Protection Dashboard

Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2026-2030

2026 Quarters

Quarter 1

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 to strengthen 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, mitigating protection risks, building resilience of the forcibly displaced and stateless people, and enhancing durable solutions. Efforts are being made to reinforce comprehensive feedback and response mechanisms to ensure Accountability to Affected People (AAP). In addition, special focus is being given to vulnerable groups with the objective of ensuring that 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.

Result Analysis:

Refugee Status Determination (RSD):

In Q1 2026, a significant policy change took effect when the Government of Uganda issued a circular on 5 February 2026, withdrawing Prima Facie (PF) recognition for new arrivals from South Sudan, Sudan, and the DRC. Between 5 February and the end of March, 17,924 asylum seekers were registered, including 8,404 nationals of those three countries. The total asylum seeker population grew by 9,232 people (roughly 24%), from 39,130 at the end of February to 48,362 by the end of March. Largely driven by this policy shift, the surge has overwhelmed processing capacity as many new arrivals await status determination. In the absence of an alternative processing system and with limited Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) sessions, many asylum seekers face prolonged legal uncertainty, reduced access to documentation, assistance, and essential services, and heightened protection risks such as exploitation, secondary displacement, and harmful coping mechanisms.

Access to Justice:

During the reporting period, the Government released the 2025 Annual Crime Report, recording 196,405 cases, a 10.2 per cent decrease from 218,715 cases in 2024, attributed to strengthened policing, digitalization, improved investigations, and enhanced justice sector coordination. Overall, 10,219 individuals received legal assistance, including 6,630 sensitized on Ugandan laws, 1,628 provided with legal counselling, and 170 supported with legal representation. In addition, 1,677 individuals were reached through detention monitoring across multiple detention facilities nationwide. Commonly reported crimes included assault, threats, theft, rape, defilement, domestic violence, child neglect, malicious damage, affray, and criminal trespass. In Moyo, the High Court commenced a criminal session on 9 February, targeting the disposal of 40 SGBV cases within 30 days. In the South-West and Mid-West, three mediation sessions were conducted and a two-day legal training held in Kyaka II on constitutional and immigration law.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP):

During Q1, a total of 15,393 complaints and queries were received through multiple reporting channels, including the inter-agency toll-free We.Link helpline (68%; 10,502), protection desks (25%; 3,801), and other mechanisms (7%; 1,090). Of these, 86% (13,253) were successfully addressed, demonstrating strong responsiveness to community feedback. The We.Link helpline plays a critical role in facilitating communication among refugees and partners, operating five days a week with a team of 21 personnel capable of supporting callers in 38 languages.

Community-Based Protection (CBP):

In first quarter of 2026, the operation successfully supported Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) members to participate in one (1) REF Meeting. The meeting brought together 40 refugee leaders from 13 refugee hosting districts including urban (Kampala) to deliberate and share key issues affecting them in their respective settlements. Concurrently, the District Engagement Forum (DEF) held one meeting where 30 leaders from refugee hosting districts (RHD) shared and discussed issues affecting refugee hosting districts. The REF and DEF platforms offer an opportunity for refugee representatives and RHD representatives to share concerns directly with authorities and take part in discussions in larger CRRF Steering Group Meetings, that shape the refugee response. The process strengthened accountability, transparency, and the meaningful participation of refugees and host communities at both national and district levels.

Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):

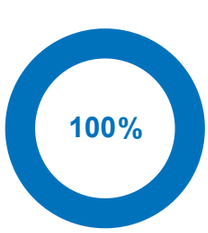
As of 30 March 2026, Uganda hosts 278,187 persons with specific needs (PSNs), with 438,258 specific needs recorded. A slightly higher proportion of females is observed across most categories. As of March 2026, suicide surveillance recorded 6 deaths and 28 attempts, with the South West region most affected (notably Rwamwanja, Kyangwali, Kyaka II, and Nakivale), while only one case was reported in Palabek; however, reporting gaps, especially in Kampala, limit a full national picture. Trends indicate a peak between 2020 and 2022 followed by a gradual decline to 2026, with refugees and adults aged 18–59 accounting for most cases across both genders. Over the same period, 42,177 individuals were reached with MHPSS services via community and facility-based interventions. Funding shortfalls in Q1 2026 constrained human resources and limited the reach and scalability of MHPSS services.

