Protection Dashboard

Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2024-2025

Quarter 1

January - March 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 UNHCR and 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 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.

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 (FRRM) as part of Protection leaving out CP and GBV which have been analysed in separate dashboards.

The Result Analysis:

Refugee Status Determination (RSD): By the end of the first quarter, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) had held 03 sessions and adjudicated **657** applications of **1,665** individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, and Eritrea. The recognition rate was **86%**. During the first quarter, the government halted admission of Eritreans, this has resulted in an increase in the number of arrest and detention of asylum seekers for lack of documentation. UNHCR cand partners ontinue to advocate for resumption in admission of Eritreans and Somalis.

Access to Justice: In Q1, **27,119** individuals (**13,545** women, **13,574** men) received legal assistance, representing **18%** of the annual target. Support included legal education, representation, mobile courts, and detention monitoring. The Uganda Police Force's (UPF) released its 2024 crime report, noting a **4.1% drop in crime**. The government began implementing a sub-county policing model to decentralize services.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP): By the end of Q1, **10,875** complaints were addressed (**16%** of the annual target), with **7,747** handled via the FRRM helpline and **3,128** by partners. Most complaints came from South Sudanese (5,979), Congolese (3,391), Sudanese (337), other refugees (938), and host communities (230), mainly concerning protection, resettlement, and food assistance. U-Learn held the 5th Accountability to Affected Populations in Action (AAPA) graduation, involving 11 organizations, bringing the total trained since 2022 to 31.

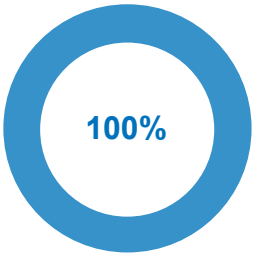
Community-Based Protection (CBP): Two Ugandan-based members of the Global Network of Refugees with Disabilities participated in the Global Disability Summit, highlighting refugee-led advocacy. In Bidibidi, 7 UNHCR-funded Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) joined a reflection meeting, while 5 RLOs in Adjumani and Moyo received technical support to strengthen 2025 programming.

Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): By end of quarter 1, a total of **6,251** PSNs (4,156F/1,838M) received support, representing **5%** of the annual target. Additionally, **64,346** refugees and host community members accessed Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), achieving **16%** of the 2025 target. Congolese refugees made up the largest group served (**24,193**), reaching **13%** of their annual target. In Southwest Uganda, TPO-led MHPSS sessions focused on suicide prevention and self-care for both service providers and affected populations, responding to increased distress linked to recent global developments. These efforts aim to uphold the "do no harm" principle and foster a supportive environment.

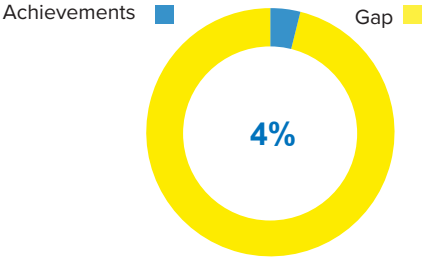
Key challenges and priorities:

- The protection sectors in Uganda, including Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), are critically underfunded, receiving only **5%** (USD 11 million) of the USD 223 million required, exacerbated by recent funding cuts this year. These shortfalls have severely impacted refugee support systems, delaying the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process due to limited administrative resources and reducing access to legal aid through staff reductions, particularly among paralegals. Mental health services have also been disrupted, with the suspension of clinical psychologists and social workers, alongside reduced food rations and livelihood support, worsening psychological well-being. increasing suicide attempts and untreated severe mental health conditions due to limited referral capacity.
- Refugee and host community children with disabilities face major barriers to education, with only 1,109 (2%) enrolled in secondary schools out of an estimated 45,747. This low transition from primary (16,788 enrolled) highlights significant challenges in continuing education beyond the primary level.

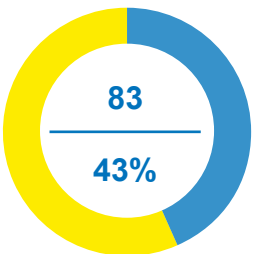
Key indicators



% 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

Received 5% Gap 95%

Achievements data: ActivityInfo + proGres v4
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: May 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 adjudicated in line with the RSD procedures and standards				
- Congolese refugees	10%	95%	10%	90%
- Other refugees	3%	95%	3%	97%

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	3,463	32,000	11%	89%
- South Sudanese refugees	6,055	15,000	40%	60%
- Sudanese refugees	338	15,000	3%	97%
- Other refugees	963	19,000	5%	95%
- Host community	233	1,800	13%	87%

