

Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

NURI (Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative) was one of the eight development engagements under the Denmark-Uganda Country Programme 2018–2022. Overall, the country programme aimed to contribute to poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promote democracy, good governance, and human rights, and support Uganda’s stabilising role in the East African region.

The country program was divided into two thematic objectives:

UPSIDE (Uganda Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the Economy) and **UPGRADE** (Uganda Programme for Governance, Rights, Accountability and Democracy).

NURI was the largest of the three development engagements under UPSIDE and contributed to the objective of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The total Danish contribution to NURI was DKK 325 million (approximately 47.4 million USD) over a five-year period from 2018-2022, with one output area having started in mid-2018, and the other two at the start of 2019. DKK 50 million of the budget-frame was derived from the Danish Climate Change Envelope (CCE). A one year extension was granted in 2023 for learning lessons on pilot activities with a focus on Greening and sustainability.

NURI’s objective at the outcome level was “enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and refugee-hosting communities.”

NURI pursued this objective by supporting activities in climate-smart agriculture (CSA), Rural Infrastructure (RI), and Water Resources Management (WRM).

Activities in support of agriculture focused on improving farmers’ knowledge on climate-smart production methods, as well as their understanding of, and ability to engage with markets and services.

Supporting rural infrastructure and water resource management contributed to improved agriculture sector outcomes, particularly access to markets and improved water resource management within the landscape. WRM activities addressed selected micro-catchments within the Ministry of Water and Environment’s wider plans for Northern Ugandan watersheds.

To support Uganda’s progressive refugee policy and the nexus between development and humanitarian action, refugees and their host communities were among the beneficiaries in the NURI-implementing districts that were hosting refugee settlements.

Geographically, the programme covered 13 districts in the West Nile and Acholi sub-regions of Northern Uganda. The districts were Agago, Kitgum and Lamwo in Acholi sub-region, Arua, Madi-Okollo, Terego Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, in Southwest Nile, and Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani and Koboko in Northwest Nile. The selected settlements were Rhino Camp Refugee Settlements in Madi-Okollo District, Imvepi in Terego, Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi, and other smaller settlements in Adjumani, and Palabek Refugee Settlement in Lamwo District.

