MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

UGANDA SELF-RELIANCE INDEX (UG-SRI)
FOR REFUGEES AND HOST-COMMUNITIES

USER GUIDE

VERSION 1
2025

November 2025

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MGLSD - November 2025

FOREWORD

Uganda remains a beacon of hope and resilience in the global refugee protection landscape. The nation continues to uphold an inclusive and progressive refugee response that places human dignity, social protection, and shared development at its core. Guided by the 2006 Refugees Act and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), Uganda's model demonstrates that solidarity and compassion can coexist with national development priorities.

In light of the above, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development together with other partners developed the National Self-Reliance Measurement Framework for Refugees and Host Communities which acts as a tool to guide the humanitarian and development actors in the design of the interventions in refugee response.

Self-reliance and resilience have become priority outcomes of refugee support and response worldwide, with self-reliance being highlighted in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in 2018 as one of its four key objectives of which the Government of Uganda committed to during the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 in Geneva. The development of the tool highlights Governments commitment towards supporting the refugees and host communities to be self-reliant in all aspects of life.

I take this opportunity to commend our partners, the Office of the Prime Minister, other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the UN family, Development Partners and other development and humanitarian actors for their steadfast collaboration and support. Together, we continue to promote a refugee response that is rights-based, gender-responsive, and aligned with Uganda's national development aspirations as outlined in the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) 2025/2026- 2029/2030 and Vision 2040.

I wish to urge all the humanitarian and development partners to utilize this important tool and ensure that refugees and host communities are self-reliant with a principle of "leaving no one behind". Refugee response is one of the cross-cutting issues which have has been mainstreamed in all the 18 Programs under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) 2025/2026- 2029/2030.The Framework provides a harmonized approach to tracking progress across critical sectors such as education, shelter, health, livelihoods, protection, social cohesion and WASH, among others. It strengthens the commitment of Government to generate data, measure results, and most importantly, respond to the most critical needs of refugees and host communities.

Together we can support refugees and host communities to have sustainable livelihoods for improved services, promote peaceful co-existence, build resilient institutions and investing in skills development to help communities better cope with shocks and stresses that come with becoming a refugee.

Betty Amongi Ongom (M.P.)

Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am pleased to extend my appreciation to all those who participated in the process of developing the Uganda Self-Reliance Index (UG-SRI) for Refugees and Host Communities for their dedicated and valuable contribution. The process was highly consultative involving a cross-section of stakeholders at national and local Government level. Stakeholders were actively engaged and they shared their ideas, experiences and recommendations on how to implement the tool during the pretest exercise.

The Ministry constituted a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising of representatives from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), UN Agencies, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and other humanitarian partners. The TWG members dedicated their time, knowledge and skills to ensure that the tool came out as planned. I wish to commend them for a job well done in guiding the process and ensuring a quality output. Self-reliance and resilience are considered as one of Uganda's key thematic areas for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023 pledges.

We also acknowledge the significant effort invested in the comprehensive desk review and comparative analysis of existing self-reliance measurement frameworks. This review was critical in identifying commonalities, gaps, and divergences in indicators, and included frameworks developed by all the partners involved in the development process.

I also wish to commend the Jobs and Livelihood Integrated Response Plan National Steering Committee members and the Secretariat for their commitment towards the implementation of programs aimed at providing quality services to refugees and host communities. Setting up a Secretariat and ensuring it is functional has been very key in strengthening coordination with other stakeholders in development and humanitarian setting. The extra effort to build partnerships has led to several achievements including the tool developed to serve refugees and host communities.

Aggrey David Kibenge

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1. PURPOSE OF UG-SRI USER GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to provide instruction for administering the Self-Reliance Index, including interviewer guidance, domain definitions, and scoring procedures, to ensure consistent and high-quality implementation across contexts.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF UGANDA SRI

Self-reliance and resilience have become priority outcomes of refugee support worldwide, with self-reliance being highlighted in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in 2018 as one of its four key objectives. The UNHCR defines self-reliance as the social and economic ability of an individual, a household or a community to meet its essential needs in a sustainable manner and with dignity. Self-reliance and resilience is the third pillar of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)[1] which provides the key entry point for development interventions, hence offering an opportunity for refugees and host communities to be self-reliant. This primarily consists of sustainable livelihood interventions, enhanced service delivery and activities to promote peaceful co-existence, building resilient institutions and investing in skills development to help communities better cope with shocks and stresses.