Key challenges/ Opportunities

- Key challenges include limited police mobility due to fuel and stationery shortages, language barriers, lack of juvenile detention facilities, PF3 form shortages, and insufficient female officers. Advocacy continues to focus on strengthening documentation processes, enhancing gender sensitive staffing, and improving operational capacity.
- A significant protection gap persists following the suspension of prima facie recognition, leaving many new arrivals undocumented, restricting family reunification and access to essential services, and increasing protection risks.

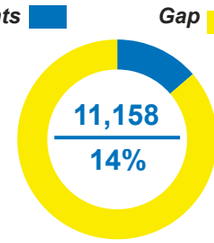
Key Indicators

Actual Achievements *Gap*



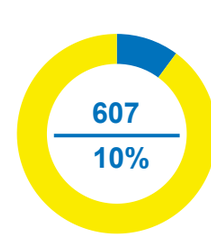
% of refugees in Uganda who are individually registered with minimum data set

Target: 100%



Individuals that Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization

Target: 81,850



Number of FDSPs supported for complementary pathways

Target: 6,000

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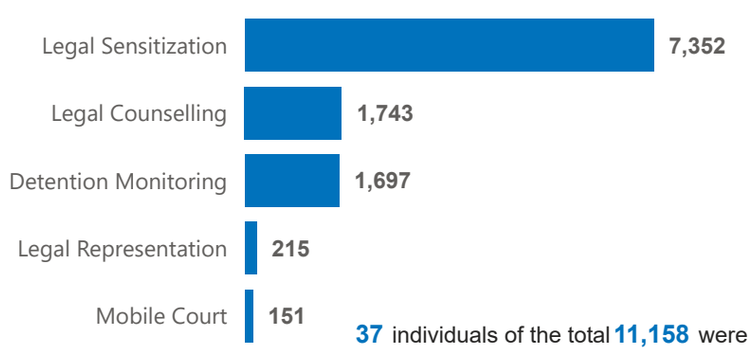
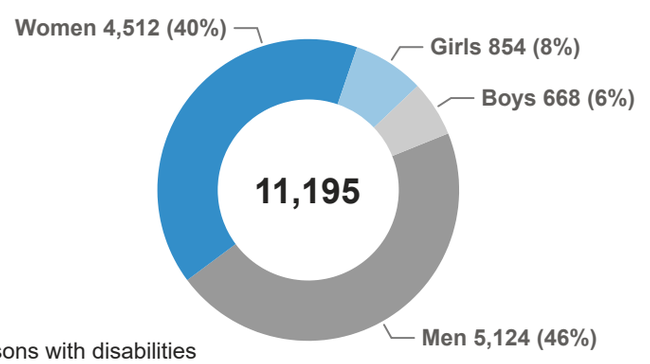
Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
% of refugees in Uganda who are individually registered with minimum dataset				
- Congolese Refugees	100%	100%	100%	
- South Sudanese Refugees	100%	100%	100%	
- Sudanese refugees	100%	100%	100%	
- Other refugees	100%	100%	100%	
Individuals Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization				
- Congolese Refugees	3,797	21,500	18%	82%
- South Sudanese Refugees	2,890	20,000	15%	85%
- Sudanese refugees	97	13,000	1%	99%
- Other refugees	904	27,000	3%	97%
- Host Community	3,470	350	100%	
Complaints Addressed Through Effective Feedback Mechanisms				
- Congolese Refugees	4,627	30,400	15%	85%
- South Sudanese Refugees	7,402	32,000	23%	77%
- Sudanese refugees	340	8,000	4%	96%
- Other refugees	721	8,000	9%	91%
- Host Community	163	1,600	10%	90%

