Protection Dashboard

Quarter 4

Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2024-2025

January - December 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 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 persons, 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.

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 **Q4**, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held two field sessions in Rwamwanja and Kyangwali in addition to an Accelerated RSD exercise conducted in Kampala. A total of **8,417 applications** involving **13,096 individuals** were adjudicated, resulting in an overall recognition rate of 94%.

In **2025**, the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held ten sessions and adjudicated **10,376 applications** for **18,099 individual**s - a **25% decrease** from 2024, **48%** from Eritrea, **24%** from DRC, **18%** from Ethiopia, and **10%** from other countries. The recognition rate declined slightly from 96% to **92%**. Average processing time rose from 389 to **400** days due to reduced sittings caused by funding shortages. Despite prima facie recognition for applicants from the DRC, South Sudan, and Sudan, a substantial backlog persisted, with **35,260** individuals still awaiting interviews or decisions by year's end.

Following sustained advocacy by partners, in December, **the Government lifted the temporary suspensions on the registration** of asylum-seekers from Eritrea, Somalia, and other "peaceful" countries (presumed to include Ethiopia, although not explicitly mentioned).

Access to Justice: As of **Q4**, **154,898 individuals** (55% women, 45% men) received legal assistance and sensitization, reaching **almost 100%** of the annual target (155,000). Of which **44,147** individuals received legal assistance, including legal counselling, legal representation, mobile courts, and detention monitoring.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP): The free inter-agency helpline received **290,777** calls and recorded **45,477** individual queries and **23,537** follow-up queries in 2025, facilitating communication between refugees, UNHCR, OPM, and partners. The helpline operates **07 days** a week, staffed by **29 personnel** (including supervisors) speaking **38 languages** by the end of the year.

Community-Based Protection (CBP): In 2025, **Three** Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) sessions and **Two** District Engagement Forum (DEF) sessions were held, reinforcing their role in ensuring refugee participation in national decision-making

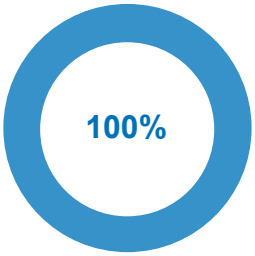
Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): By **Q4**, **33,677 PSNs** (62% females,38% males) received support, **27% of the annual target**, with a **65% reduction** compared to the same period last year, attributed mainly to funding reduction which affects partners' ability to deliver.

Additionally, From January to December 2025 a total of **179 suicide-related** protection incidents have been reported across refugee settlements in Uganda, reflecting a decrease from 279 incidents in 2024. In 2025, the **highest** number of incidents was recorded in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees, where we also see an increase in reported incidents in Palabek (26 incidents) compared to 19 incidents in 2024. Whereas a decrease in Palorinya (18 incidents) compared to 50 incidents in 2024 and in Bidibidi, the score remained the same Bidibidi (40 incidents) compared to 2024. Settlements hosting Congolese refugees also reported notable figures, including Kyaka II (18 incidents in 2025) compared to 23 incidents in 2024 and Rwamwanja registered 17 incidents compared to 46 incidents in 2024 in the same period. These trends underscore the **ongoing mental health challenges** faced by refugee communities. UNHCR and partners continue to strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, community-based interventions, and capacity building for frontline workers to prevent and respond to suicide-related incidents.

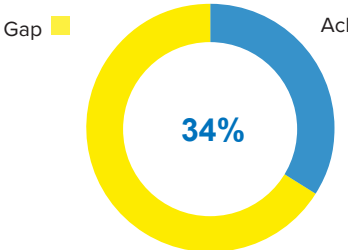
Key challenges and priorities:

- The protection sectors in Uganda, including Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), are critically underfunded, receiving only **40% (USD 89 million out of 223 million required)**. While there is a **25% increase in the needs** compared to 2024 ($178M vs $233M), the funding received this year is almost the same as last 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. Partners continues to advocate with the government for the resumption of admission for Eritreans and Somalis

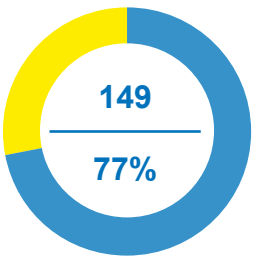
Key indicators



% 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

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: March 2026
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	19%	95%	19%	82%
- Other refugees	28%	95%	28%	72%

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	27,960	32,000	87%	13%
- South Sudanese refugees	37,997	15,000	>100%	
- Sudanese refugees	1,331	15,000	9%	91%
- Other refugees	10,197	19,000	54%	46%
- Host community	851	1,800	47%	53%

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	8,586	40,000	18%	82%
- South Sudanese refugees	24,111	80,000	31%	69%
- Sudanese refugees	382	3,000	13%	87%
- Other refugees	236	3,000	8%	92%
- Host community	362	300	>100%	
Interventions to Address Barriers				
- Congolese refugees	164	50	>100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	1,897	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

