



Overview of the sector and narrative

The Sector Overview:

In the first quarter of 2026, the WASH sector continued its transition from emergency service delivery toward resilience, sustainability, and integration into national systems, in line with the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan II (2026–2030). Building on momentum from Q4 2025, the sector advanced utility-led management approaches while strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly through renewable energy expansion. The reporting period also reflects a significantly larger service population, now reaching more than 1.8 million people, which places additional pressure on already stretched systems but also underscores the importance of sustainable, scalable service models.

The Result Analysis:

Water provision declined in Q1 2026 compared to the stabilization observed in Q4 2025. Average supply dropped to 15 liters per person per day (l/p/d) from 17l/p/d in quarter four, further below the 20 l/p/d standard. This is mainly due to the lack of funding for operation and maintenance of water systems in 9 of 12 settlements. While some settlements such as Imvepi (21 l/p/d) exceeded the standard, others such as Nakivale (7 l/p/d) remain at critical levels. This indicates persistent inequities in infrastructure capacity. The sector sustained strong progress on sustainability, with 83% of water supply powered by renewable energy, primarily solar (36%) and hand pumps (45.8%). Water trucking remained minimal at 0.9%, down from 1.5% during Q4 of 2025, showing improved supply reliability. Sanitation coverage improved slightly to 68% from 67%, but remains significantly below the 85% target. Variations across settlements persist, with Palorinya (77%) and Imvepi (75%) performing relatively well, while Rhino remains critically low at 47%. The hygiene promoter ratio declined to 1:990, significantly below the recommended 1:500 standard due to funding cuts in the WASH and health sector.

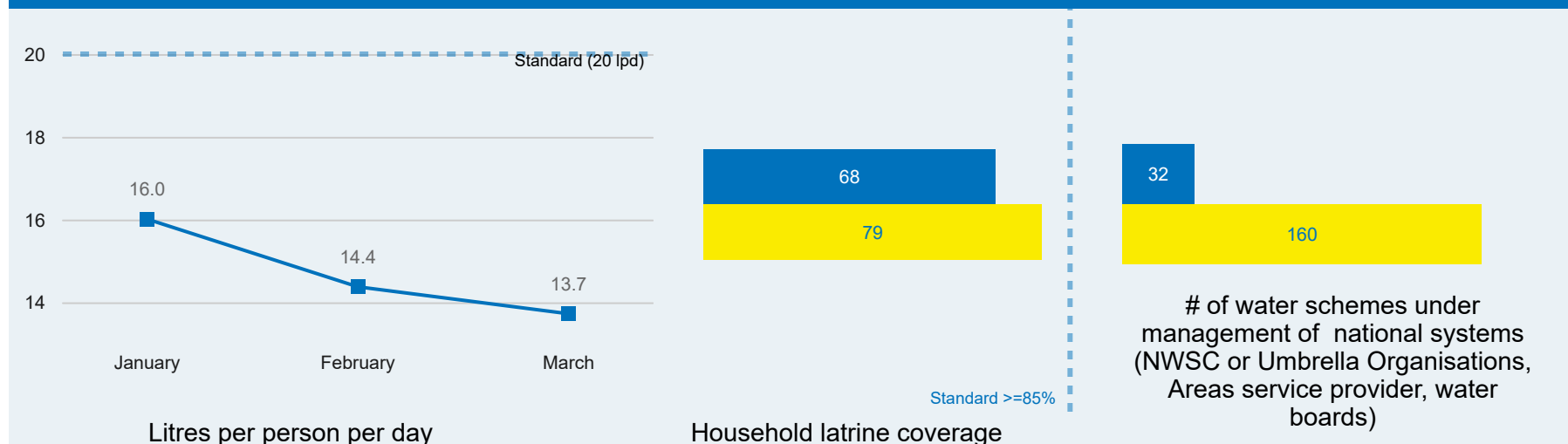
The Key Challenges/Opportunities:

- Key challenges include declining per capita water supply, infrastructure strain, sanitation gaps, and reduced hygiene workforce capacity, financial constraints continue to affect both capital investments and operations
- Opportunities include sustained high renewable energy usage, minimal reliance on water trucking, and continued progress toward utility-led management systems.