1 https://opm.go.ug/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-uganda/

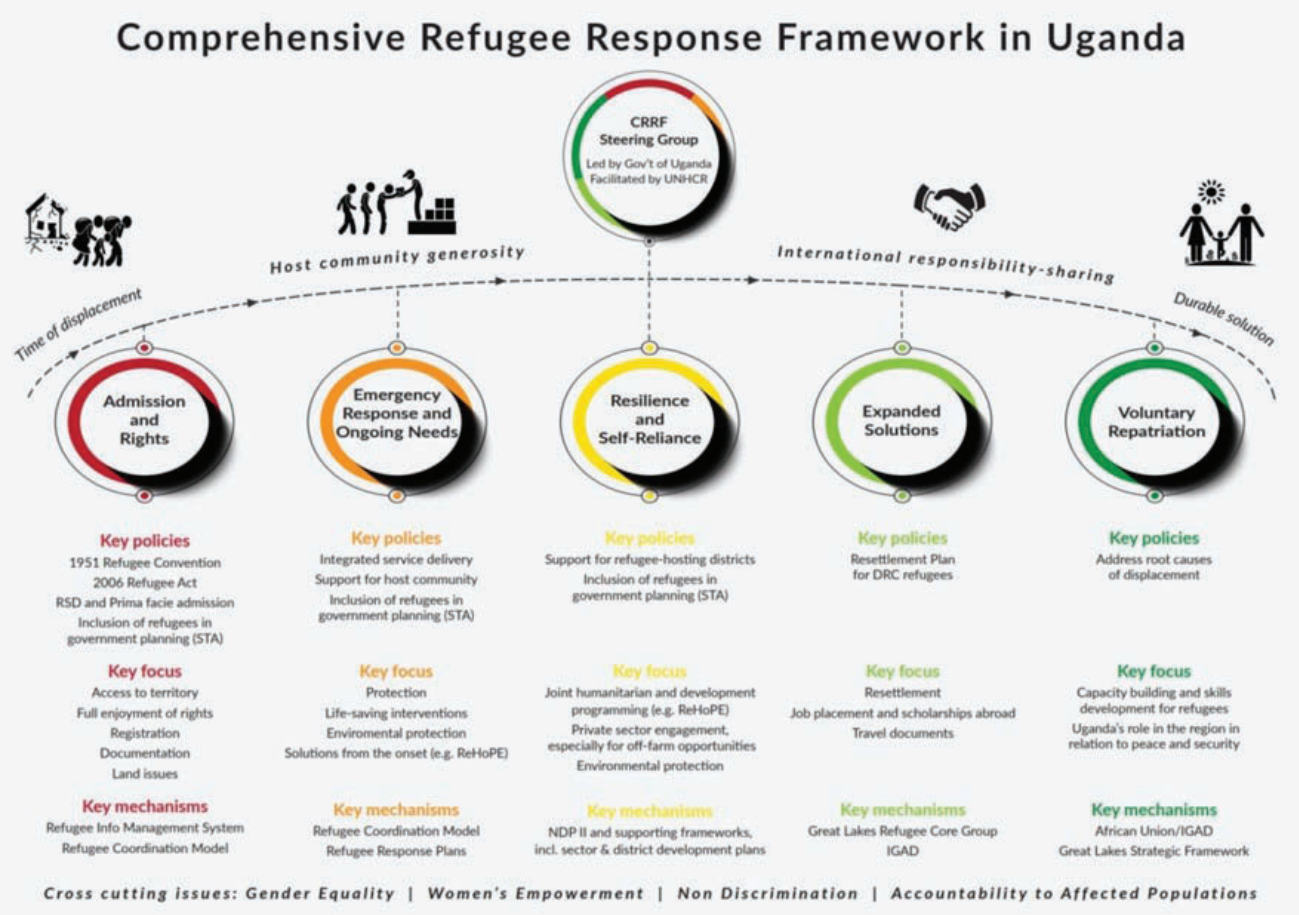


Figure 1. The Pillars of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Uganda

Promotion of self-reliance is at the heart of the commitments by the Government of Uganda, humanitarian, and development partners and they play a critical role in supporting this pillar. The Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) framework[2], the Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA I&II)[3], the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP)[4] and the Self-reliance Model (SRM)[5] by World Food Programme (WFP) are some of the prime examples of delivering on this pillar. Most importantly, self-reliance and resilience are considered one of Uganda's key thematic areas for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023[6]. To better support refugees and host communities in fostering self-reliance, it is crucial to understand which factors comprise self-reliance and measure when refugee and host-community households have made progress and 'graduated' into it. To steer this initiative, a self-reliance reference group was established in August 2023. The reference group was chaired by OPM (CRRF), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and co-chaired by the World Food Programme (WFP). Membership of the reference group comprised Government, humanitarian and development partner technocrats who engaged holistic discussions to develop minimum standard indicators and tool for the measurement of refugee and host community self-reliance in Uganda.

2 ReHoPE
3 STA I and II
4 https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/86601
5 WFP Uganda: The Self-Reliance Model - Uganda | ReliefWeb
6 https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/global-refugee-forum-2023-pledges-government-uganda

1.3. DEFINITION OF SELF-RELIANCE

Self-reliance is the social and economic ability of an individual, a household or a community to meet essential needs (including protection, food, water, shelter, personal safety, health and education) in a sustainable manner and with dignity. Self-reliance, as a programme approach, refers to developing and strengthening livelihoods of persons of concern, and reducing their vulnerability and long-term reliance on humanitarian/external assistance (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2005).

1.4. CATEGORIES OF SELF-RELIANCE

To categorize self-reliance, the individual household scores were computed in all the seven domains, namely: Food Security and Nutrition, Economic Capacity, Health, Education, Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Social Cohesion. The questions in each domain were analyzed to obtain domain specific self-reliance index. The domains were weighted according to the rank of each domain as determined by the Self-reliance reference group. The weighted domains were aggregated to get the overall index for the household. Accordingly, the index was grouped into 3 categories of low, moderate and high self-reliance. Using the criteria, a household is categorized as:

i. **Low self-reliant** if its overall score is less than 40.

ii. **Medium self-reliant** if its overall score is 40-70.

iii. **High self-reliant** if its score is 71-100.

