OUR ISSUE
As a Refugee I have a right to:

Free movement
Equal treatment before the law
Education,
Employment
Property

An Identity card
Practice my religion
Free and just treatment
Access to health facilities

January – December 2018
Annual Report
Our profile

Vision
That all people enjoy their human rights, irrespective of their legal status. This vision is supported by relevant international laws as well as the Constitution of Uganda.

Mission
To empower asylum seekers, refugees, deportees, IDPs and host communities to enjoy their human rights and lead dignified lives.

Mandate
To promote the protection, well-being and dignity of forced migrants and their hosts.
To empower forced migrants, communities, and all associated actors to challenge and combat injustices in policy, law and practice.
To influence national and international debate on matters of forced migration, justice and peace in Uganda.
To serve as a resource for forced migrants and relevant actors.

Values
Independence
Innovation
Non-discrimination
Rigour
Respect
Professionalism
Accountability
OUR PRESENCE IN UGANDA IN 2018

[Map of Uganda showing various regions and cities]
List of Acronyms Used

A2J   Access to Justice
ACTV   African Centre for Torture Victims
ADR   Alternative Dispute Resolution
AICI   Assessment, Intake and Community Interpreters
ASSOFRA Association of Refugee Women in Africa
BVA   Basic Video Advocacy
CBT   Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
CI   Community Interpreter
CoRSU   Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda
CTJG   Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance
DLGs District Local Governments
EFA English For Adults
FCO Foreign & Commonwealth Office
HIJRA Humanitarian Just Relief Aid
ICD International Crimes Division
JRS Jesuit Refugee Services
KCCA Kampala City Council Authority
LC Local Council
LWH Living With Hope
M4SC Media for Social Change
MFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MGLSD Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MHPW Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing
MoH Men of Hope
NPTS National Police Training School
OPM Office of the Prime Minister
OPS Operations and Programme Support
PTSD Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PWD Persons With Disabilities
RAB Refugee Appeals Board
REC Refugee Eligibility Committee
RLP Refugee Law Project
SGBV Sexual & Gender Based Violence
SGBVP Sexual & Gender Based Violence & Protection
SoL School of Law
SRSD Screen-Refer-Support-Document
TFCBT Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
UGABAG Uganda Battle Group
ULS Uganda Law Society
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UPDF Uganda People’s Defence Forces
UPF Uganda Police Force
UPS Uganda Prisons Service
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Introduction

2018 has been a year of major organizational growth for Refugee Law Project. Five new grant and funding relationships were established, bringing us to a total of thirteen running grants from twelve different donors.

This also brought our total staffing up to over 180 persons, of whom approximately one third are themselves refugees. This is both a practical necessity and politically desirable. It has considerably enriched the diversity and cultural skills of RLP’s staff, while also serving as a form of advocacy about the importance of employing refugees. To the best of our knowledge, no other humanitarian agency in Uganda employs refugees on their payroll in any significant number.

In our recruitment processes we continue to enjoy high application numbers (generally around 4-500 applicants for officer positions). Filtering these down to long and then short-lists is time-consuming and the outcome is not always guaranteed! By and large though, we have been able to identify high caliber candidates for the vast majority of positions.

In addition to our Head Office in Kampala, we now have Field Offices in Mbarara, Hoima, Kiryandongo, Gulu, Adjumani, Arua, Kitgum and Lamwo, as well as sub-offices in a number of refugee settlements (Nakivale, Kyangwali, Kiryandongo, Palabek, Maaji, Bidibidi). This expansion in terms of staffing, infrastructure and vehicles has required the development not just of new additional administrative systems, but, as importantly, establishing credibility in new communities, as well as new relationships with district authorities, political and religious leadership, NGO and UN stakeholders. Our work demands not just the technical and human skills for direct service delivery, but also political and cultural sensitivity and pragmatism.