The Sector Priorities:

After the operation hitting record low in funding during the first quarter, the immediate priority is to re-instate all broken WASH systems (Broken water infrastructure and sanitation and hygiene systems) and emergency response to new arrivals. Continuation of the Bidibidi Zone 1 handover to Northern Umbrella, which will set the tone for future Northern and West Nile region transitions. Concurrently, the sector must address the "sanitation surge" required in settlements like Rhino and Palabek to prevent public health crises. This includes a commitment to continued household latrine construction, even in a limited funding environment, by leveraging the strengths of WASH operational partners. Additionally, the sector is focused on finalizing and signing comprehensive transition Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Ministry of Water and Environment, the OPM, and National Water and Sewerage Corporation. To support these efforts, a joint mission to Kiryandongo is required. For overall advocacy on transition the production of a water transition documentary is required. This media tool will be essential for resource mobilization, illustrating the successes of the Uganda model and advocating for the funding necessary to fully implement the goals of WESRRP II and ensure no refugee settlement is left behind in the pursuit of 20 l/p/d.

Key Indicators





WASH Dashboard

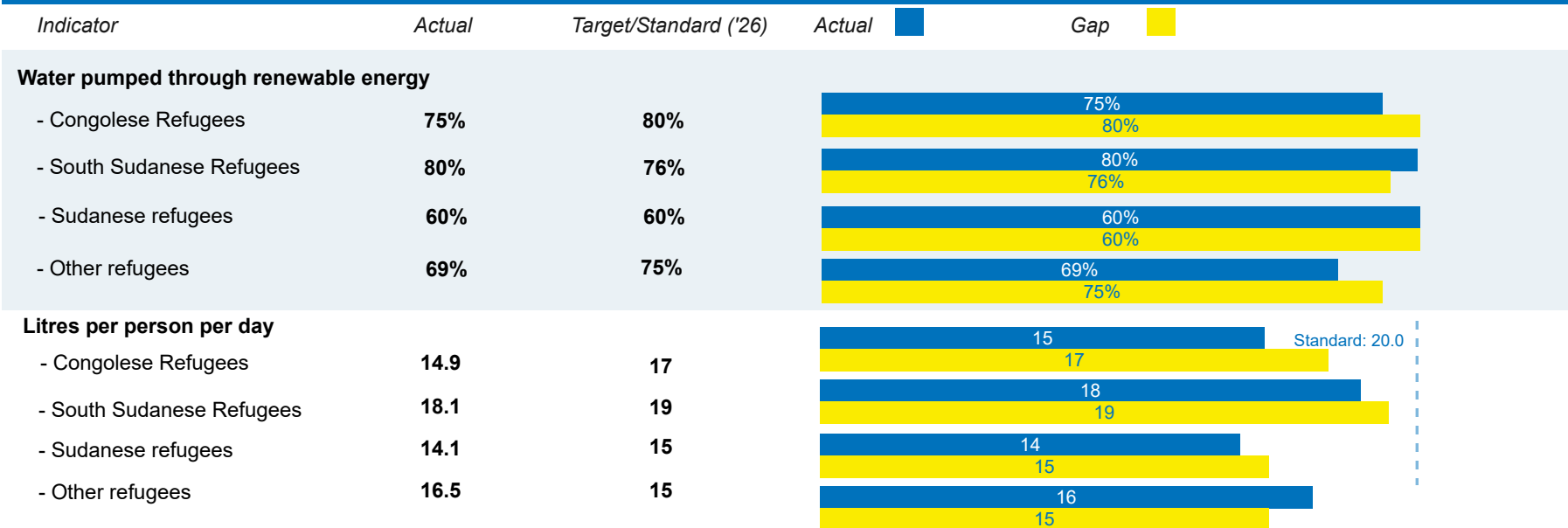
Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2026 - 2030