1.5. SELF-RELIANCE DOMAINS AND INDICATORS

The domains of self-reliance were determined in line with the essential needs that need to be met by an individual, a household or a community as per the definition of self-reliance. Table 1 below shows the different domains of self-reliance and the corresponding indicators as determined by the self-reliance reference group.

Table 1: UG-SRI Analysis Framework

Essential Needs	Purpose	Indicators
1. Economic Capacity 	To determine the Household capacity to meet essential needs	1.1 Percentage of households with total monthly expenditure above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) threshold.
		1.2 Percentage of Households that have at least one household member employed
		1.3 Percentage of households that have debt or credit to repay to cover essential needs
		1.4 Percentage of households that have savings
2. Food Security and Nutrition 	To determine whether the household is eating sufficiently, and to understand the strategies adopted to meet the food needs	2.1 Food Consumption Score (FCS) a) Percentage of households with poor food consumption score b) Percentage of households with borderline food consumption score c) Percentage of households with acceptable food consumption score
		2.2 Percentage of households not applying negative livelihood coping strategies to cover essential needs
3. Health 	To determine whether the household is able to access the health care when needed	3.1 Percentage of Households that were able to access health care at the last time they needed it
4. Education 	To determine whether the household has access to education for school age going children	4.1 Percentage of Households with School-age going children out of school
		4.2 Percentage of households with at least one adult with technical/vocational or professional certificate, diploma, or degree in another field, from a formal educational institution (employable skill for adults)
5. Shelter 	To determine the adequacy of a household's housing facility	5.1 Percentage of households that rent and have not been able to pay rent 2 to 3 times in the last 3 months
		5.2 Percentage of households without crowding
6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) 	To determine whether the household has access to clean water and sanitation.	6.1 Percentage of households collecting water from protected/ treated water sources
		6.2 Percentage of households defecating in a toilet/latrine
		6.3 Percentage of households with a hand washing station with soap and water
7. Social Cohesion 	To determine whether the household's ability to plan and access support networks and safety nets	7.2 Percentage of households that actively participate in group activities i.e saving/ attend group meeting
		7.3 Percentage of households that report to be having a network for support in case of a problem encountered
		7.4 Percentage of households that report ability to set a saving plan and achieve it

2. METHODOLOGY OF UGANDA SELF-RELIANCE INDEX (UG-SRI)

2.1. DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE UG-SRI

The Self-reliance measurement framework for refugees and host communities was developed through a structured, consultative, and inclusive process to meet the required timeline. Figure 1 summarizes the main steps and activities involved.