The largest new project was supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While this grant actually began in late September 2017, it involved a large recruitment drive (50+ new staff) and induction processes, as well as some complex procurement and the establishment of three new field offices (Adjumani, Lamwo, Kiryandongo). Full implementation of activities thus began in January 2018. While we had been operating in a number of settlements in western and south-western Uganda for some years, having three teams in three areas of northern Uganda that host South Sudanese refugees, and where our work previously had been almost entirely focused on transitional justice related issues facing the host population, was a major and positive evolution for us.

The project (Securing Refugee-Host Relations through Enhanced Protection) has five objectives, of which the first, around capacity building of state duty bearers, built on our previous extensive work training police, army, prisons, immigration and judiciary. The second objective allowed us to build and really test out the Screen-Refer-Support-Document model, whereby we identify and respond to the multiple war-related injuries that many refugees arrive with, but that very few usually receive treatment for. These include bullet and shrapnel wounds, as well as wounds arising from sexual violence. This element of the project involves a close working relationship with St Mary’s Hospital, Lacor, a mission-supported hospital in Gulu. 2018 also saw us introduce an environmental dimension to our work for the first time, with some major tree-planting initiatives in the grounds of various public institutions and schools. We were delighted to receive a cost-extension as we complete and submit a major 4 year proposal for consideration.

A second important new funding relationship is that with the European Union; this grant supports our work on transitional justice in the West Nile region, and has involved establishing a Field office and a new team in Arua. This project involves a lot of consultations and dialogues with victims of past atrocities that happened in the course of some of Uganda’s many internal wars, as well as
identification and referral of long-standing injuries for more specialized medical treatment.

The third new funding relationship is with UN Women who have given us funding for one short project (initially six months) focused on legal aid to South Sudanese refugees, and one longer-term (30 months) project looking at women’s empowerment among both refugees and host women in Yumbe district.

A fourth new grant has come from Open Society in East Africa, explicitly focused on building our archives, both hard copy and electronic. We also received strategically important grants from KIOS Foundation and Pro Victimis Foundation. Both these latter two allow us to deepen our work with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, with particular emphasis on identification of male survivors and working with both the individual and those around him who are impacted by his experiences.

In short, multiple new projects, alongside our existing commitments, have certainly stretched us, but in a positive sense. They have prompted us to engage on a number of in-house training drives, notably on screening techniques as well as testimony taking, but also on developing more standardized guidance for working with refugee support groups. In terms of our work with refugees, one of the key activities in the Dutch-funded project has been what we call ‘video advocacy boot-camps’ for refugee and host youth; by end-2018 four of these had been conducted, and the output is highly encouraging, with graduands bringing fresh perspectives into highlighting some of the long-standing challenges facing refugee populations in Uganda. We are establishing an ‘Innovation Centre’ out of our Gulu offices to allow youth access to a range of IT equipment ranging from computers to cameras, in order to further develop skills and capacities in use of IT for refugee and host voice. Some examples of outputs from these trainings can be found on the RLP’s website under the Media for Social Change section.

From a media perspective, I would say that 2018 has also been the year that RLP staff became much more Twitter literate and began to use Twitter as a platform for publicizing our work. I feel that the responses that this generates are both good for RLP as an institution, but also for the staff who are catalyzing this interest.

In terms of convening, we convened a very successful Institute for African Transitional Justice; this is an Institute that we initiated in 2010, and this was our eighth successive year, an achievement we are very proud of. The theme this year was ‘Doing Inclusive Gender in Transitional Justice: what might it look like in Post-Conflict African Societies?’ More than 80 participants came from both eastern and southern Africa, and the Institute saw some real shifts in thinking in the course of the week; by the time a panel of six representatives from survivor groups, including (alongside an LGBTI representative, an LRA returnee, two bomb wound survivors, the President of Men of Hope, Aime Moninga and the President of Men of Peace, Julius Okwera, the participants were really on board in terms of seeing the importance of recognizing the broad range of gender harms suffered by women, men, and children in conflict settings. We also held our second very successful Regional Conference on Forced Migration from 21-22 November.