Individuals Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization by service Type

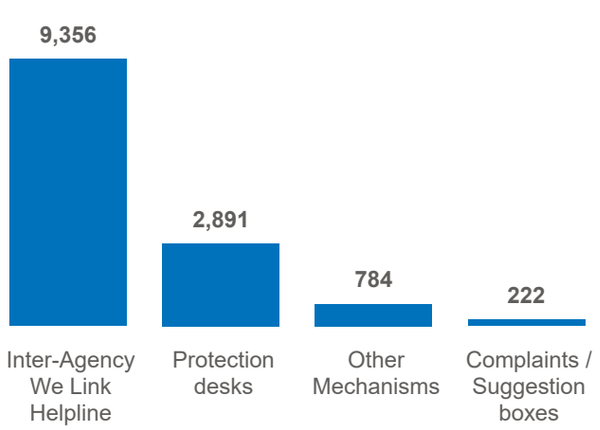


37 individuals of the total **11,158** were persons with disabilities

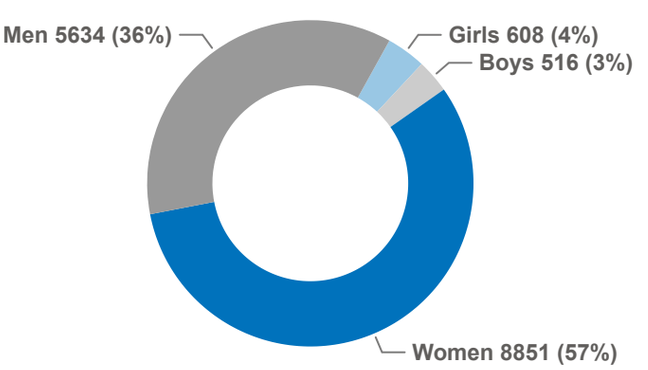
Individuals Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization by Age & Gender



Complaints Addressed Through Effective Feedback Mechanisms by Mechanism Type



Complaints Addressed Through Effective Feedback Mechanisms by Age & Gender



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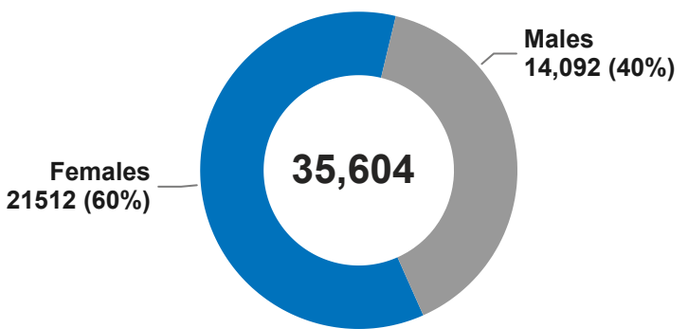
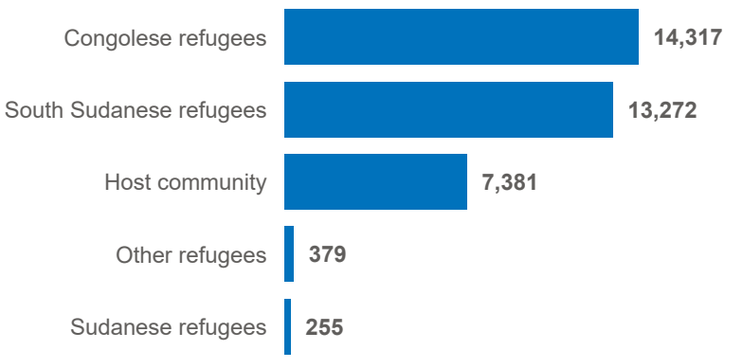
Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Number of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons (FDSPs) supported for complementary pathways				
- Congolese Refugees	29	1,920	98%	
- South Sudanese Refugees	12	3,000	99.6%	
- Sudanese refugees	26	288	9%	91%
- Other refugees	540	792	68%	32%