Quarter 1
January - March

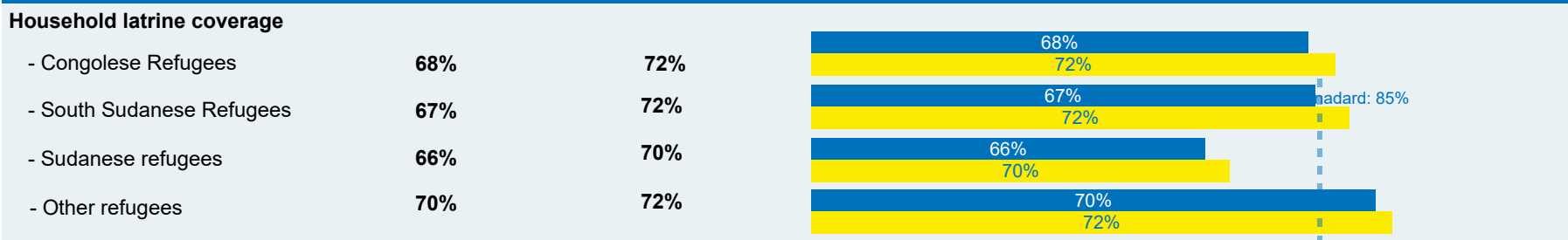
Quarter

Q1 2026

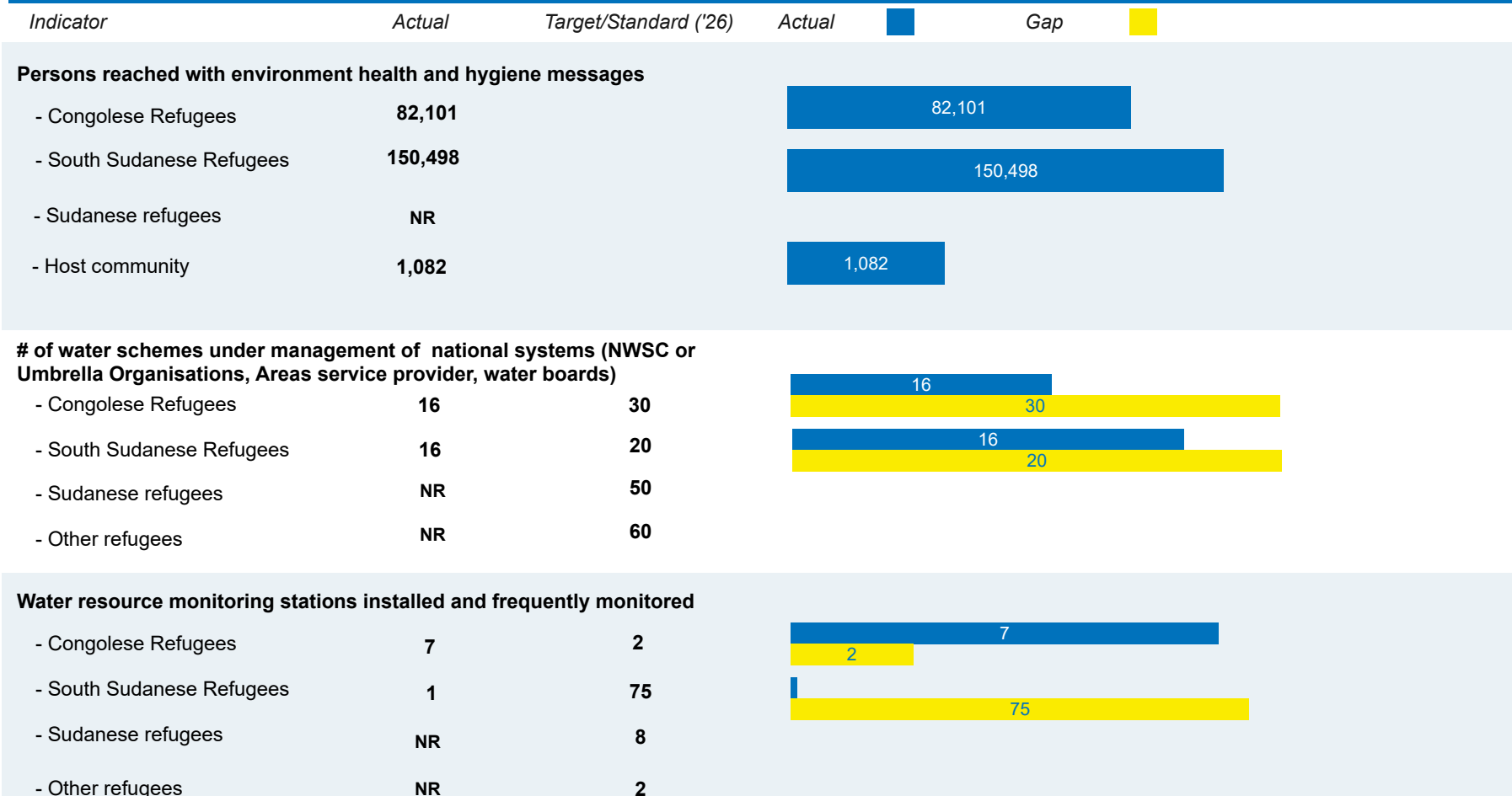
Outcome: Improved equitable and sustainable access to water supply for refugees and hosting population



