contribution will be channelled through the Eastern and Southern Africa Humanitarian Fund and managed by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as part of efforts to scale up life-saving interventions across the country.

"On behalf of the humanitarian community in Uganda, I would like to thank the people and government of the United States for this significant contribution. The life-saving needs are very high and this support will go a long way in addressing the most urgent challenges," Zulu said

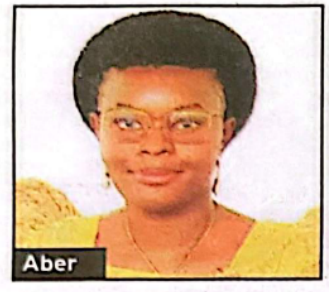
NATIONAL REFUGEE STATUS

Uganda hosts over 1.5 million refugees, the largest in Africa, with continued arrivals from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo adding pressure to already stretched systems.

At the same time, recurrent drought, flooding and landslides have deepened vulnerability among both refugees and host communities.

Part of the funding will be directed to the hard-hit Karamoja sub-region, where prolonged drought has driven high levels of acute malnutrition, particularly among children.

Officials say the support will help expand nutrition and health interventions to reduce mortality risks.


Aber


Anyakun

BETWEEN THE LINES

Funding is expected to support a broad range of emergency services, including food assistance, nutrition programmes, healthcare, shelter, security and water and sanitation.

WE THANK YOU

"We want to commend the people and government of America for this generosity. We have been living on the hope that humanitarian funding will improve, but instead it is decreasing every day. Uganda cannot close its doors to people in need," said Lillian Aber, the State minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees.

Of the total funding, $68m (about sh254b) will go towards refugee response, while $7m (about sh26b) has been earmarked for Karamoja.

Aber said the resources will target key sectors, including food security, health, shelter, protection, and water and sanitation. However, she noted that the funding is expected to cover only about six months and will be implemented through the UN system because that is where the funds were channelled, rather than directly by the Government.

"Feeding is the most challenging area at the moment. All sectors, including water and sanitation, need urgent intervention. "We call upon more partners to come on board because the refugee situation is not just a national issue, it is an international responsibility," Aber added.

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES...

The Minister of State for Labour, Esther Davinia Anyakun, said Uganda will continue to implement its open-door refugee policy, which focuses on promoting self-reliance.

"Every refugee who is resettled is allocated land for cultivation and settlement. This is aimed at helping them sustain themselves and reduce long-term dependency," she said.

Despite global recognition of this model, funding constraints continue to undermine its effectiveness. As of early 2025, the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan was only 9% funded, forcing aid agencies to cut food rations and scale back essential programmes.

Recent UN data shows the growing toll of the funding gap. About 65% of refugees lack sufficient food, more than seven in ten households have reduced daily meals, and one in four families has withdrawn children from school. Acute malnutrition among children under five has also surged sharply.

Earlier this month, the World Food Programme warned that it urgently needs an additional $47m through 2026 to sustain food assistance, cautioning that without it, the most vulnerable populations will face worsening hunger.