Individuals Reached with Mental Health & Psychosocial (MHPSS) Support Services

Gender Breakdown



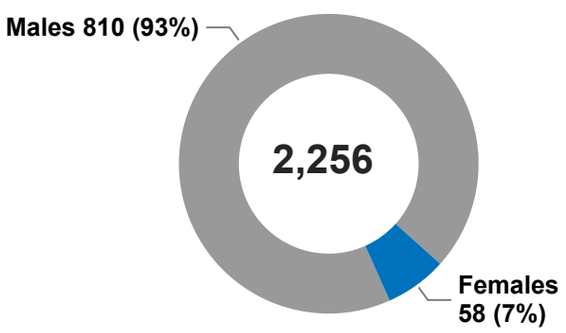
Individuals Received MHPSS Services by Beneficiary Type



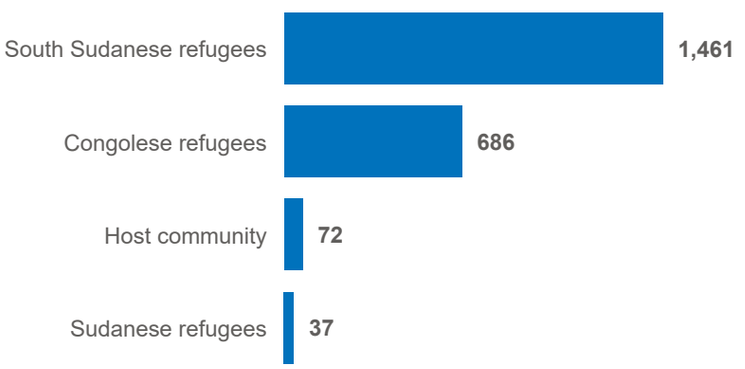
160 individuals of the total **35,604** were persons with disabilities

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) Provided with Support

Gender Breakdown



PSNs Provided with Support by by Beneficiary Type



Funding

30
Partners reported funding

143.2M
Total funding required (including for CP & GBV)

