Protection Dashboard

Quarter 3

Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2024-2025

January - September 2025

Overview

The overall protection objective is to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to 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): During Q3, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held **2 sessions** and adjudicated **2,127** applications, of which **35%** individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), **31%** from Burundi, and **34%** from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan combined. 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. Partners continues to advocate for the resumption of admission for Eritreans and Somalis. By the end of Q3, **40,744** individuals were pending asylum procedures. UNHCR continued to advocate for accelerated RSD sessions to reduce this backlog.

Access to Justice: As of Q3, **118,083** individuals (55% women, 45% men) received legal assistance and sensitization, reaching **76%** of the annual target. Of which **30,368** individuals received legal assistance, including legal counselling, legal representation, mobile courts, and detention monitoring.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP): By the end of Q3, **65,188** complaints were addressed (**96% of the annual target**), with **61%** handled via the Inter-Agency We. Link Help Line (Formerly FRRM helpline), and **39%** by partners through other mechanisms, including protection desks, complaints and suggestion boxes. Most complaints addressed were from South Sudanese **48%** (31,312), DR Congolese **36%** (23,182), Sudanese **1%** (482), other refugees **13%** (5,967), and host communities **2%** (1,031), mainly concerning protection, resettlement, and food assistance.

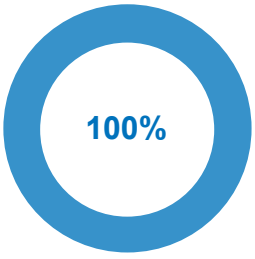
Community-Based Protection (CBP): Partners have continued to strengthen community-based protection and refugee leadership by supporting **32 Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs)** through small grant agreements. These grants have enabled RLOs to implement targeted initiatives that address protection concerns, promote social cohesion, and enhance self-reliance among refugee and host communities. The supported RLOs have demonstrated strong capacity in mobilizing community participation, GBV prevention interventions by 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 Q3, **27,204** PSNs (62% females, 38% males) received support, **22% of the annual target**, with a **69%** reduction compared to the same period last year, attributed mainly to funding reduction which affects partners' ability to deliver as in last year. Additionally, **199,954** refugees and host community members accessed Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), achieving **51% of the annual target**. **76%** of the DR Congolese refugees' target was achieved with **73,805** reached; the DRC influx contributed to more people accessing these services. **48%** of the South Sudanese target was reached, and **24%** of the host community target was reached.

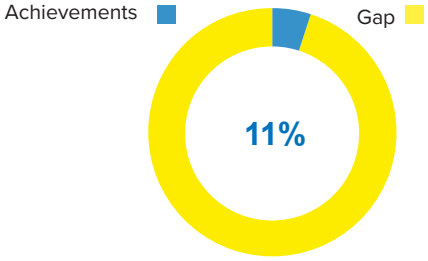
Key challenges and priorities:

- The protection sectors in Uganda, including Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), are critically underfunded, receiving **only 20% (USD 45.3 million out of 223 million required)**. While there is a **25% increase** in the needs compared to 2024 ($178M vs $233M), there is a **37% reduction in funding** received compared to the same period of last year, exacerbated by recent funding cuts this year. These shortfalls have severely impacted the asylum support systems, resulting in delayed processing of asylum applications due to limited resources and reduced access to legal aid through paralegals.
- The halt on admission of Eritrean and Somali asylum seekers has increased the number of arrests and detentions of undocumented individuals. UNHCR continues to advocate with the government for the resumption of admission for Eritreans and Somalis

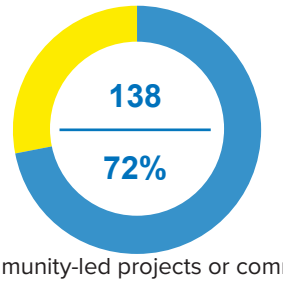
Key indicators



% 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

$45.3M Received 20%

$177.7M Gap 81%

Achievements data: ActivityInfo + proGres
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Published: November 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	32%	95%	32%	68%
- Other refugees	5%	95%	5%	95%

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	23,182	32,000	72%	28%
- South Sudanese refugees	31,312	15,000	>100%	
- Sudanese refugees	1,031	15,000	7%	93%
- Other refugees	8,966	19,000	47%	53%
- Host community	697	1,800	39%	61%

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	6,836	40,000	17%	83%
- South Sudanese refugees	19,470	80,000	24%	76%
- Sudanese refugees	374	3,000	12%	88%
- Other refugees	197	3,000	7%	93%
- Host community	327	300	>100%	
Interventions to Address Barriers				
- Congolese refugees	147	50	>100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	1,803	75	>100%	
- Sudanese refugees	0	10	0%	100%
- Other refugees	0	10	0%	100%
- Host community	6	10	60%	40%