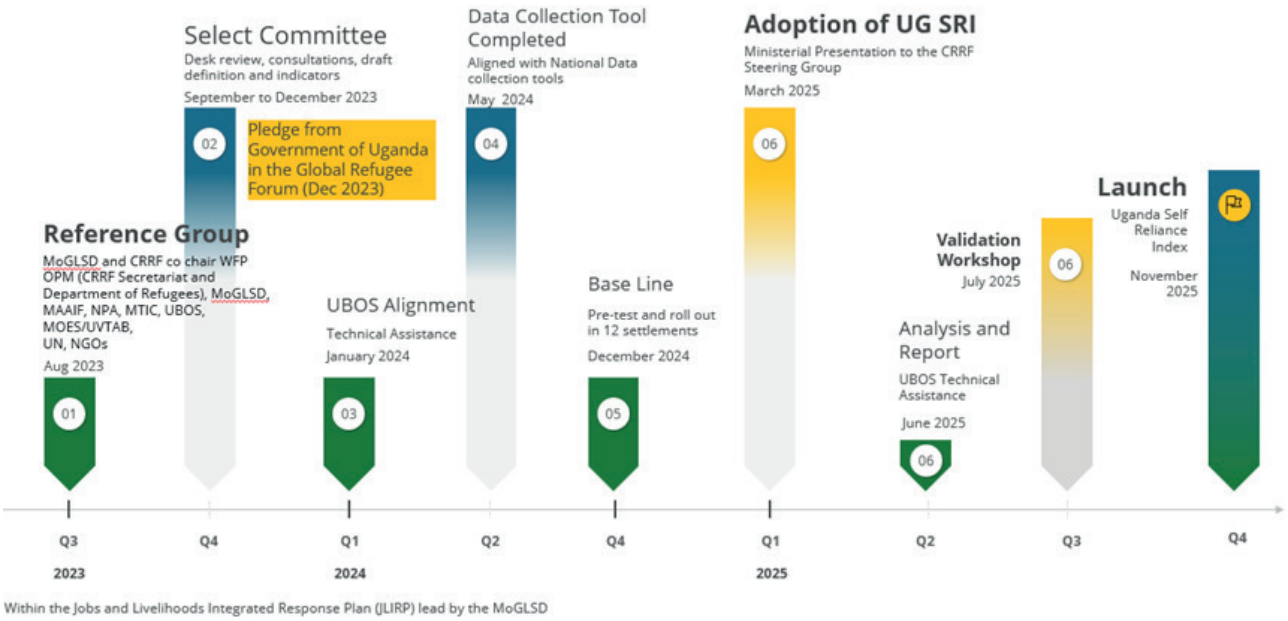


Figure 2. Summary of the Key Steps to develop the Self-reliance Index in Uganda

2.2. FORMATION OF THE SELF-RELIANCE REFERENCE GROUP

In August 2023, the self-reliance reference group was established to lead the consultative development of minimum standard indicators for measuring the self-reliance of refugee and host community households. Chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) and the CRRF Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister, with World Food Programmme (WFP) as a co-chair, the group brought together a wide range of stakeholders. These included government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), UN agencies, development partners, and humanitarian organizations such as: OPM (CRRF Secretariat and Department of Refugees), MoGLSD, MAAIF, NPA, MTIC, UBOS, MoES (UVTAB), WFP, UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, World Bank, AVSI Foundation, Trickle-Up, BRAC, World Vision, DRC, FRC, IRC, Village Enterprise, Mercy Corps, IPA, FAO, ZOA, JICA, Uthabiti USAID Activity, and RIL/U-LEARN.

2.3. DESK REVIEW OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORKS

A comprehensive desk review and comparative analysis of existing self-reliance measurement frameworks was conducted. The objective was to identify commonalities, gaps, and divergences in indicators across various frameworks. They included those developed by the RSRI, BRAC, AVSI, Trickle-Up, IPA, FRC, DRC, Village Enterprise, World Vision, WFP and OPM (STA II Indicator Framework). The findings informed the development of harmonized indicators tailored to the Ugandan context.

2.4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

In September 2023, a technical committee was formed to draft the self-reliance indicators. This committee reviewed findings from the desk analysis and existing methodologies and produced a draft set of indicators. These were presented to the self-reliance reference group for review, validation, and approval in October and November 2023.

2.5. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

A series of stakeholder consultations were conducted through meetings of the self-reliance reference group. These engagements provided a platform to validate the proposed indicators and ensure their relevance to both refugee and host community contexts. Stakeholders included representatives from government MDAs, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Their contributions helped ensure that the indicators were comprehensive, context-appropriate, and aligned with national priorities. The result of these collective efforts is a set of dimensions and questions to inform a national self-reliance measurement framework to assess refugees and host communities. The framework includes the definitions of self-reliance dimensions, self-reliance indicators and specific basic questions to be utilized as a reference and minimum standard.

2.6. DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-RELIANCE DIMENSIONS AND INDICATORS

On the request of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and OPM (CRRF) and based on input from the self-reliance reference group, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) developed a set of self-reliance indicators that align with Uganda's statistical systems. These indicators offer a framework to assess progress in accordance with the definition of self-reliance adopted in Uganda, covering dimensions such as economic capacity, food security and nutrition, shelter, WASH, health, education, and social cohesion. This multi-dimensional approach aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of livelihood outcomes among both refugee and host-community households. A set of questions was selected for each dimension to account for varying monitoring and reporting capacities among organizations. These questions served as the foundation for indicators that ultimately informed the Uganda Self-Reliance Index. The process included pre-testing of tools, to verify understanding from the targeted population and testing functionality of the tool. To determine the scores, consultative and participatory exercises were carried out with key stakeholders from the livelihood sector and community members. Insights gained through these engagements informed the statistical methods, resulting in the assignment of dimension-specific weights. In accordance with international standards set by the RSRI, UBOS has adjusted the thresholds of the Uganda Self-reliance Index to categorise households according to low, medium, and high levels of self-reliance, assigning a specific score to each household. This approach facilitates comparability across different countries.

2.7. DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE.

In line with the finalized indicators, a household questionnaire was developed to collect comprehensive data on self-reliance. The tool was designed to capture household-level insights across the various dimensions of the framework. A pre-test of the questionnaire was conducted in Rwamwanja refugee settlement in October 2024 to assess its effectiveness, clarity, and reliability, paving the way for its rollout across all refugee settlements and host community households.

2.8. BASELINE SETTLEMENT-WIDE DATA COLLECTION.

In December 2024, the self-reliance measurement tool was rolled out across all refugee settlements and host community households to collect baseline data. This extensive exercise captured data from 2,405 households i.e., 1,400 refugee households and 1,005 host-community households. The data was analyzed and it helped in establishing critical thresholds and setting the foundation for the Uganda Self-Reliance Measurement Index (UG SRI).

3. USE OF UG SRI

3.1. TARGET POPULATION FOR THE UG-SRI

The Uganda Self-Reliance Index (UG-SRI) is primarily designed for use among refugee and host-community populations in Uganda. However, its application can be extended to the broader Ugandan population, as well as other displaced groups, including internally displaced persons and economic migrants. Given its focus on tracking progress over time, the UG-SRI is best suited for use with refugee and host-community populations that are relatively stable in their geographic location, regardless of their legal residency status.