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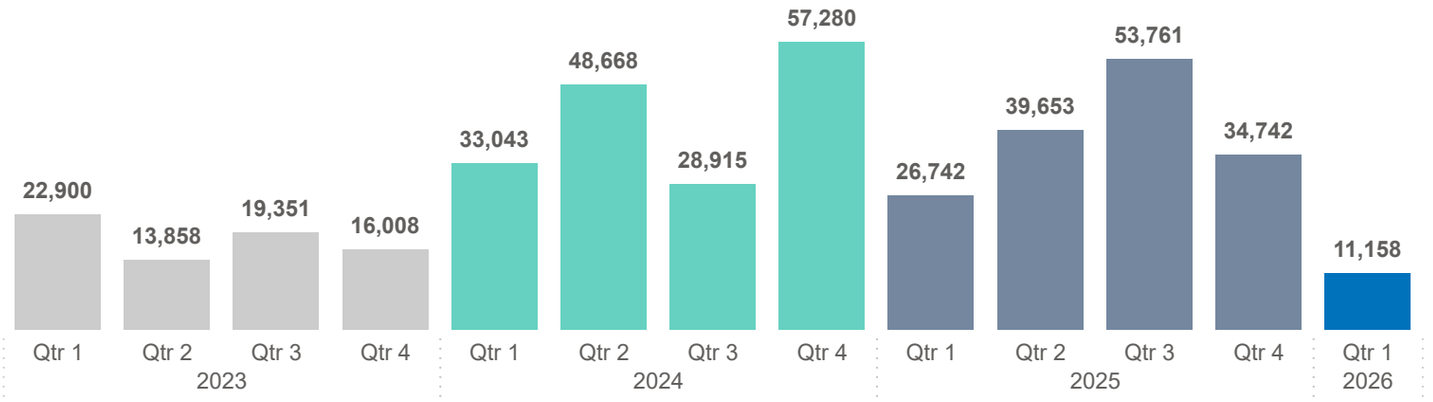
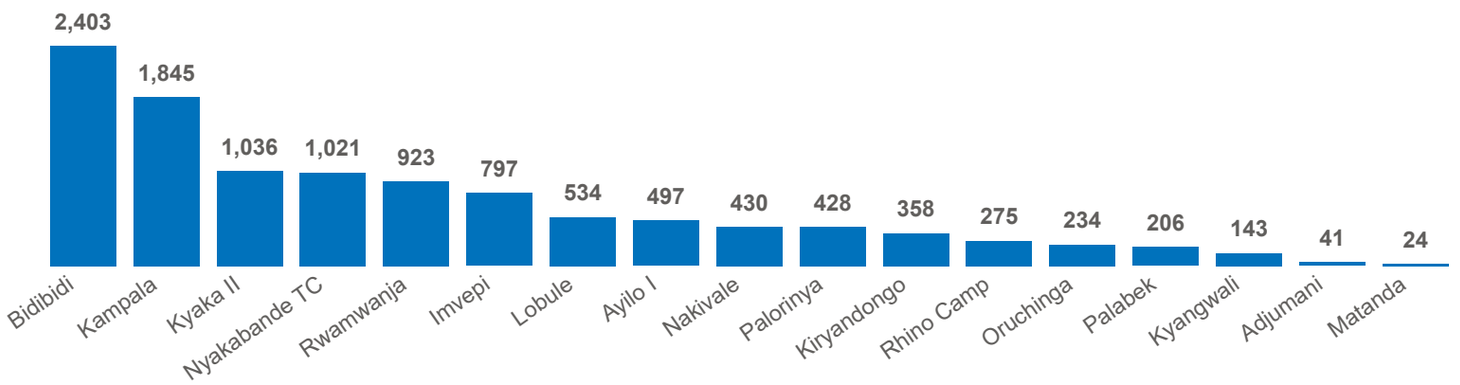
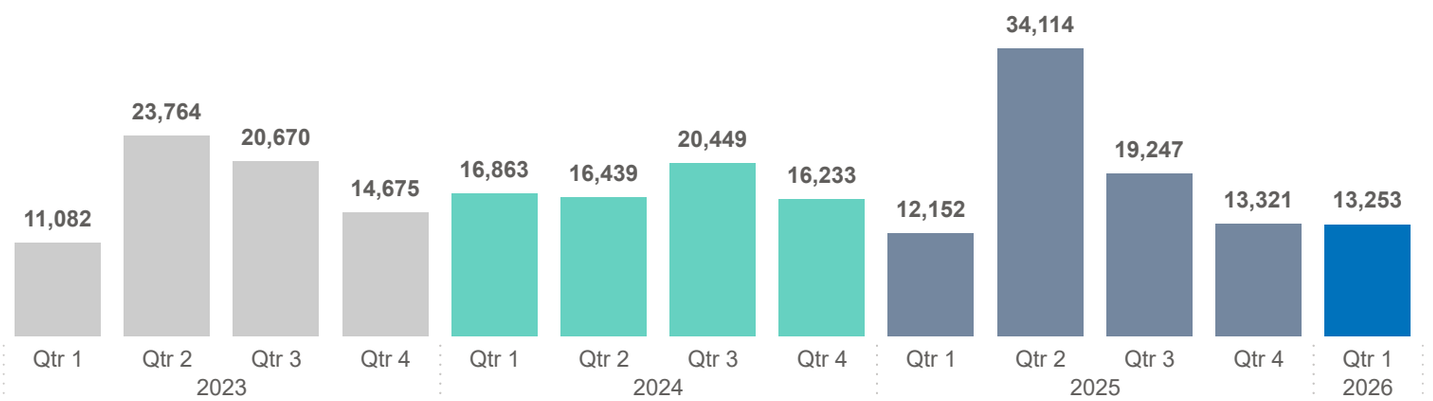
Individuals Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization (2023 - Q1 2026)



