REFUGEE COMMUNITIES: PREVENTING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION

80 million people worldwide have been forced to leave their homes.

26 million refugees* in 2020
50% of refugees are children under 18
86% of refugees are hosted in developing countries

As emergency support is prioritized (emergency food distributions, shelter), nutrition is severely underfunded.
Refugees lack income opportunities or access to land, thus lacking access to nutrient rich foods (fruits/vegetables, meat, etc).

MOST COUNTRIES HOSTING REFUGEES HAVE FOOD INSECURE POPULATIONS
Highlighted countries have high chronic malnutrition rates, excl. Iran.

TOP 5 REFUGEE HOSTING AFRICA (by # refugees)

- CHAD 526K (40%)
- SUDAN 1.1M (38%)
- ETHIOPIA 771K (37%)
- DRC 526K (29%)
- UGANDA 1.4M (28%)

TOP 3 REFUGEE HOSTING COUNTRIES IN ASIA

- PAKISTAN 1.2M (38%)
- BANGLADESH 860K (31%)
- IRAN 979K (7%)

COUNTRY CASE STUDY: UGANDA – 3rd LARGEST HOST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

- 82% of refugees are women and children
- 80% live under the poverty line of $1.9/day
- 25-47% of refugee women are anemic (% varies by settlement)
- only 38% engage in agriculture due to lack of resources (though 70% have access to arable land)

HOW CAN WE INTERVENE IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES?

By providing refugees with opportunities to become self-reliant for food and break the cycle of dependence on emergency support.

The type & scope of interventions depend on the context (e.g. do refugees have the right to work? Do they have access to land? Are they in camps or living among the host community? Are they in rural or urban settings?)

Such interventions include: Job creation in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, especially for women; space-efficient vegetable gardens to complement emergency food assistance, climate-smart agriculture techniques to preserve the host community’s natural resources (e.g. preventing soil erosion, improving water management).

*Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.