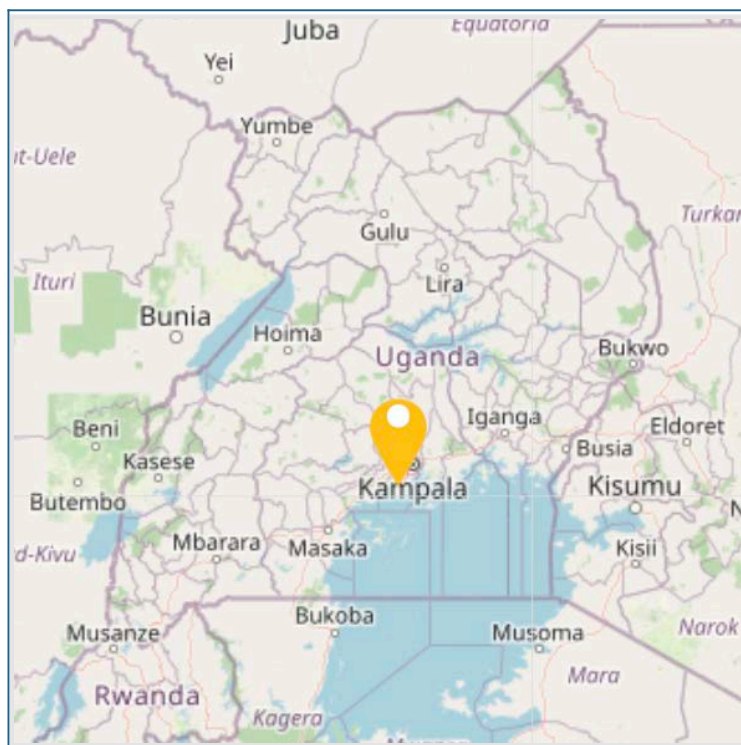


# Uganda Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	1,734,166
New asylum applications (2019)	33,358

## NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/africa/uganda>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

## STATISTICS

### Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
<b>Total number of immigration detainees by year</b>	Not Available	2019	<b>Total number of detained minors</b>	Not Available	2017
<b>Criminal prison population</b>	48,714	2016	<b>Percentage of foreign prisoners</b>	0.5	2014
	34,940	2012			
	31,749	2011			
	28,337	2008			
	26,126	2005			
	21,900	2002			
	21,970	1998			
19,079	1993				
<b>Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)</b>	120	2016			
	97	2012			
	92	2011			
	88	2008			
	91	2005			
	84	2002			
	95	1998			
95	1993				

### Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
<b>Population</b>	45,700,000	2020	<b>International migrants</b>	1,734,166	2019
	39,032,000	2015		749,500	2015
<b>International migrants as a percentage of the population</b>	1.9	2015	<b>Refugees</b>	1,359,458	2019
				1,165,653	2018
				1,350,504	2017
				940,815	2016
				428,397	2015
				385,513	2014
<b>Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants</b>	23.33	2016	<b>Total number of new asylum applications</b>	33,358	2019
	10.2	2015		30,266	2016
				24,221	2014
<b>Refugee recognition rate</b>	89	2014			

## DOMESTIC LAW

### LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Common law	2017
	Customary law	2017

### COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>Often praised for having an open-door policy for refugees, Uganda closed its borders in March, leaving thousands of refugees and asylum seekers stranded and unable to enter the country (see 6 April update). Since May, approximately 10,000 refugees have been camped out on the Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo border, having fled escalating violence in eastern DRC. However, following a 16 June decision, President Yoweri Museveni ordered authorities to temporarily re-open some border crossings to allow entry to those seeking protection. During 1-3 July, more than 3,000 Congolese asylum seekers were able to enter the country. The government's decision was praised by UNHCR, whose spokesman in Uganda said, "It proves that even in the midst of a global crisis like COVID-19, there are ways to manage border restrictions in a manner which respects international human rights and refugee protection standards." Despite the move, however, people trying to enter from South Sudan continue to be denied entry. Those permitted entry are quarantined in a facility in Zombo near the border that can accommodate up to 6,000 people. Following mandatory quarantine, all asylum seekers are to be transferred to existing refugee camps within the country. However, as rights groups have highlighted, living conditions in Uganda's refugee camps are poor and conducive to the spread of the virus. In a statement released shortly after announcement of the order to allow Congolese asylum seekers entry into the country, the Global Refugee-Led Network-Africa Chapter also urged authorities to ensure that quarantine conditions are dignified, "and to develop more general measures to admit people needing international protection at other border points." Meanwhile, Ugandan authorities have released groups of prisoners during the crisis—including 74 Congolese fishermen who had been confined in penal facilities in Katwe and Mubuku since 2018/2019. (Between July 2018 and the end of 2019, Uganda stepped up its patrols on Lake Edouard, and arrested more than 400 Congolese fishermen found in Ugandan waters.)</p>	2020
	<p>Despite the country's open-door policy towards refugees and asylum seekers, on 25 March authorities announced measures to suspend the reception of new refugees and asylum seekers for thirty days. Transit and reception centres were ordered to close immediately, while flights in and out of the country have been suspended and borders sealed. Refugees who are already in the country will continue to receive support. Handwashing and temperature screening facilities have been put in place at points of entry as well as transit centres and reception centres.</p>	2020

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaties	Name		Ratification Year
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination		1980
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		1987
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		1995
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women		1985
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		1986
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child		1990
	ICRMW, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families		1995
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		2008
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		1976
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons		1965
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	10/19		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	ICRMW Article 18	1995	2017
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name		Acceptance Year
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966		1995
	CRPD, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		2008
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	2/8	2017	

## Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
<b>Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies</b>	Committee on Migrant Workers	"take the necessary steps to ensure that in administrative and judicial proceedings, including detention and expulsion proceedings, migrant workers and members of their families, particularly those in an irregular situation, are guaranteed due process on an equal basis with nationals of the state party before the courts and tribunals in administrative and judicial proceedings. in the light of the committee's general comment no. 2 (2013) on the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families, the committee recalls that administrative detention should only be used as a measure of last resort, and recommends that the state party consider alternatives to administrative detention. the committee further recommends that the state party: (a) include in its second periodic report detailed disaggregated information on the number of migrant workers detained for immigration offences, and the place, average duration and conditions of their detention; (b) provide updated information, including disaggregated statistics, on the number of migrant worker expulsions as well as the procedures used; (c) ensure that the minimum guarantees enshrined in the convention are assured with regard to administrative and judicial procedures against migrant workers and members of their families."	2015

## Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
<b>Regional legal instruments</b>	ACHPR, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights	1986
	ACRWC, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	1994
	APRW, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)	2010

## Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

	Recommendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
<b>Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review</b>	No	2011	2017
	No	2016	2017

## INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Uganda is available at the website of the Global Detention Project ([www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org))