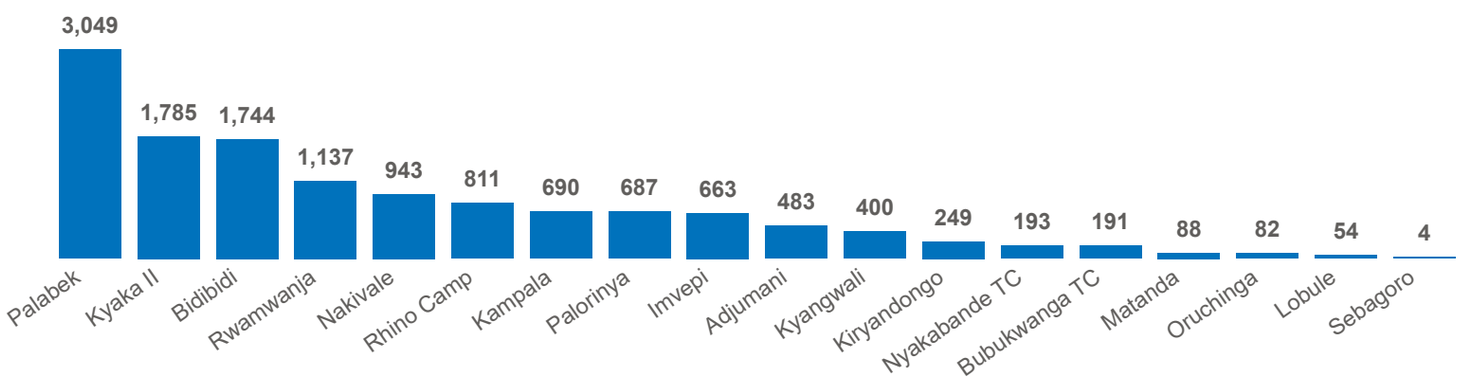
Individuals Received Legal Assistance and Sensitization (Q1 2026)



Complaints Addressed Through Effective Feedback Mechanisms (2023 - Q1 2026)



Complaints Addressed Through Effective Feedback Mechanisms (Q1 2026)