Outcome: Improved equitable and sustainable access to sanitation and hygiene services for refugees and hosting population



Outcome: Improved equitable and sustainable access to water supply for refugees and hosting population



NR - Indicate that no reports were received under the indicator for the situation.

Achievements data: ActivityInfo (reported by sector lead)
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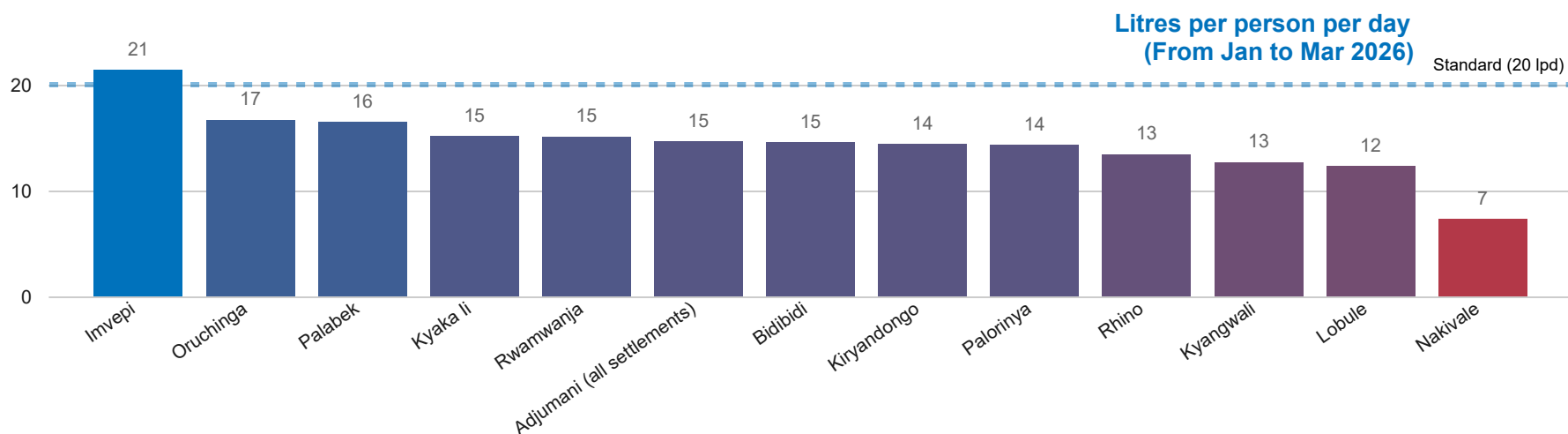
Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2026 - 2030

