Protection Dashboard

Quarter 2

Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2024-2025

January - June 2025

Overview

The overall protection objective is to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to asylum, fair and accelerated asylum procedures as well as full enjoyment of their rights as set forth in international and domestic laws. It remains crucial for partners to continue strengthening the capacity of the government institutions to respond to emergencies, support improvements in registration and the asylum system whilst providing life-saving services, as well as monitoring and mitigating protection risks, building resilience of the forcibly displaced and stateless persons, and enhancing durable solutions. Efforts will be made to reinforce comprehensive feedback and response mechanisms to ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP). In addition, special focus will be given to the vulnerable groups to ensure they have equal access to protection assistance and the opportunity to participate in community self-management and decision-making. Meanwhile, peaceful coexistence among communities as well as the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) will remain a priority.

Product Scope

This product covers an overview of the sector, key achievements, funding situation including, Registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD), Community-Based Protection (CBP), Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Legal and Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism as part of Protection, leaving out Child Protection (CP) and Gender-based Violence (GBV) which have been analysed in separate dashboards.

The Result Analysis:

Refugee Status Determination (RSD): By the end of the second quarter, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) had held **3 sessions** and adjudicated **908 applications** of **2,131 individuals** from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, and Eritrea. **The recognition rate was 84%**. During the first quarter, **the government halted admission of Eritreans**. . In addition, the **current suspension in admitting Somalis** since March 2023 has resulted in an **increase in the number of arrests and detentions** of asylum seekers for lack of documentation. By the end of Q2, **39,998 individuals** were pending asylum procedures. Partners continued to advocate for accelerated RSD sessions to reduce this backlog, and continues to advocate for the resumption of admission for Eritreans and Somalis.

Access to Justice: As of **Q2**, **66,395** individuals (35,596 women, 30,799 men) received legal assistance and sensitization, **reaching 42%** of the annual target. Support included legal education, representation, mobile courts, and detention monitoring. The **Uganda Police Force's 2024 Crime Report**, noted a **4.1% drop in crime.** The government began implementing a sub-county policing model to decentralize services. However, funding cuts have severely impacted refugee legal aid, reducing outreach, representation, and support for detained individuals. Staffing reductions, especially among paralegals, further threaten access to justice for refugees.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP): By the end of Q2, **44,909** complaints were addressed (**66% of the annual target**), with **60%** handled via the Inter-Agency We. Link Help Line (Formerly FRRM helpline) and **40%** by partners. Most complaints addressed were from **South Sudanese 48%** (21,755), **Congolese 36%** (16,054), **Sudanese 1%** (482), **other refugees 13%** (5,967), and **host communities 1%** (482), mainly concerning protection, resettlement, and food assistance.

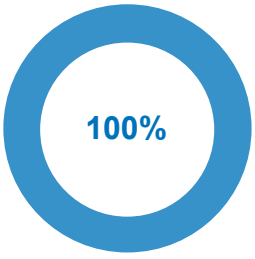
Community-Based Protection (CBP): Partners has continued to strengthen community-based protection and refugee leadership by supporting 14 Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) through small grant agreements. These grants have enabled RLOs to implement targeted initiatives that address protection concerns, promote social cohesion, and enhance self-reliance among refugee and host communities. The supported RLOs have demonstrated strong capacity in mobilizing community participation, delivering localized solutions, and fostering inclusive engagement, particularly among women, youth, and persons with specific needs.

Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): By Q2, **18,335** PSNs (**59%** females, **41%** males) received support, **15% of the annual target** with a **22% reduction** compared to the same period last year. Additionally, **139,677** refugees and host community members accessed Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), achieving **36% of the 2025 target**. **46%** of the Congolese refugees' target was achieved with **43,931 reached**; the DRC influx contributed to more people accessing these services. **35%** of the South Sudanese target was reached, and **18%** of the host community target was reached.