3.2. INTENDED USERS OF THE UG-SRI

The Uganda Self-Reliance Index (UG-SRI) is available for use by any partner engaged in promoting self-reliance and resilience among refugees and host communities. This includes NGOs, UN agencies, development partners, government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), researchers, and private sector actors supporting areas such as livelihoods, cash assistance, food security, health, education, and graduation programming, among others. Within these organizations, it is expected that programme and project managers, project officers, and MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) specialists will be responsible for administering the UG-SRI with project participants. To foster stronger coordination among government, humanitarian, and development actors and to ensure comprehensive support for refugee households partners are encouraged to assess both refugee and host-community households across all UG-SRI domains, regardless of their specific sectoral focus. This holistic approach enables a more complete understanding of household needs and can help partners tailor their interventions more effectively, even when providing sector-specific support.

3.3. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE UG-SRI

The implementation of the Uganda Self-Reliance Index (UG-SRI) will follow a structured, inclusive, and collaborative approach to ensure its effective adoption and long-term sustainability across diverse operational contexts.

Capacity Building and Rollout

Implementation will begin with comprehensive training for partners, including NGOs, UN agencies, government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), and private sector actors. These trainings will target programme and project managers, field officers, and MEAL specialists, equipping them with the necessary skills to administer the UG-SRI effectively and ethically.

Annual Assessments

The UG-SRI will be administered annually to refugee and host-community households that are relatively stable in their geographic location. Depending on the nature and duration of specific projects, partners may also conduct data collection on a quarterly basis. This regular data collection enables partners to monitor household progress over time, assess the impact of interventions, and inform adaptive programming. Collected data will be systematically analyzed to generate evidence-based insights. Findings will be compiled into regular reports and disseminated to stakeholders at national, sub-national, and settlement levels to inform decision-making, enhance coordination, and support strategic planning.

Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement

Operationalization of the UG-SRI will also involve strengthening coordination and stakeholder engagement at national, local government, and settlement levels. Enhanced collaboration among key actors will be critical to ensuring consistent implementation and the long-term sustainability of the Index.

Learning, Review, and Adaptation

To promote continuous learning and knowledge sharing, annual lessons learned and review workshops will be organized. These will bring together refugees, host communities, and stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the UG-SRI, share experiences, and identify areas for improvement. Peer-to-peer exchanges will also be facilitated to promote the dissemination of best practices and foster a community of learning among implementing partners.

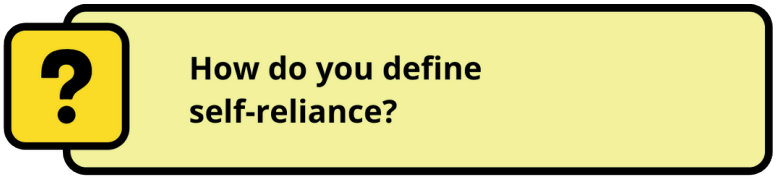
Periodic Revision

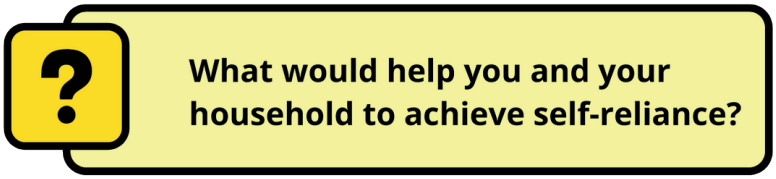
The UG-SRI will undergo a comprehensive review and revision every two years, informed by implementation experiences, stakeholder feedback, and emerging evidence. This process will ensure the tool remains relevant, user-friendly, and aligned with evolving policy and programmatic needs.

Policy Influence

Evidence generated through the UG-SRI will be used to inform policy and programmatic decisions. Findings will support advocacy efforts with policymakers, donors, and government stakeholders, promoting increased investments in initiatives that enhance refugee self-reliance and resilience.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION





5. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

It is assumed that respondents will provide accurate and honest responses.

The limitations may include:

- Potentials recall bias by respondents.
- Regional variations may arise in interpretation of questions, and challenges in accessing some hard-to-reach areas.
- Bias may be introduced by the season for data collection, which could affect results on access to services, consumption patterns and quality, and copings strategies.
- Due to time and budget constraints, the results may be representative of the type of population and not by settlement.
- Sampling may not be representative of the type of population (Host communities and Refugees) nor by settlement.

Data quality control procedures minimized most of these limitations, allowing for generalizable and actionable findings

6. USE OF THE INDEX, FREQUENCY OF REVIEW AND REFINEMENT

a. The Government of Uganda will annually collect the data for the Index. The index may also be integrated into annual assessments like the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA).

b. All organizations involved in livelihood programmes that promote self-reliance should monitor progress using the same tools and methods, at least twice annually, to assess contributions towards self-reliance.

c. The information regarding SRI should be presented disaggregated by sex of head of household, length of stay (refugees only), households with a member living with a disability, age of head of household, and household size.

d. The Self-reliance Reference Group will review the index every two years from its launch, ensuring it is based on evidence. Updates to the index may include breaking down information by settlement and population type using a step-by-step approach.