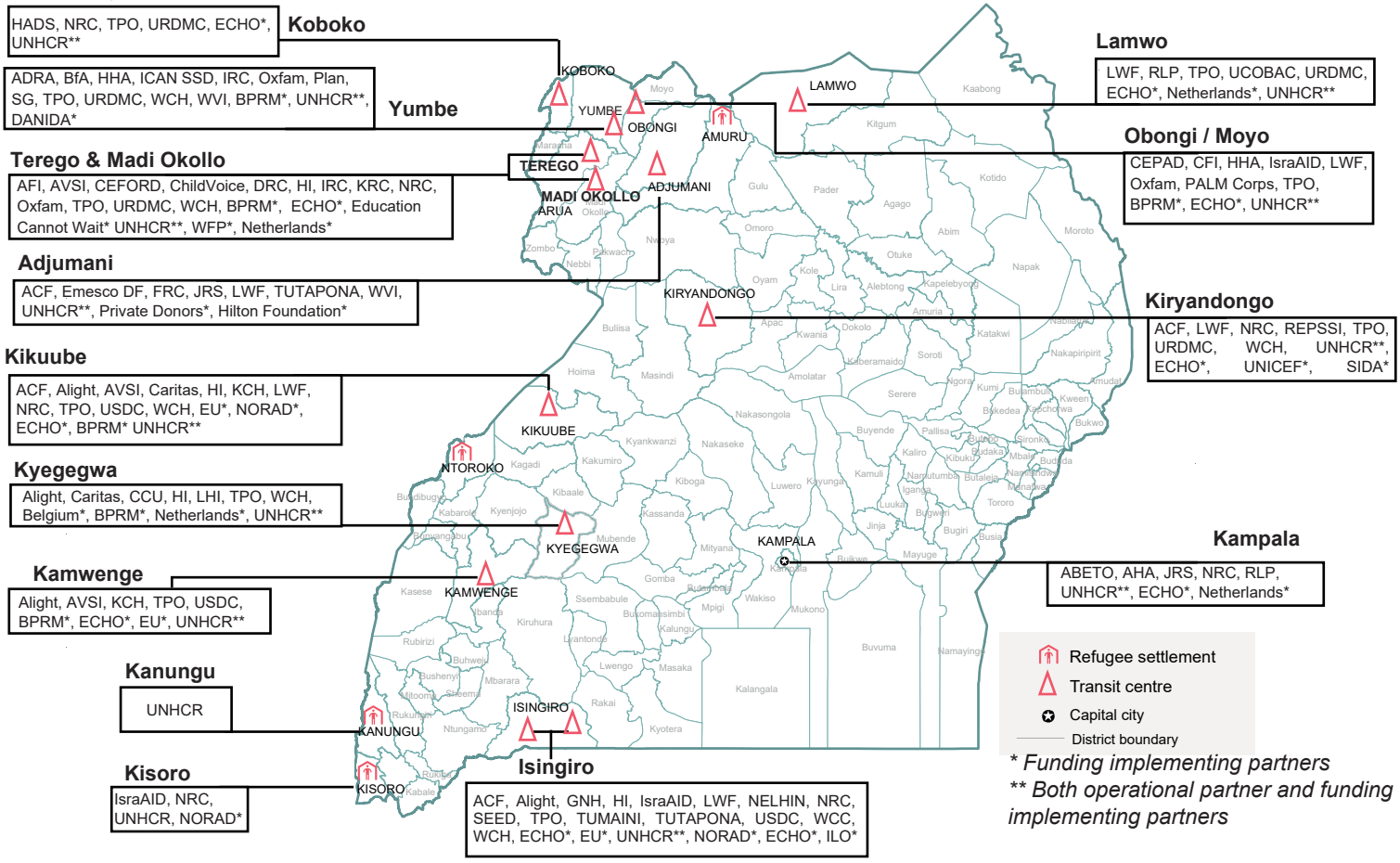
Indicator	Actual	Target	Actual	Gap
Individuals Receiving Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)				
- Congolese refugees	99,973	96,552	>100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	101,305	180,831	56%	44%
- Sudanese refugees	11,586	30,000	39%	61%
- Other refugees	6,758	35,664	19%	81%
- Host community	20,307	79,689	25%	75%

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	39,766	30,000	>100%	
- South Sudanese refugees	53,873	70,000	78%	22%
- Sudanese refugees	23,679	20,000	>100%	
- Other refugees	11,959	20,000	60%	40%
- Host community	25,621	20,000	>100%	

Operational Presence

- ALWAYS BE TOLERANT ORGANIZATION (ABETO)
- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- Andre Foods International (AFI)
- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
- Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee) (Alight)
- Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI)
- Brass for Africa (BfA)
- Caritas Uganda (Caritas)
- Community Consortium Uganda (CCU)
- Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD)
- Community Empowerment for Peace and Development (CEPAD)
- ChildFund International (CFI)
- Child Voice International (ChildVoice)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Emesco Development Foundation (Emesco DF)
- Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
- Grapes of New Hope (GNH)
- Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS)
- Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)
- Humanity&Inclusion (HI)
- I CAN South Sudan (I CAN SSD)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- IsraAID (IsraAID)
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- Katalemwa Cheshire Home (KCH)
- Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC)
- Let's Help International (LHI)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- New Life Horizon Initiative (NELHIN)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam)
- Promoters of Agriculture and Market Linkages (PALM Corps)
- Plan International (Plan)
- Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)
- Refugee Law Project (RLP)
- SEED (SEED)
- Similar Ground (SG)
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)
- TUMAINI (TUMAINI)
- TUTAPONA (TUTAPONA)
- Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDMC)
- Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)
- War Child Canada (WCC)
- War Child Holland (WCH)
- World Vision International (WVI)
- Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT)



** 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