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

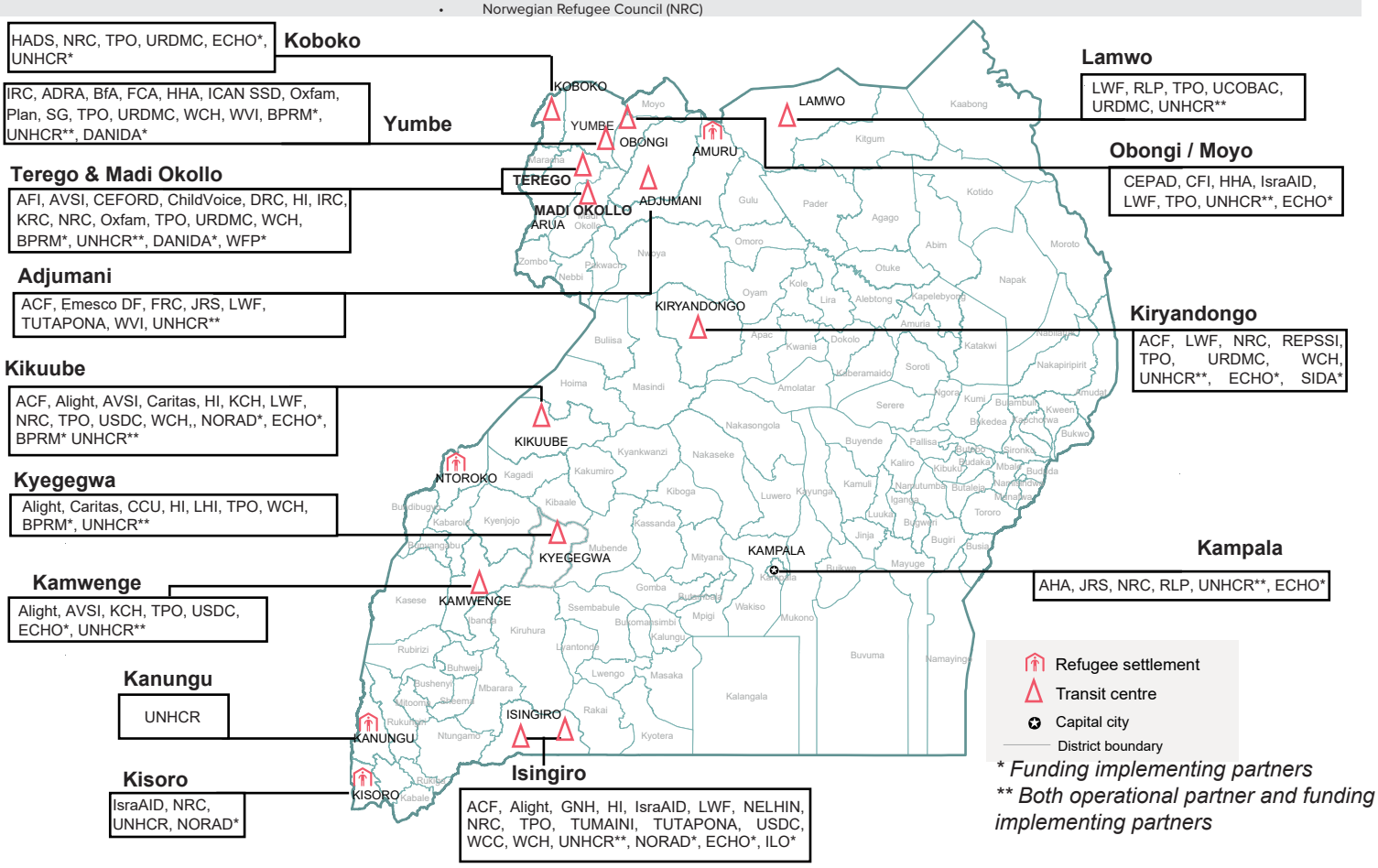
Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Individuals Receiving Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)				
- Congolese refugees	73,805	96,552	76%	24%
- South Sudanese refugees	87,074	180,831	48%	52%
- Sudanese refugees	10,342	30,000	34%	66%
- Other refugees	6,172	35,664	17%	83%
- Host community	19,085	79,689	24%	76%

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	33,207	30,000	>100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	43,156	70,000	62%	38%
- Sudanese refugees	19,178	20,000	>100%	
- Other refugees	8,334	20,000	42%	58%
- Host community	14,208	20,000	71%	29%

Operational Presence

- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- 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)
- Caritas Uganda (Caritas)
- Child Voice International (ChildVoice)
- ChildFund International (CFI)
- 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)
- Finn Church Aid (FCA)
- Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
- Grapes of New Hope (GNH)
- 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)
- Katalemwa Cheshire Home (KCH)
- Let's Help International (LHI)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- New Life Horizon Initiative (NELHIN)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam)
- Plan International (Plan)
- 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)
- Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- War Child Canada (WCC)
- War Child Holland (WCH)
- World Vision International (WVI)



** Funding implementing partners*
*** Both operational partner and funding implementing partners*

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