7. SCORING GUIDANCE FOR THE UG-SRI

The Uganda Self-Reliance Index (UG-SRI) domains (Food Security and Nutrition, WASH, Shelter, Social Cohesion, Economic Capacity, Health and Education) are calculated by generating binary indicator variables (0 or 1) from survey questions. For each domain, these binary indicators are averaged to create a domain-specific index score on a 0-100 scale.

7.1. ECONOMIC CAPACITY DOMAIN

Essential Need	Purpose	Indicators
Economic capacity 	To determine the Household capacity to meet essential needs	iv. Percentage of households with total monthly expenditure above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) threshold.
		v. Percentage of Households that have at least one household member employed
		vi. Percentage of households that have debt or credit to repay to cover essential needs
		vii. Percentage of households that have savings

This domain measures a household's financial stability, employment status, debt load, and savings behavior.

Indicator 1: Total Expenditure above MEB (ecm1)

a. Requires merging external expenditure data calculated elsewhere (allexpenditure.do).
The indicator should present the expenditure per capita of the household.

b. PCExp_ECMEN (Per Capita Expenditure) is compared to a defined MEB_threshold (e.g., 680,000 Ugandan Shillings).

c. ecm1 is assigned 1 if expenditure is above the MEB, 0 otherwise.

Note: The previous script converted this to 0/100 scale immediately:
*gen ecm1 = (total_expenditure > MEB_threshold) * 100*

Indicator 2: Employed Member (household_member_employed)

a. Assign 1 if at least one household member is employed (inlist(E1a,1,2,3)).

b. Assign 0 otherwise.

Indicator 3: Debt/Credit Repay (debt_credit_repay)

a. Assign 1 if the household has debt or credit to repay to cover essential needs (E3==1).

b. Assign 0 otherwise. Note: In the final index calculation logic, this indicator is likely inverted so that not having debt contributes positively to self-reliance.

Indicator 4: Savings (savings)

a. Assign 1 if the household reports having any savings (E4>0).

b. Assign 0 otherwise.

Domain Index Calculation:
The four indicators (0-100 scale) are averaged using rowmean() to create the economic_capacity_index.

7.2. FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION DOMAIN

Essential Need	Purpose	Indicators
Food and Nutrition Security 	To determine whether the household is eating sufficiently, and to understand the strategies adopted to meet the food needs	**Food Consumption Score** a. Percentage of households with poor food consumption score b. Percentage of households with borderline food consumption score c. Percentage of households with acceptable food consumption score
		Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) (rCSI) Percentage of households not applying negative livelihood coping strategies to cover essential needs.

Step 1: Calculate the Household Food Consumption Score (HFCS) and Categories

The raw data processing for the Food Consumption Score happens in an external script.

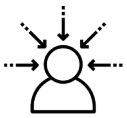
a. Processing raw data on the frequency and diversity of food groups consumed by the household over a recall period (usually 7 days).

b. Applying standard weights to different food groups (e.g., cereals, pulses, vegetables, proteins).

c. Calculating a final numerical Food Consumption Score for each household.

d. Categorizing this score into standard thresholds: Poor, Borderline, and Acceptable (likely stored in a variable like HFCSCat or HFCSCat21 as seen in a prior script block).

e. merge 1:1 interview__id using "$allrel/HFCS.dta": The script then merges the results of that external calculation back into the main dataset, using a unique identifier (interview__id) to link the scores to the correct household.



Step 2: Calculate the Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) and Related Indicators

Similar to the HFCS, the rCSI calculation is outsourced to another script.

a. This external script calculates the frequency and severity of various coping strategies adopted by households when they face food shortages (e.g., reducing meal size, borrowing food, restricting adult consumption for children).

b. It generates the avg_rCSI score and related variables, including Max_coping_ behaviour (used below).

c. Merge 1:1 interview__id using "$allrel/coping_strategy.dta": The script merges these coping strategy scores back into the main dataset.

Step 3: Generate the "Negative Livelihood Coping Strategies" Indicator

The listed step guide on how to create the indicator on livelihood copping strategies:

a. gen strategy_adopted = ...: This creates a binary variable indicating if a household adopted a specific maximum level of negative coping behavior.

b. gen strategy==1: If Max_coping_behaviour equals 1 (likely representing the most severe or negative category), the indicator is set to 1 (Yes, they used this strategy), otherwise 0 (No).

Note: As part of the overall Self-Reliance Index calculation flow, this variable would eventually be incorporated as an indicator (often inverted so that not using strategies scores higher on self-reliance).

Step 4: Calculate the Final Food Security Domain Index

The provided snippet ends with simple tabulation (ta HFCSCat refugee_status), but the full process (as described in a previous response) uses the variables generated/ merged above to form a unified index.

The final steps, derived from the overall structure of the STATA script, are:

a. Generate 0/100 indicators: Convert the HFCSCat data (Poor, Borderline, Acceptable categories) and the strategy_adopted data into standardized 0 or 100 binary scores.

b. Average the indicators: Use the egen rowmean() function to average these individual indicators into a single food_security_index for each household.

c. Apply Domain Weight: The resulting food_security_index (on a 0-100 scale) is multiplied by its domain weight (e.g., $w_fs 0.20 or 20%) when calculating the final overall self_reliance_index.