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	1,359	40,000	4%	96%
- South Sudanese refugees	4,460	80,000	6%	94%
- Sudanese refugees	259	3,000	9%	91%
- Other refugees	259	3,000	2%	98%
- Host community	118	300	39%	61%
Interventions to address barriers				
- Congolese refugees	3	50	6%	94%
- South Sudanese refugees	1,041	75	>100%	
- Sudanese refugees	0	10	0%	100%
- Other refugees	0	10	0%	100%
- Host community	0	10	0%	100%

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

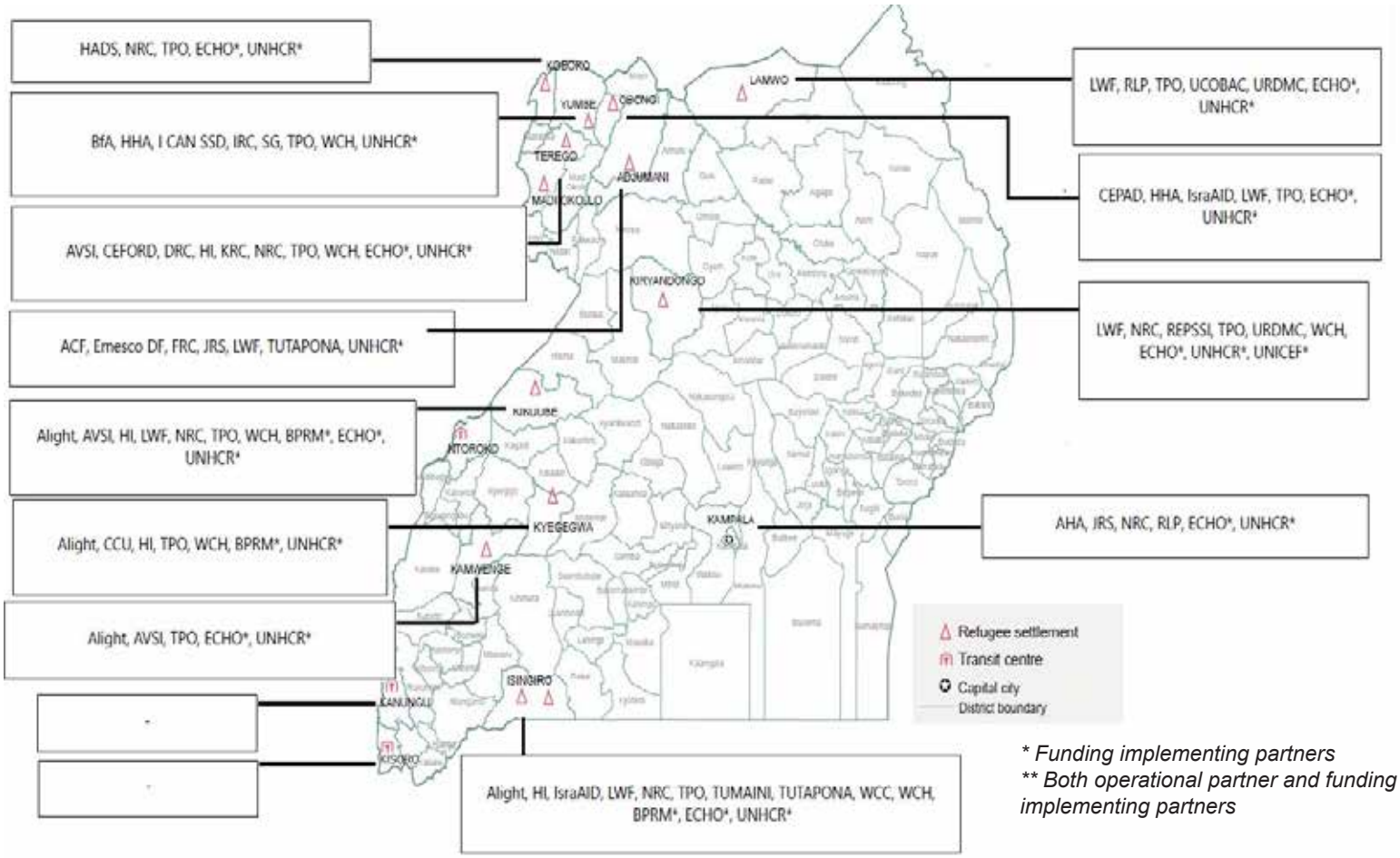
Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Individuals receiving mental health & psychosocial support				
- Congolese refugees	24,193	96,552	25%	75%
- South Sudanese refugees	22,978	180,831	13%	87%
- Sudanese refugees	5,244	30,000	50%	50%
- Other refugees	1,210	35,664	3%	97%
- Host community	7,245	79,689	9%	91%

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

Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Refugees receiving legal assistance and legal aid services				
- Congolese refugees	8,107	30,000	27%	83%
- South Sudanese refugees	11,508	70,000	16%	84%
- Sudanese refugees	2,232	20,000	11%	89%
- Other refugees	3,074	20,000	15%	85%

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)
- 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)



** 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