Quarter 1
January - March

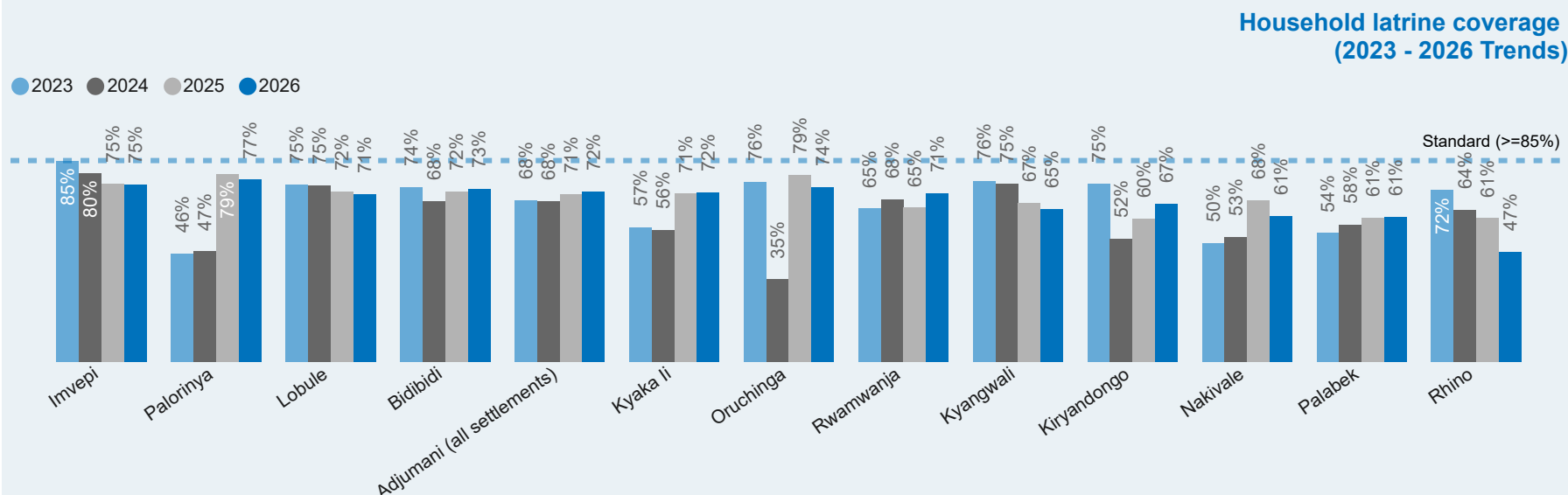