7.3. HEALTH DOMAIN

Essential need	Purpose	Indicator
Health 	To determine whether the household is able to access the health care when needed	Percentage of Households that were able to access health care at the last time they needed it.

Step 1: Rename Raw Variables for Clarity

The script first renames raw data variables (HL codes) into more descriptive names. This makes the code easier to read. access_healthcare is the key variable here, likely recording a 'yes' (1) or 'no' (0) answer to the question, "At the last time you needed healthcare in the past 30 days, were you able to access it?"

Step 2: Aggregate Healthcare Access at the Household Level

Since health information might be collected for every individual household member, the script needs to determine if anyone in the household successfully accessed care when needed.

a. bys interview__key: ...: This command performs the following calculation separately for each unique household ID (interview__key).

b. egen healthcare = sum(access_healthcare): This calculates the sum of the access_ healthcare variable within each household.

c. If any person in the household accessed healthcare (recorded a 1), this sum will be greater than zero.

Step 3: Create the Binary Domain Indicator

a. Next, the script converts the aggregated sum into a simple household-level indicator that aligns with the Self-Reliance Index methodology (a 0 or 1 indicator).

b. gen access_health_care = (healthcare>0): This generates the final indicator variable:

. If healthcare (the sum from Step 2) is greater than zero, the condition is true, and access_ health_care is assigned 1 (Yes, someone in the household accessed care when needed).

. If the sum is 0 (nobody accessed care when needed), the condition is false, and the variable is assigned 0.

. lab val access_health_care yesno: This applies labels (e.g., 0="No", 1="Yes") to make outputs easy to read.

Step 5: Final Domain Index Calculation (Implicit)

The access_health_care variable (a 0 or 1) is now ready. In the overarching SRI calculation script (seen in previous interactions), this single indicator is the health domain score:

a. The 0/1 variable is likely converted to a 0/100 scale (e.g., replace access_health_care = access_health_care * 100).

b. The resulting variable is used as the health_index.

c. The health_index is then multiplied by its designated weight (e.g., $w_he 0.16) to contribute to the final overall Self-Reliance Index.

7.4. THE SHELTER DOMAIN

Essential need	Purpose	Indicators
Shelter 	To determine the adequacy of a household's housing facility	i. Percentage of Households that rent and have not been able to pay rent 2 to 3 times in the last 3 months
		ii. Percentage of households without crowding
		iii. Percentage of households not applying negative livelihood coping strategies to cover essential needs.

The Shelter domain measures housing stability and adequate living space (avoiding overcrowding).

Indicator 1: Rent Payment Issues (rent_payment_issues)

a. This indicator is generated using a combination of conditions from variables B2, B2a, B2c, and B2D.

b. A household is assigned 1 if they do not own their dwelling, pay rent, have failed to pay rent in the last 3 months, and failed for 2 or more months (B2==2 & B2a==1 & B2c==2 & (B2D>=2 & B2D!=.)). This identifies vulnerability in housing tenure.

c. All other households are assigned 0.

Indicator 2: No Crowding (no_crowding, derived from hh_overc)

a. People_per_room is calculated as hhsize (household size) divided by B4 (number of rooms).

b. A crowding_threshold is set at 3 people per room.

c. hh_overc is a binary variable: 1 if the household is overcrowded (people_per_room > 3), 0 otherwise.

Note: The main script likely reverses this (1=no crowding) to align with the rest of the index methodology.

Domain Index Calculation:

The two indicators (converted to a 0-100 scale) are averaged using rowmean() to create the shelter_index.

7.5. WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION (WASH) DOMAIN

The WASH domain assesses access to improved water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.

Essential needs	Purpose	Indicators
Wash 	To determine whether the household has access to clean water and sanitation.	i. Percentage of households collecting water from protected/ treated water sources
		ii. Percentage of households defecating in a toilet/latrine
		iii. Percentage of households with a hand washing station with soap and water

Indicator 1: Improved Water Source (water_source_protected)

a. The raw data variable C1 (water source type codes) is recoded into a binary variable.

b. Households using defined "improved" sources (e.g., piped water, protected wells/ springs) are assigned a value of 1.

c. Households using "unimproved" sources (e.g., surface water, unprotected wells) are assigned a value of 0.

Indicator 2: Improved Sanitation (defecate_in_latrine)

a. The raw data variable C3 (toilet type codes) is recoded into a binary variable.

b. Households using improved facilities (e.g., various latrine types with slabs) are assigned a value of 1.

c. Households practicing open defecation or using unimproved methods are assigned a value of 0.

Indicator 3: Handwashing Station (hand_washing_station)

a. The raw data variable C4 (handwashing facility status) is recoded into a binary variable.

b. Households with a functional handwashing station (with soap and water present) are assigned a value of 1.

c. Households without such a station are assigned a value of 0.

Domain Index Calculation:

a. These three binary indicators (0 or 1) are typically converted to a 0-100 scale (by multiplying by 100).

b. The wash_index is calculated as the rowmean() (average) of these three 0-100 indicators for each household.