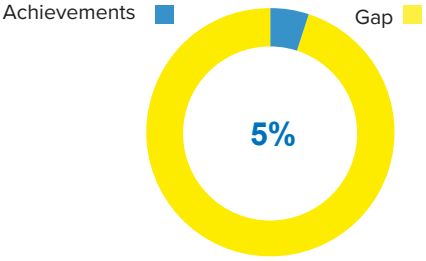
Key challenges and priorities:

- The protection sectors in Uganda, including Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), are critically underfunded, receiving **only 20% (USD 45.2 million out of 223 million required)** with **25% increase in the needs** compared to 2024 ($178M vs $233M), exacerbated by recent funding cuts this year. These shortfalls have severely impacted the asylum support systems resulting to delayed processing of asylum applications due to limited resources and reducing access to legal aid through paralegals.
- The halt on admission of Eritreans and Somali asylum seekers has resulted to an increase in the number of arrest and detention of undocumented individuals.
- Refugee and host community children with disabilities face major barriers to education, with only 2,590 (6%) enrolled in secondary schools out of an estimated 45,747. This low transition from primary (23,908 enrolled) highlights significant challenges in continuing education beyond the primary level.

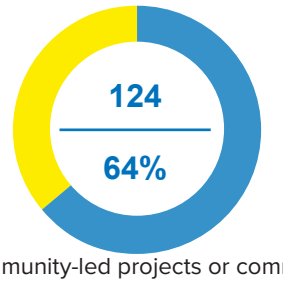
Key indicators



% of refugees in Uganda who are individually registered in proGres with minimum data set
Target: 100%



% of eligible asylum seekers whose asylum Applications have been adjudicated in line with the RSD procedures and standards
Target: 95%



Community-led projects or community empowerment projects, where peaceful coexistence is the primary project purpose
Target: 193

Funding
Inc CP and GBV

$223M
Total Required

$45.2M Received 20%

$212M Gap 80%

Achievements data: ActivityInfo + proGres
Sector contacts: Michael John Wells (UNHCR) wells@unhcr.org
Author: UNHCR Representation in Uganda
Peggie Ayesiga (OPM) peggie.ayesiga@opm.go.ug
Feedback: ugakaimug@unhcr.org
Published: August 2025
For more info: https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga

Outcome: Access to asylum procedures, including reception, registration, and refugee status determination (RSD)

Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
% of refugees in Uganda who are Individually Registered in proGres with Minimum Dataset				
- Congolese refugees	100%	100%	100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	100%	100%	100%	
- Sudanese refugees	100%	100%	100%	
- Other refugees	100%	100%	100%	
Eligible Asylum Seekers whose Asylum Applications have been Ajudicated in line with the RSD Procedures and Standards				
- Congolese refugees	10%	95%	10%	90%
- Other refugees	4%	95%	4%	94%

OUTCOME: Accountability to all persons of concern is strengthened through meaningful engagement and participation of communities

Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Complaints Addressed Through Effective Feedback Mechanisms				
- Congolese refugees	16,054	32,000	50%	50%
- South Sudanese refugees	21,755	15,000	>100%	
- Sudanese refugees	651	15,000	4%	96%
- Other refugees	5,967	19,000	31%	69%
- Host community	482	1,800	27%	73%

OUTCOME: Persons with specific needs have timely access to appropriate services and participate in community activities and decision-making on an equal basis with others

Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Persons with Specific Needs Provided with Support				
- Congolese refugees	4,335	40,000	11%	89%
- South Sudanese refugees	13,371	80,000	17%	83%
- Sudanese refugees	308	3,000	10%	90%
- Other refugees	55	3,000	2%	98%
- Host community	266	300	88%	12%
Interventions to Address Barriers				
- Congolese refugees	124	50	>100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	1,725	75	>100%	
- Sudanese refugees	0	10	0%	100%
- Other refugees	0	10	0%	100%
- Host community	3	10	30%	70%

OUTCOME: Refugee and host communities populations have improved well being and functioning including very vulnerable people

