

# UNHCR Uganda

## EDUCATION Fact Sheet | 2014 Southwest Uganda

### Education in Uganda

In southwest Uganda UNHCR supports government run schools within the settlements. Out of 19 primary and secondary schools within settlements across the southwest UNHCR fully funds 8. All schools follow the Ugandan government education model.

The system of education in Uganda has a structure of 7 years of primary education, 6 years of secondary education (divided into 4 years of lower secondary and 2 years of upper secondary school). The current system has existed since the early 1960s. There are 3 terms in the school year from February to May, May – August and September – December.

Universal Primary education is free to all Ugandan and refugee children in government schools since 1997. However, many pupils face serious challenges to finishing their education due to lack of scholastic materials, like books and pens, school uniform and no lunchtime meals are provided by schools. Classes begin with Primary 1 – 7 when children graduate to secondary school. At the end of primary seven, pupils sit the primary leaving examinations (PLE).

Secondary education has two stages; the first four years, senior one (S1) to senior four (S4), constitute the O-level period. At the end of S4, students sit the second major national exams known as the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) or simply O-level examinations. Students who pass their O-level exams may progress to A-levels or the Higher School Certificate (HSC). This lasts two years, S5 and S6, after which students sit for the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) examinations, also known simply as A-levels. All these three annual national exams are sat between October and December. Secondary education is provided at a cost with students in Uganda paying an average of 100,000 UGX (c.40 USD) per term to attend secondary school.

### Our Partners in Education

**Implementing partners:** Windle Trust Uganda (WTU), Action Africa Help-International (AAH-I) and Interaid Uganda (IAU).

**Government Partners:** Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Education-District local Government (MoES-DLGs), District Education Offices (DEOs)

**Operational partners:** Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Save the Children International (SCI), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Jesuit refugee Service (JRS), refugee Law Project (RLP), Pan African Development Education and Advocacy Programme (PADEAP), The Xavier Project

**UN sister agencies:** UNICEF, International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

### Refugee education in south west Uganda

There are 4 refugee settlements (Kyaka II, Rwamwanja, Oruchinga and Nakivale) in South West Uganda. Around 86% of the population in these settlements is under 18. Around 9% of teachers in south west settlements are unqualified refugee teaching assistants speaking a number of languages and assisting with issues of translation.

Enrolment in primary education in refugee settlements is around 80%, however, dropout rates remain high especially in higher classes and only between 5-10% graduating from primary school.

Refugees and Internally displaced people (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable people on earth.  
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High drop outs are a result of economic issues including children involved in casual labour at home and for girls the problem of early marriage and parents keeping them at home to look after the household. Enrolment drastically decreases at secondary level with less than 10% of refugees enrolled in secondary education.

## Education in Nakivale

Nakivale is the 8<sup>th</sup> biggest refugee settlement in the world. There are 31,226 children of school going age (45 % of the refugee population).

There are 9 primary schools and over 27 Early Childhood Development Centres in Nakivale. In addition to this there is 1 community secondary school and 1 vocational school.

Within the settlement a refugee committee was established to help track school dropouts and encourage school enrolment and retention. The CTA and VTC were set up to provide skills training for asylum seekers, refugees and Ugandan nationals within the locality.

It is the only settlement in Uganda with a Community Technology Access Centre (CTA) and a vocational Training Centre (VTC).

### Vocational Training

The Nakivale refugee settlement Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in south west Uganda was constructed equipped and supported in 2012 by UNHCR using EU funds. It has been acknowledged as the second best of its kind in Uganda based on facilities and equipment available. It currently offers 4 different 3 month long course in brick-laying, agronomy, tailoring and carpentry to both refugees living in Nakivale and Ugandan nationals living in the surrounding area. The VTC offers refugee a viable alternative to farming to gain skills in a range of areas to help support themselves and their families. In 2013 the VTC enrolled 160 youths (79 sat for DIT Examination in July 2013 and the last batch did examinations in December 2013 and the centre is in the process of gaining national accreditation which will allow it to offer longer courses of between 1-3 years with an internationally recognized qualification at the end. Thanks to the VTC people forced to flee their homes by violence, war and persecution are able to rebuild their lives again and gain important skills to return home one day and rebuild their local communities. Within less than 1 year there have already been a number of success stories including a group of boys who graduated and have gone on to started a carpentry workshop and girls who have started a tailoring workshop within the settlement.



## Education in Kyaka II

There are 5,506 pupils enrolled in schools in Kyaka II of which 1,725 are nationals. Out of the 88 teachers, UNHCR has hired and is paying the salaries of 38 teachers. There are 6 primary schools and over 26 Early Childhood Development Centres in Kyaka II along with 1 vocational and 1 secondary school. WTU also implements the German-funded DAFI scholarship programme which supports tertiary education. Children requiring special needs education are supported in 1 school outside the settlement.

## Education in Rwamwanja

In Rwamwanja 86% of the population are under 18 years old. There are 20 early childhood development centres and child friendly spaces which are run by Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) and Save the Children. There are 5 primary schools in the settlement, 3 of which are run by UNHCR/WTU: Rwamwanja primary, Mahani primary, Nteziriyayo primary and the newest- Kyempango primary. UNHCR, through WTU, has recruited 94 trained teachers across the settlement. 77 % (8,135 students) of the total number of children of school going age are currently enrolled in primary education in Rwamwanja. The teacher: pupil ratio stands at 1:81

**Highlights:** Child rights clubs have been set up in 5 schools in Rwamwanja (Mahani primary, Nteziyayo primary, Rwamwanja primary, Nkoma church of Uganda primary and Rwamwanja secondary) along with Parents, Teachers Associations (PTA) and School Management Committees (SMCs). The committees aim at improved learning.

## Education in Oruchinga

There are 3 primary schools supported by UNHCR and 1 secondary boarding school. 3,782 children were enrolled in primary schools in the settlement in 2013.

## Statistics

### Oruchinga Refugee Settlement Refugee Education Statistics

	SCHOOL AGE POPULATION		School Enrolment(Both nationals and refugees)		Gross enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees)			Net enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees right age cohort)			Pupil teacher Ratio	Pupil C/room Ratio	Pupil Stance Ratio
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total			
ECD	450	398	236	303	20%	23%	21%	15%	21%	18%	49:1	539:--	135:1
PRIMARY	758	797	1901	1881	107%	94%	101%	88%	80%	82%	59:1	171:1	82:1
SECONDARY	265	247	112	92	11%	10%	10%	5%	6%	5%	14:1	34:1	40:1
Totals	1473	1442	2249	2276									

### Nakivale Refugee Settlement Refugee Education Statistics

	SCHOOL AGE POPULATION		School Enrolment(Both nationals and refugees)		Gross enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees)			Net enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees right age cohort)			Pupil teacher Ratio	Pupil C/room Ratio	Pupil Stance Ratio
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total			
ECD	4523	4377	1148	1180	13%	14%	14%	7%	9%	9%	34:1	179:1	53:1
PRIMARY	9255	9186	7161	7268	58%	58%	58%	50%	50%	50%	53:1	237:1	120:1
SECONDARY	3369	3381	217	145	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	30:1	91:1	36:1
Totals	17147	16944	8526	8593									

### Kyaka II Refugee Settlement Refugee Education Statistics

	SCHOOL AGE POPULATION		School Enrolment(Both nationals and refugees)		Gross enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees)			Net enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees right age cohort)			Pupil teacher Ratio	Pupil C/room Ratio	Pupil Stance Ratio
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total			
ECD	1279	1275	555	692	40%	54%	47%	53%	48%	42%	40:1	1247:---	69:1
PRIMARY	2603	2640	3369	2885	82%	67%	75%	69%	59%	64%	69:1	108:1	41:1
SECONDARY	948	892	188	147	13%	9%	11%	10%	7%	8%	17:1	84:1	21:1
Totals	4830	4807	4112	3724									

### Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement Summary Refugee Education Statistics

	SCHOOL AGE POPULATION		School Enrolment(Both nationals and refugees)		Gross enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees)			Net enrolment Rate (%) (Refugees right age cohort)			Pupil teacher Ratio	Pupil C/room Ratio	Pupil Stance Ratio
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total			
ECD	3476	3513	3931	3758	113%	107%	110%	90%	83%	87%	126:1	7689:--	85:1
PRIMARY	5403	5158	4345	3790	68%	63%	66%	61%	58%	60%	97:1	145:1	93:1
SECONDARY	1833	1401	300	224	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	85:1	506:1	63:1
Totals	10712	10072	8576	7772									

## Computer Technology Access

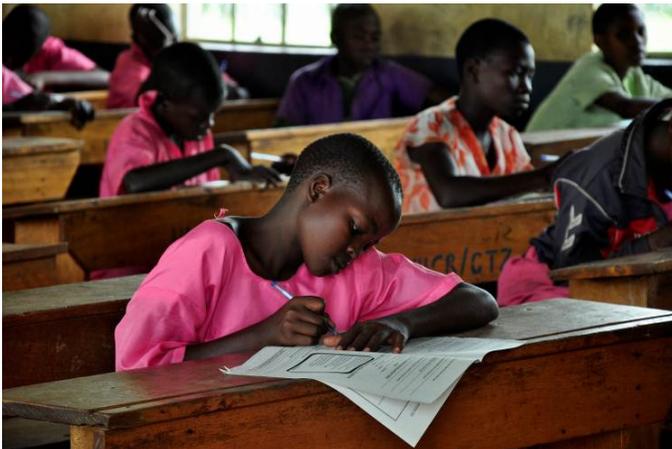
The Computer Technology Access (CTA) centre in Nakivale was established in 2010. The CTA offers the refugees an opportunity to learn a basic computer course at a small fee and also offers them internet café and photocopying services. It was established through the funding and direct implementation of Australia for UNHCR. It is one of the only examples of a CTA in a refugee settlement context and is an example of best practice within UNHCR as a result of its community-based approach (the CTA is run by an all refugee volunteer management committee) and environmentally friendly set up with solar energy powering the entire centre. Income generated at the CTA is used to pay the staff and cover the running costs of the centre including providing printing paper, cartridges and toner for printing services. The centre currently offers basic computing courses but plans to expand within the next couple of years and offer more detailed computer courses in French as well as English and offer E-learning course and other skills training opportunities. To date 831 students have graduated from the CTA.



*A Somali refugee boy uses one of 45 computers at the Nakivale CTA. ©UNHCR/R.Nuri*

## Key Achievements

- Increased access to reading materials; Solar lanterns, provision of textbooks and introduction of the Newspaper in Education (“NiE”) Programme
- 88% of refugee candidates in 2013 passed their Primary Leaving Examination compared to 85.9% in 2012, which represents a 3% improvement in performance.
- We have engaged more teachers and constructed education infrastructures across all settlements.
- Provision of 204 secondary scholarships (51% of which were given to girls), 100 skills training scholarships and 60 new tertiary scholarships - making a total of 123 refugees in tertiary education on scholarships.
- Establishment of the Nakivale VTC and CTA.
- Set up education committees including Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), School Management Committees (SMCs) and Child protection /Education Committees.



*Children in Juru Primary School, Nakivale refugee settlement sit their end of term exams. ©UNHCR/L.Beck*

### Did you know?

**86% of the refugee population in South West Uganda is under 18 years old**



## Key challenges

- **Access:** long distances to walk to school for children due to the lack of enough schools and the large sizes of the settlements (such as Nakivale which is 185km<sup>2</sup>).
- Low enrolment rate and poor retention and completion rates, especially among girls.
- Access to post primary education is hindered by high cost of secondary education.
- Lack of informal education systems important for the protection of out of school youth.
- **Inadequate Education Infrastructure:** Especially classrooms, libraries and supporting sanitation facilities.
- **Teaching and Learning Environment:** Overcrowded class rooms and high teacher-student ratios especially in lower classes.
- A lack of teacher housing which in turn leads to increased absenteeism of teachers and inability to engage more female teachers.
- **Generalised poverty:** Makes it difficult for parents to provide scholastic materials and school uniforms for their children as well as midday meals.
- **Social and cultural environment:** Persistent negative cultural attitudes that hinder education and abuse of female children/poor school community relationship/Education not prioritized/child labour used to support food protection

## UNHCR's goals for the next 2 years...

- Ensure a **5% per annum increase** in primary school **enrolment** of refugee girls and boys (aged 6-13yrs) with a focus of girl's education.
- Ensure that **at least 75%** of girls and boys sitting for Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) obtain **Grades I-III** of which at **70% transition to secondary** schools
- Ensure that all primary and secondary schools within settlements meet **safe learning environment standards**.
- Double the number of refugees accessing tertiary education from **the current 147 to 294**.
- Ensure **50%** of girls and boys aged 3-5 years **access quality Early Childhood Development** and **40%** of 18-30 year olds access **skills training programmes**.
- Increase annual **enrolment in adult literacy** programs, especially for young women
- Establish 2 New schools (Rwamwanja- Wijagahe & Kikuura)
- Establish 7 new learning sites as part of providing Education in Emergency (EiE) in Kyangwali settlement (western Uganda).
- Rehabilitate the existing education infrastructure especially in emergency impacted locations (Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali & Oruchinga)
- Expand the CTA pilot to other settlements
- Build the capacity of ECD caregivers, education administrators and teachers.
- Establish a new secondary school and Vocational secondary school in Kyangwali



*In Nakivale refugee children practice their reading and English language skills in a monthly book club. Here they read about current issues in the Ugandan national papers. ©UNHCR/L.Beck*