7.6. EDUCATION DOMAIN

Essential needs	Purpose	Indicators
Education 	To determine whether the household's ability to plan and access support networks and safety nets.	i. Percentage of Households with School-age going children out of school
		ii. Percentage of households with at least one adult with technical/ vocational or professional certificate, diploma, or degree in another field, from a formal educational institution (employable skill for adults)

This domain assesses access to education for children and the skill level of adults within the household.

Indicator 1: School-age children out of school (children_out_of_school)

a. The script sums the number of household members marked as "out of school" (sum(attend)).

b. children_out_of_school is assigned 1 if any children are out of school (out_of_school>0), which typically indicates a lack of self-reliance for this specific indicator.

c. 0 otherwise.

Indicator 2: Adult with certificate (adult_with_certificate)

a. The script sums the number of adults with a technical or professional certificate/ diploma (sum(have_tech_cert)).

b. adult_with_certificate is assigned 1 if at least one adult has such a certificate (tech_cert>0).

c. 0 otherwise.

Domain Index Calculation:

The two indicators (0-100 scale) are averaged using rowmean() to create the education_index

7.7. SOCIAL COHESION DOMAIN

Essential needs	Purpose	Indicators
Social Cohesion 	To determine whether the household's ability to plan and access support networks and safety nets.	i. Percentage of Households belonging to a group i.e VLSA, farmer group, social group
		ii. Percentage of Households that actively participate in group activities i.e saving/ attend group meeting
		iii. Percentage of Households that report to be having a network for support in case of a problem encountered
		iv. Percentage of Households that report ability to set a saving plan and achieve it

This domain assesses the household's social capital, networks, and ability to plan for the future. The script generates four simple binary indicators based on 'yes' (1) or 'no' (0) responses to specific questions (D1, D2, D4, D5).

Indicator 1: Group Belonging (group_belonging)

a. 1 if the household belongs to a social, farmer, or savings group (D4==1).

b. 0 otherwise.

Indicator 2: Active Participation (group_participation)

a. 1 if the household actively participates in group activities (e.g., attends meetings, saves with the group) (D5==1).

b. 0 otherwise.

Indicator 3: Support Network (network_support)

a. 1 if the household reports having a network for support in case of a problem (D2==1).

b. 0 otherwise.

Indicator 4: Saving Plan (able_to_save_plan)

a. 1 if the household reports the ability to set a saving plan and achieve it (D1==1).

b. 0 otherwise.

Domain Index Calculation: The four indicators (0-100 scale) are averaged using rowmean() to create the social_cohesion_index

8. UGANDA SELF RELIANCE INDEX ESTIMATION

Generating and Applying Domain Weights.
This is the key step that incorporates the specific weights for different aspects of self-reliance, as defined by the study's methodology. The user defined these weights as global macros to make the code clean and easy to update.

a. Defining Weights as Macros:

```
global w_ec 0.28   // Economic Capacity (28% weight)
global w_fs 0.20   // Food Security (20% weight)
global w_he 0.16   // Health (16% weight)
// ...and so on for all 7 domains
```

b. Calculating the Final Weighted Index:

```
gen self_reliance_index = ($w_ec * economic_capacity_index + ///
                $w_fs * food_security_index + ///
                $w_he * health_index + ///
                ... // all domains included
                $w_sc * social_cohesion_index)
```

- gen self_reliance_index = ...: Creates the final index variable.
- $w_ec * economic_capacity_index: Multiplies the domain average (0-100) by its specific weight (e.g., 0.28).
- +: The weighted scores from all domains are summed together.

Result: The final self_reliance_index is a single score between 0 and 100 for each household, representing their overall self-reliance level according to the defined weights.

Categorization and Analysis

a. The final steps involve cleaning up the data, normalizing the index (which isn't strictly necessary here as it's already 0-100), defining cutoffs, and performing descriptive analysis.

b. Defining Cutoffs: The continuous index score is converted into categorical groups (Low, Moderate, High) for easier interpretation and reporting.

```
gen self_reliance_group = .
replace self_reliance_group = 1 if normalized_self_reliance_index < 40
replace self_reliance_group = 2 if normalized_self_reliance_index >=40 & normalized_self_
reliance_index <= 70
replace self_reliance_group = 3 if normalized_self_reliance_index > 70
```

Analysis and Reporting. The script then uses commands like tabulate, mean, and asdoc to create tables and summaries of the results, often breaking them down by demographic characteristics like refugee_status or sexhh.

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APPENDIX 1: THE UG-SRI DEVELOPMENT TEAM

S/N	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
1	Godfrey Ariong	Programme Policy Officer Livelihoods	CRRF Secretariat, OPM
2	Alvarado Nazar Wendy Elaine	Head of Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM)	WFP
3	Samuel Kakembo	Monitoring Associate	WFP
4	Rose Mary Mwesigwa	Programme Policy Officer Monitoring and Evaluation	WFP
5	Jerry Grants Anyoli	Assistant Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer	UNHCR
6	Silver Godwin Mukeele	Labour Officer	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
7	Betty Belinda Asio	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Specialist	Finnish Refugee Council
8	Solomon Otale	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor	AVSI Foundation
9	Ibrahim Biga Badawi	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	DRC
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11	Paul Mwirichia	Response Director	World Vision
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Uganda Learning, Evidence, Accountability, and Research Network

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