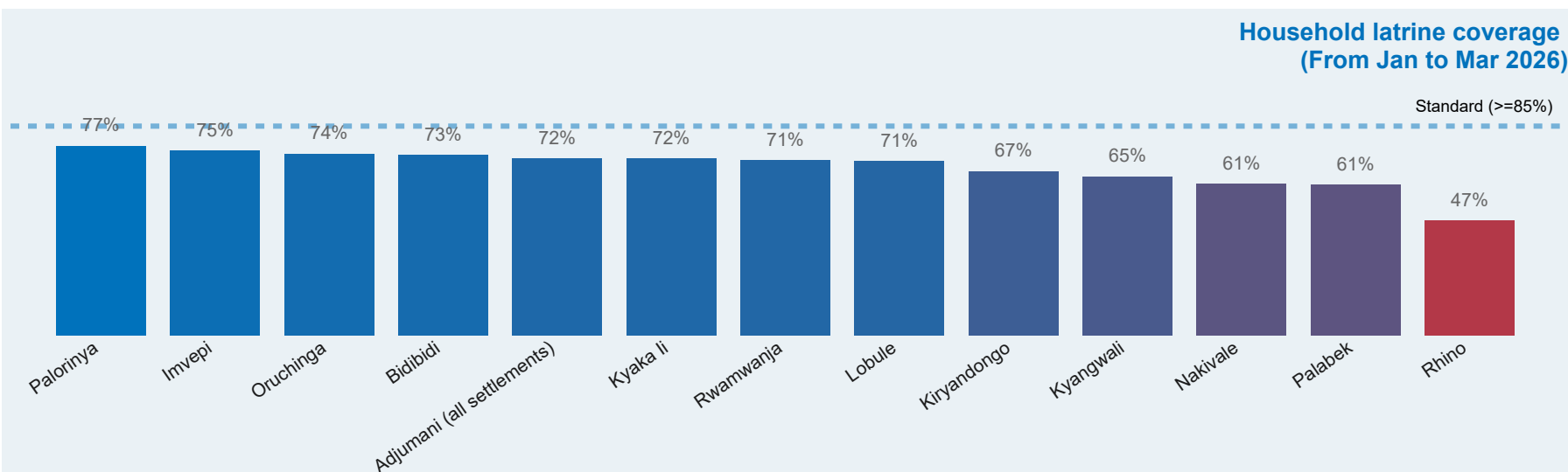
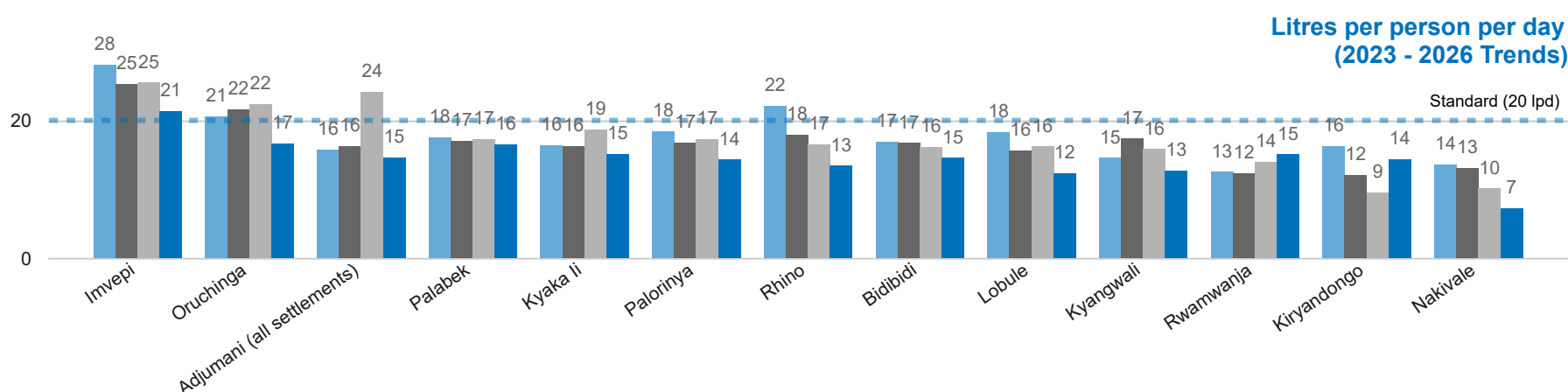
Quarter