Partners Operational Presence

HADS, ULS, UNHCR

Alight, BfA, DRC, HHA, TPO, ULS, UNHCR

ChildVoice, DRC, HI, TPO, ULS, UNHCR

Alight, DRC, HI, KRC, TPO, ULS

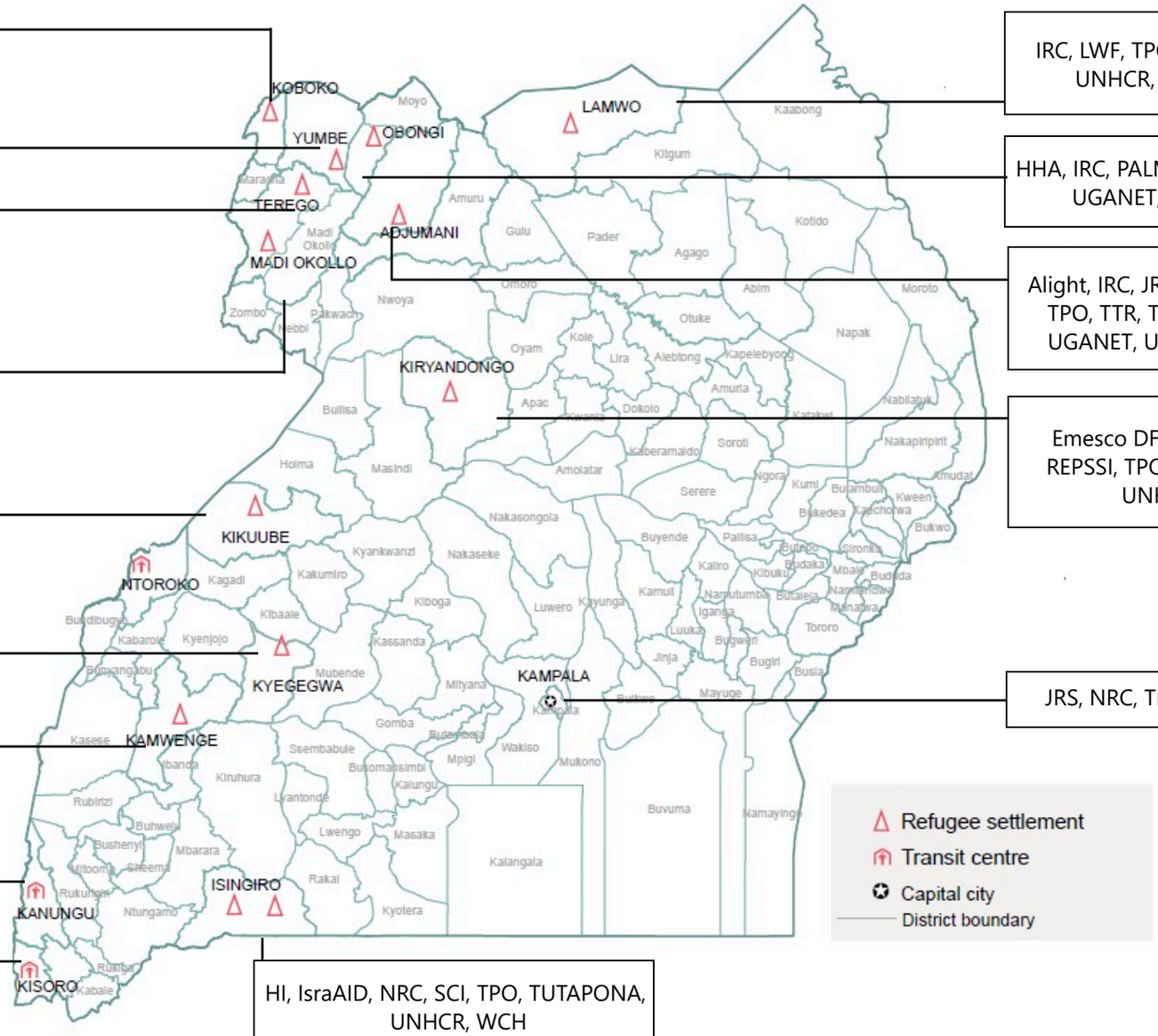
AVSI, HI, LWF, NRC, TPO, UNHCR, WCH

Caritas, HI, NRC, TPO, UNHCR, WCH

AVSI, EveryShelter, NRC, TPO, UNHCR

NRC, UNHCR

IsraAID, NRC, UNHCR



HI, IsraAID, NRC, SCI, TPO, TUTAPONA, UNHCR, WCH

IRC, LWF, TPO, UGANET, UNHCR, URDMC

HHA, IRC, PALM Corps, TPO, UGANET, UNHCR

Alight, IRC, JRS, LWF, Plan, TPO, TTR, TUTAPONA, UGANET, UNHCR, WVI

Emesco DF, IRC, LWF, REPSSI, TPO, UGANET, UNHCR

JRS, NRC, TPO, UNHCR

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Donor
Australian Aid/ Australia NGO Corporation (ANCP)
Belgium
Bread for the World
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
European Union
Farmamundi
FCDO
Federal Foreign Office (FFO)
France
Internal Funds
Irene Staehelin Foundation
Missio Munich
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Olympic Refuge Foundation
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Private Donors Germany (UNO)
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UNHCR
United States of America - BPRM
UNWOMEN
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