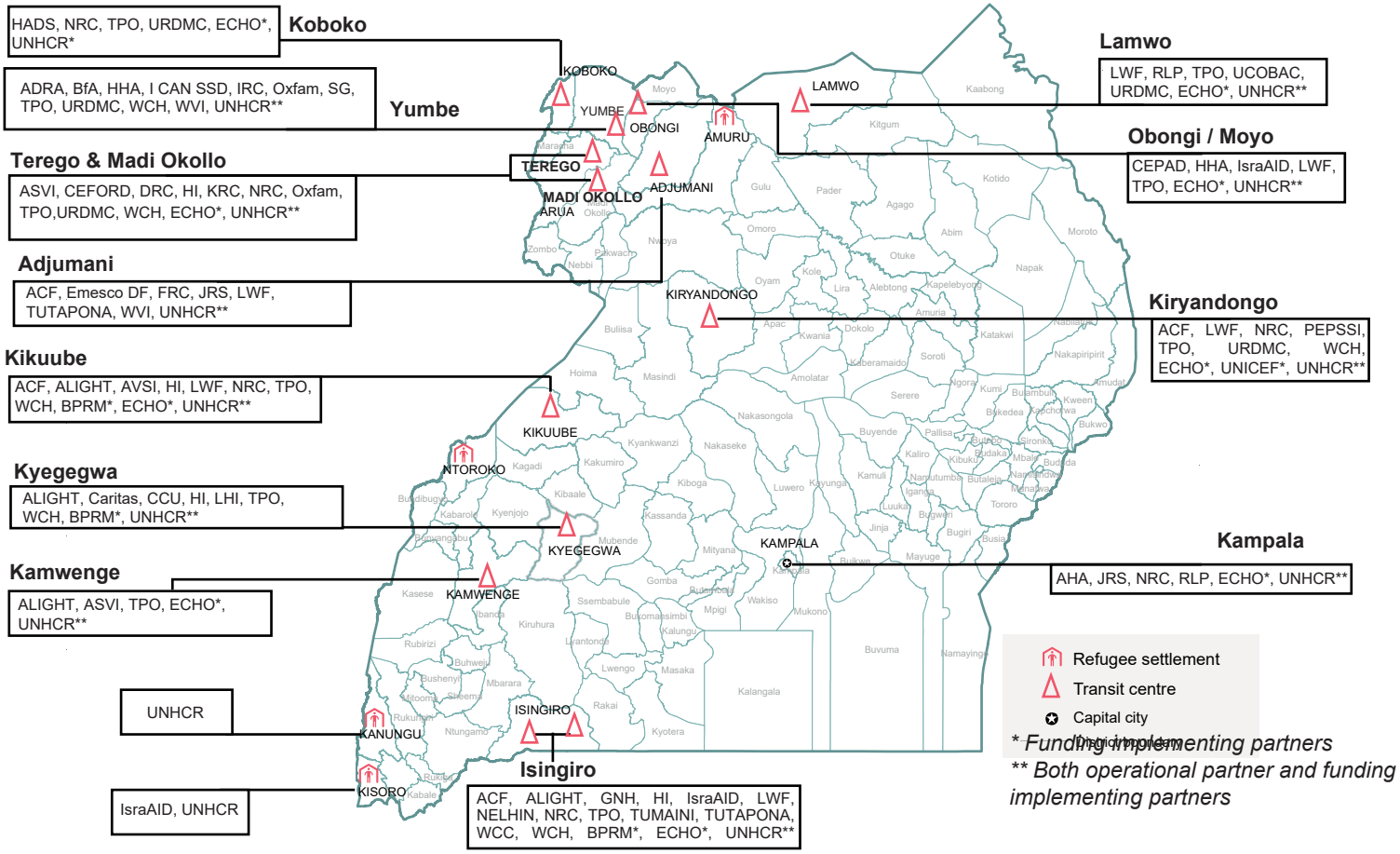
Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Individuals Receiving Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)				
- Congolese refugees	43,931	96,552	25%	75%
- South Sudanese refugees	63,861	180,831	13%	87%
- Sudanese refugees	7,796	30,000	50%	50%
- Other refugees	5,989	35,664	3%	97%
- Host community	14,624	79,689	9%	91%

OUTCOME: Physical safety and access to justice by Persons of Concern strengthened

Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Individuals Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization				
- Congolese refugees	18,256	30,000	61%	39%
- South Sudanese refugees	26,508	70,000	38%	62%
- Sudanese refugees	9,816	20,000	49%	51%
- Other refugees	6,195	20,000	31%	69%
- Host community	5,620	20,000	28%	72%

Operational Presence

- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
- Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee) (Alight)
- Andre Foods International (AFI)
- Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI)
- Brass for Africa (BfA)
- Child Voice International (ChildVoice)
- Community Consortium Uganda (CCU)
- Community Empowerment for Peace and Development (CEPAD)
- Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Emesco Development Foundation (Emesco DF)
- Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
- Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)
- Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS)
- Humanity&Inclusion (HI)
- I CAN South Sudan (I CAN SSD)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- IsraAID (IsraAID)
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Refugee Law Project (RLP)
- Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)
- Similar Ground (SG)
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)
- TUMAINI (TUMAINI)
- TUTAPONA (TUTAPONA)
- Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC)
- Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDMC)
- War Child Canada (WCC)
- War Child Holland (WCH)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations