Uganda
1 – 29 February, 2020

During the month of February 2020, 7,477 new refugee arrivals from Democratic Republic of Congo (3,776), South Sudan (3,076) and Burundi (625) sought safety in Uganda, bringing the number of new arrivals since 1 January 2020 to 13,649. The humanitarian situation remains unpredictable in South Sudan and the DRC.

7,477
Number of new arrivals during February 2020, based on border monitoring.

258
Daily average of new arrivals during February 2020, based on border monitoring.

1,411,098
Total refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda as of 29 February 2020.

Refugees from the DRC cited attacks by militia groups, abductions by rebels and family reunification as reasons for fleeing. Those from South Sudan reported insecurity, food insecurity and lack of access to basic services such as education and health as the main causes of flight.

Burundians indicate several reasons for leaving their country including, torture and unlawful arrest by militia groups.

UNHCR’S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2020:
USD 331.2M

UNHCR Funding (as of 29 February 2020)

Unfunded 91% - 301.5 M
Funded 9% - 29.7 M

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers by Nationality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>873,741</td>
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<td>DR Congo</td>
<td>409,882</td>
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<td>48,119</td>
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<td>79,356</td>
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UNHCR promotes agroforesty practices across all settlements in Uganda, as portrayed by the one in in Rwamanja refugee settlement.

Photo © Sweden for UNHCR/Alima Wass Widinghoff
Operational Context
The humanitarian situation in South Sudan and the DRC remained unpredictable during the reporting period. Most of the new Congolese refugees arrived from Ituri province across Lake Albert and were transferred to Kyangwali settlement. Those arriving at the transit centres and collection points through Nyakabande and Matanda came from Rutshuru, Goma, Uvira, Masisi, Biriza, Bukoma, and Buanza; those passing through Ntoroko mainly came from Ituri and North Kivu, Tchoma, Kasenyi, Boga, Beni, and Nyamamba. All were settled in Kyaka II and Nakivale. Asylum-seekers from South Sudan continued to arrive through Lamwo district (Ngomoromo, Awenolwi, Madi Opei, Waligo Entry points), Adjumani (Elegu Collection Point) and Koboko district (Kuluba Collection Point, Oraba, Busia border point and Ocea TC).

Operational Highlights

**Coronavirus Disease:** An outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was declared by the People’s Republic of China on 31 December 2019. This outbreak has now spread to all continents and 109 countries are currently affected as of 11 March 2020. The disease has spread to different African countries and the possibility of spreading to other African countries, Uganda inclusive is extremely high. On 11 March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. Although Uganda has no case of COVID-19, the population including refugees, remains on high alert and diligently exercises preventive measures to avoid contracting the disease.

Uganda has developed the National COVID-19 Response Plan and the Ministry of Health (MoH) has issued new guidelines for travellers to Uganda. MoH has also developed “do’s and don'ts” to educate the public on how to avoid contracting the disease. The operation is currently working on the contingency plan for COVID-19, under the business continuity plan.

**South Sudan Peace process:** On 22 February 2020, the warring parties in South Sudan agreed to form the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) and bring an end to the protracted civil war in the country. As part of the negotiations, Dr Riek Machar, the opposition leader, was sworn in as the first deputy of President Salva Kiir. The formation of TGoNU is a major milestone in the South Sudan peace process, as it has revived hope for the cessation of hostilities and subsequent peace for the people of South Sudan, who have suffered the adverse effects of the prolonged conflict.

**Rwanda-Uganda relations:** The Heads of State of Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola, met at Gatuna border between Rwanda and Uganda on 21 February 2020, for the fourth quadripartite heads of state summit. This was part of the resolutions of the third quadripartite summit held in Angola on 02 February 2020, to resolve the tensions between Uganda and Rwanda. The summit sought to address the standoff between the two neighboring countries, which had resulted in the closure of the Rwandan border at Gatuna in 2019. However, the summit did not result in the re-opening of the Rwanda-Uganda border as had been anticipated. Rather, the summit set new conditions to be met before the border is re-opened. Rwanda and Uganda also signed an extradition treaty, within the framework of the Summit.
**PROTECTION**

**Achievements and Impact**

**Registration:** End-to-end testing for the Access Management Portal (AMP) was completed, user guides shared, and the new tool presented to key Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) staff, who will receive user accounts in proGres/Rapp. Further, training on the Access Management Portal was also provided to some UNHCR staff, who will provide a similar training to the OPM technical teams at the field level in March 2020. Additionally, testing for the splitting of the Uganda Operation proGres database into 11 independent settlement-level business units was completed.

A meeting was held between Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), OPM and UNHCR, to forge a way forward regarding the implementation of Application Programming Interface (API). This is to be used to verify the identity of registered refugees for SIM card registration. UCC confirmed that by mid-March 2020, the system integration will be completed by all telecom companies and ready for the rollout. Additionally, a MOU governing the data sharing modalities will be draft in March 2020.

**Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** UNHCR conducted a training on Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for 38 government officials (25 men and 13 women) in Entebbe on 18 – 22 February 2020. The session was to enhance knowledge and skills on RSD among members of the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC), Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) and other relevant Protection staff of OPM. The training covered topics including interviewing skills, credibility assessment, inclusion and exclusion analysis. There was specific focus on asylum claims for Eritrean and LGBTI asylum seekers.

**SGBV prevention and response:** On 25 February 2020, UNHCR participated in the launch of the SASA! Together methodology, organized by Raising Voices in collaboration with the Center for Domestic Violence (CEDOVIP) at Protea Hotel Kampala. SASA! Together, is a revision of the current SASA! approach, following a decade of practice-based learning of the methodology, changes in SGBV work and credible evidence that highlights what is required for effective prevention programming. Modifications were made to the design and packaging of the tool, as well as strategies to undertake in prevention of violence against women and assessment tools. SASA! Together has new activities focusing on intimate partner violence, power, sexual relationships, strengthening institutions and community leaders on SGBV prevention. UNHCR Uganda will be working closely with Raising voices to provide technical support on guidance on SASA! Together implementation in refugee settlements.

**Community-based protection:** As part of the effort to strengthen collaboration with Government entities, UNHCR together with the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD), conducted a familiarization mission with a focus on Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs). The mission took place in Bidibidi refugee settlement, Yumbe district from 24 – 27 February 2020. The purpose of the mission was to familiarize and inform the Ministry and key PSN actors of the refugee context and subsequently develop a harmonized approach for PSN interventions. The mission was also joined by the National Council for Disability; the National Council for Older Persons; the Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESPP) team; and the Uganda Reach the Aged Association.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

At the National Refugee Protection Working Group (NRPWG) meeting held on 27 February 2020, major concerns on the increasing trend of suicides and subsequent need for enhanced Mental Health and Psycho-social Support interventions came out strongly. This is in addition to the need to tackle the root causes of suicide and effectively build on resilience within the communities affected. A list of actions was agreed upon but not limited to: an assessment to understand why suicide is prevalent among the South Sudanese community in Bidibidi refugee settlement; revisit the discussion on suicide and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS); and provide funding gap (funding and coverage) analyses for all sectors/sub-working groups including MHPSS.
EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

Refugee performance in Uganda’s national Primary Leaving Certificate: Uganda’s Primary Leaving Examination Results (PLE) were released in January 2020, by the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB). Results analyzed from 157 primary schools across 11 settlements show that, of the 8,564 students who sat for PLE, those who passed were 7,738. Since 2017, there has been progressive improvement in performance, with candidates in division one increasing by 58 percent. The pass rate has increased from 81 percent in 2017, to 90 percent in 2019.

In West Nile, one of the best performing students was a refugee boy from South Sudan. He scored four points (distinctions), which is the highest grade at that level. He was the best performing student in Adjumani District and appears on the list of Best Performing Pupils in the Whole Country. In the South West, the highlight was of an unaccompanied minor in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, who scored seven points (distinctions and credits).

In the various testimonies of these and other high performing students, the desire to continue their education and become professionals who can contribute to their communities and society is high. These children recount stories of their flight to Uganda, their missing family members, household poverty and trauma. However, though it all, they are to the local host community, their teachers, UNHCR and partners.

Uganda Certificate of Education: The Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) is conducted after four years of lower secondary school and is a necessity for one to proceed to the final two years of upper secondary. Results of the 2019 UCE were also released in January 2020. Of the 13 schools analysed across nine settlements, the results the pass rate was 88 percent, an increase of 4 percent from the previous year. The results analysed are of 727 refugees (543 male and 184 female) and 397 host community (228 male and 169 female). The pass rate for boys was 91 percent compared to 85 percent for females.

The final examinations results for Primary Leaving Examinations and Uganda Certificate of Education for 2019 reflects an improvement in performance. Activities which support teaching, learning, training, capacity building of teachers, timely provision of materials, targeting support to girls, among others, need to be increased to ensure this trend continues.

Support to the Education Response Plan (ERP) Secretariat: UNHCR is working closely with the ERP Secretariat, providing support in different areas of its work including; revision and finalization of the logical framework; revision of the baseline data collection tools and the terms of reference; and procurement of the company that will carry out the baseline survey in March 2020.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Overall, there were positive examination results and trends for 2019, but, more needs to be done to reduce the number of children dropping out of school before Primary Seven, particularly the overage children.

The number of children, particularly the girl-child, sitting and passing Primary Seven then proceeding to secondary school also needs to increase. Approximately, 25 percent of children who pass Primary Seven reach Senior Four (end of lower secondary school).

The ERP Steering Committee meeting held in February 2020, flagged a dire need for an analysis of secondary school coverage in refugee settlements. This analysis is crucial to inform not only the Uganda Secondary Expansion Project (USEEP), but also other efforts to increase the enrollment and completion of secondary education within the refugee hosting districts. There is also a need for more Ministry of Education Sports (MoES) approved examination centers in secondary schools. Currently, students travel long distances to sit for national exams and spend nights in or nearby the school, rather than risk arriving late and/or missing exams. UNHCR has agreed to conduct an analysis of secondary school coverage, indicating those that have applied to UNEB for establishment of examination centers.
HEALTH

Achievements and Impact
During the month of February 2020, a total of 196,427 consultations were made in all the refugee serving health facilities within the refugee settlements in Uganda. Of these, 79 percent were refugees and 21 percent were from the host populations. Top morbidity causes were: Malaria at 43 percent; Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) at 11 percent; Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) at 7.9 percent; skin diseases at 6.8 percent; watery diarrhea at 2.8 percent.

The mortality rates were within acceptable standards. Crude mortality rate was at 0.1 death per 1000 population, while under 5 mortality rates was at 0.2 deaths per 1000 live births. A total of 6,354 pregnant mothers received antenatal care for the first time in their pregnancies. The number of deliveries during the month was 3,798, of which, 69 percent were refugees and 31 percent nationals.

HIV testing services were provided in all settlements and 9,820 (62 percent refugees and 38 percent nationals) were tested. Those that continue to receive care and treatment for HIV are 18,954 (38 percent refugees and 62 percent nationals).

FOOD SECURITY

Achievements and Impact
In January 2020, UNHCR health and nutrition partners treated 2,018 children under 5 years across all settlements for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). In the same month, 5,688 children across all settlements were treated for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), with support from WFP. In the same reporting period, 11,540 children received vitamin A doses I & II, through growth monitoring and promotion services.

Latest mass screening data conducted at Nyakabande transit center in February 2020, revealed a proxy Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 10 percent. This is a significant improvement from a proxy GAM rate of 22.9 percent in December 2019. Due to a worsened nutrition situation at Nyakabande Transit Centre between November and December 2019, the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) was triggered by WFP for 3 months, starting from January 2020, as part of the multisectoral inter-agency response. BSFP lowers vulnerability to acute malnutrition and covers all children 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, regardless of nutrition status. Through our inter-agency collaboration, WFP provides BSFP commodities, while UNHCR partners, MTI and CAFOMI, implement the programme.

WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact
Refugees and hosting populations continued to access potable water at above 17 litres per person per day by operating and maintaining 169 pumped water schemes and 1,200 hand pumps. Two water schemes in Kyangwali and Kyaka refugee settlements were commissioned in February 2020.

UNHCR and World Bank conducted a joint session on ‘Sustainable Water Supply Services for Refugees and Host Communities’ during the Africa Water Association (AFWA) 2020 Congress and Exhibition, held on 24 – 27 February 2020 in Kampala. The session reflected on challenges and lessons learnt in ‘utility approach’ to water supply management in refugee settings within Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps
Due to unpredictable funding for Operational Partners, proper transition of management of water schemes in
several settlements is lacking, leading to loss of institutional memory and adequate capitalization of experiences from exiting partners.

**SHELTER, SETTLEMENTS AND NFIS**

**Achievements and Impact**

Plot demarcation in Kyaka II refugee settlement has continued to decrease from 1,200 (30mx30m) in January 2020, to 645 in February 2020. This drastic drop is because the settlement absorption capacity is getting full and refugees are being resettled in Nakivale refugee settlement. Refugees from DRC have been resettled in these demarcated plots to ease pressure and stress on the Reception Centre.

As a result of the resettlement exercise from Kyaka II to Nakivale in February 2020, three temporary shelters, each with the capacity of 100 and a medical screening shelter were constructed in Kabazana, to receive new arrivals before being resettled. From Kyaka II, a total of 865 households of 2,569 individuals from DRC, have been settled in Rubondo Zone, Nakivale, and supported with shelter NFI kits to be able to construct their own houses.

In Obongi, there was a successful settlement map spatial data collection to help in updating the settlement map. This will add on the already existing updated maps for Kyangwali and Nakivale respectively, to ensure accountability on location of UNHCR facilities, as well as helping in decision making for further placement of infrastructure.

The construction of an overnight shelter at Imvepi Reception Center, Arua, district is complete pending commissioning. This is the first of 20 shelters to be upgraded at the reception centre and will improve on accommodation for PoCs. The isolation block and mortuary at Panyadoli HC III in Kiryandongo, were commissioned on 05 February 2020, after the contractor satisfactorily completed the construction works to ensure efficient service delivery.

Repair of 3.5km of flood prone section of Kityaza – Base camp road in Nakivale, started in February 2020 and expected to finish in March 2020, to ease transportation to and from settlement. Similarly, major road rehabilitation and maintenance is ongoing in Adjumani, and is expected to end in 5 months. Progress is estimated to be at 18 percent. The maintenance of Ofua 6 main access road (200m) and Ofua 3 junction to Vura Corps Ofua 1 road (3.1Km) in Arua district is completed and awaiting final joint inspection and commissioning.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

Rains have hindered the completion of the road works in most settlements especially in the South West, making them impassable.

More settlement maps need to be updated to ensure efficient distribution of social and physical facilities, as well as settlement physical development planning, to guide spatial development in the settlements.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO ENERGY**

**Achievements and Impact**

UNHCR announced a target of 1.4 million trees to be planted by refugees in one day, across the operation. This will be done during the National Tree Planting Day (NTPD) on 25 April 2020, with support from both UNHCR and partners. The main preparation activities include mobilization of stakeholders, nursery bed operations, pot-filling, potting, lining, prickling and hardening-off of sown seedlings. Land in different refugee settlements (Omugo and Kyaka II) and schools in the South West, has been set aside for this activity.

Rwamwanja refugee settlement secured 2.4 hectares (6 acres) of land from OPM for establishment of communal woodlots and identified 157 individuals for household fruit and shed tree planting. Nsamizi Training Institute of
Social Development (Nsamizi), conducted awareness sessions on tree planting and management to 148 PoCs, and provided guidance to 120 members of Local Environment Committees on how to enact environment bylaws.

Survival monitoring and mapping of the trees planted in 2019 is also ongoing across the operation. Bidibidi refugee settlement conducted assessment on the survival rate of tree seedlings on 13 woodlots in zone 1, where it was established that the survival rate for fruit trees is 80 percent and 70 percent for agroforestry trees. DanChurchAid (DCA) mapped 5.4 hectares (13.34 acres) of woodlot in Imvepi refugee settlement using the Kobo collect platform. Nsamizi assessed the current state of 8 existing woodlots established between 2016 and 2019, to determine management needs and plan for their maintenance. With guidance of OPM Environment focal person and plotters, DCA and Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS) also conducted boundary demarcation of Baghdad woodlot in cluster N of Kyirandongo refugee settlement, to establish the encroached and non-encroached areas of the woodlot, as well as plan for its maintenance and protection.

Access to clean energy remains a priority for the Uganda Operation. In the Nsamizi assessed the current state (functionality) of solar lights in Mukondo, Sweswe and Bujubuli Health Centres in Kyaka II refugee settlement, and a maintenance plan was developed. A total of 650 (400 female and 250 male) individuals from Sweswe, Mukondo, Buliti, Bukere, Itambabiniga, Kakoni, Kaborogota, Byabakora and Bwiriza zones, in Kyaka II refugee settlement, were selected for training on production of handmade briquettes using locally available materials like animal waste, ant-hill soil, plant residues. Training is scheduled for the first week of March 2020.

In Bidibidi refugee settlement, DCA trained three briquette groups (Ever Ready Unity, Amalu and Glory) and supported them with briquette production equipment, including sites, leading to the production of 7,156kg of briquettes. DCA also supported 61 (48 female and 13 male) PSNs with fireless cooking baskets and 217 (172 female and 45 male) supported with portable fire-shielded energy-saving cookstoves. In Kyangwali refugee settlement, Raising Gabdho Foundation used a Human Centered Design where, the communities facing energy challenges were involved in construction of improved cookstoves as well as weaving and insulation of heat retention cooking baskets. This lead to the production of 100 cookstoves and an equal number of heat retention cooking baskets.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

A key gap was inadequate seedling supply, which was worsened by the fact that, seedling nurseries are located far from the settlements.

Limited access to water in several nurseries to sustain the operations is another major gap. Additional labor is required to increase water supplies for survival and production of tree seedlings.

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**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

**Achievements and Impact**

One of the objectives of the CRRF in Uganda is to enhance resilience and self-reliance of refugees. Cooperation with the private sector is one strategy to pursue market-driven approaches. In this regard, UNHCR is linking up with companies who are interested in purchasing produce from refugee communities. In February 2020, a company involved in the production of fruits and processing of juices, undertook a scoping mission to the refugee hosting communities and settlements in Adjumani district, to explore the possibility of a future cooperation. If successful, a production unit will be set up, which will provide income for 2,000 Ugandans and refugees.

Another market-based approach is the JICA / UNHCR cooperation in Rhino Camp refugee settlement, Arua district. It aims at increased incomes for refugees and host communities through cultivation of high-value upland rice. During the second planting season which ended in January 2020, a total of 40 metric tons of rice valued at about UGX. 115 million (approximately USD 31,000) were harvested. This was made possible through additional land allocation by OPM for rice farmers, which has resulted in increased production and income of targeted farmers. The next steps will be training the farmers on post-harvest handling, storage, budgeting, record keeping, and collective marketing, to enable them to become self-sustaining.
Working in partnership with:

**Government** - Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), District Local Government (DLG), Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC).

**Refugee Hosting Districts** – Adjumani, Arua, Isingiro, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegyegwa, Lamwo, Obongi, Yumbe.


**NGOs** - Action Africa Help (AAH), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Andre Foods International (AFI), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ), Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (ACAV), A-Z Children’s Charity, Baylor, Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC), Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), CARE, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Caritas Uganda (CU), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Child Voices International, Communication and Education (PACE), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN), Concern World Wide (CWW), Cooperazione Sviluppo (CESVI), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), Drop in the Basket (DiB), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Food for the Hungry (FH), Friends of Kisoro, German International Cooperation (GIZ), Give Directly, Global Aim, Global Refugee International (GRI), Healing Kadi Foundation, Help Age International, Humane Africa Mission (HAM), Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS), Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HJRA), Humanitarian Open Street Map Team (HOT), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), IMPACT, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), InterAid, Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO Cooperation), International Aid Services (IAS), International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IsraAid, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Johanniter, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Malteser International (MI), Medical Teams International (MTI), Mercy Corps (MC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (NSAMIZI), OXFAM, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Peter C. Alderman Foundation (PCAF), Plan International (PI), Programme for Accessible Health, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Right to Play (RtP), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile (RICE-WN), Salvation Army, Samaritan’s Purse (SP), Save the Children International (SCI), Self Help Africa (SHA), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (Tunado), Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Trocare, Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR), Uganda Law Society (ULS), Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council (URDPMC), War Child Canada (WCC), War Child Holland (WCH), Water Mission Uganda (WMU), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Windle International Uganda (WIU), World Vision International (WVI), Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), ZOA – Uganda (ZOA).
External Relations

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