Q1 2026

Key Indicators | Settlement Comparison



2023 2024 2025 2026



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WASH Dashboard

Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2026 - 2030

Quarter 1
January - March

Quarter

Q1 2026

Funding



\$46M

Total Requirement

Received 2.0%

\$45.1M

Gap 98.0%

Partner Reporting

Partners

ACF
Adjumani DLG
AIRD
Arua DLG
AVSI
CEFORD
ForAfrika

GIZ
HEKSPER
Isingiro DLG
Kamwenge DLG
Kikuube DLG
Kiryandongo DLG
Koboko DLG

Kyegegwa DLG
LMI
LWF
Madi-Okollo DLG
Malteser
MoWE
Northern-Umbrella

Nsamizi
NWSC
Obongi DLG
OPM
Oxfam
Terego DLG
UNHCR

UNICEF
URCS
WHH
WIPE
WMU
YUGNET
Yumbe DLG



44

Partners

18

INGOs

3

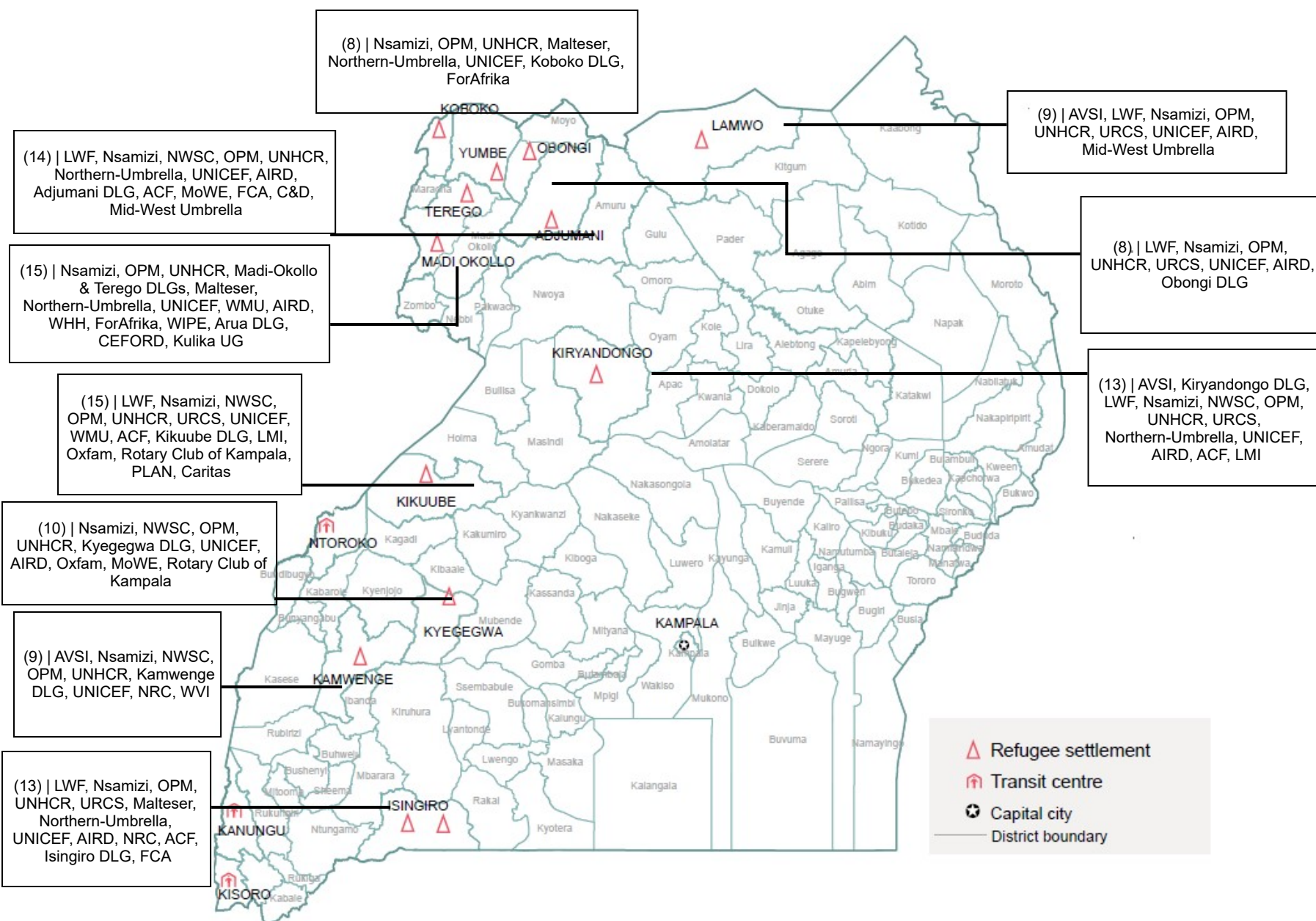
NGOs

2

UN Agencies

21

NGOs



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