As in previous years we had a number of struggles in terms of getting visas for staff to travel to international conferences. This continues to be a major hurdle for all Ugandan staff, even those who have studied in Europe and the US, and an even bigger hurdle for refugees who wish to do advocacy in international spaces. We barely managed to get two of our programme managers to Geneva for the UNHCR pre-excom meeting, and we suffered a refusal from Lebanon. This followed two refusals from New Zealand the previous November (2017). Such refusals are symptomatic of the state of the
migration discussion globally, and are certainly a major obstacle to establishing more equal dialogue on key issues affecting both ‘north’ and ‘south’.

This year we joined in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the School of Law that we fall under. We also mourned the passing of the late Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, both as a giant in the history of forced migration as a whole, and as a co-founder of Refugee Law Project back in 1999 in particular. We trust that 2019, which marks the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of Refugee Law Project in 1999, will be a meaningful contribution to celebrating her remarkable life’s work.

Prof. Chris Dolan
Director
Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance Programme

The Conflict, Transitional Justice & Governance Programme (CTJ&G) confronts the challenges of dealing with the legacies of past atrocities and human rights violations while pursuing justice, both locally and globally, promoting democratisation and good governance, and engaging in sustainable peacebuilding. These goals are achieved through ongoing direct support to victims and survivors, conflict analysis and early warning, thematic research, documentation, archiving and memorialisation, appropriate policy development and advocacy at the local, national and international level.

With staff based in Kampala, Gulu, Kitgum and Arua, CTJG programme seeks to achieve the following objectives:
- To analyse and document the interconnections between individual repair, social healing and national reconciliation, and their individual and collective contributions to sustainable peace
- To see National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre as an internationally recognised archive for Uganda’s multiple conflicts
- To analyse and influence the debate about time-frames for transitional justice
- To work with non-traditional line ministries to develop their sector-specific contributions to Uganda’s transitional justice mechanisms
- To build consensus towards a national truth-seeking, reconciliation and sustainable peace process for Uganda, while also modeling non-state-centric transitional justice interventions
- To influence the establishment and operationalization of national transitional justice legal and policy frameworks

In 2018, CTJG programme received grants for three distinct yet complementary projects, namely; a) Supporting Justice through Formal, Informal & Transitional Justice (Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)); b) Promoting Sustainable Peace, Security & Justice in West Nile Sub-region (European Union (EU)); c) Digitizing Documentation of Human Rights Violations from Conflict Affected Regions in Uganda (Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA)).

The following paragraphs capture major outcomes.

Local and National Healing

*Facilitated Physical & Psychological Healing*

About 3,378 (1,746F & 1,632M) victims and survivors of conflicts benefited from various CTJG led interventions such as information sessions, preparatory counselling, medical treatment, therapeutic camps, counselling clinics, group therapy, psycho-education and psychosocial dialogues across various conflict affected districts of; Adjumani, Amuru, Amuria, Gulu, Kasese, Kapelebyong, Kumi, Soroti, Lamwo, Moyo, Nwoya, Omoro and Pader. A total of 142 (81f & 61m) successful underwent specialized surgery and medical treatment at St. Mary’s Hospital - Lacor from conditions such as; body swelling, open gun wounds, retained bullets/bomb fragments, and dislodged bones. The resultant physical and psychological healing directly impacts the lives of direct survivors, particularly in terms of reducing dire conditions of pain and trauma, and in terms of improving core functionality, ranging from improved mobility and strength, to improved relationships and social involvement. One important outcome of this is that those treated are increasingly able to participate in various transitional justice initiatives at community level, thus also contributing to social healing.

Victims’ Empowerment through Exchange Visit and Learning

RRLP facilitated a victims’ support groups exchange initiative that enabled support groups from Nakivale, Kyangwali, Gulu, Pader and Kampala to interact and exchange ideas, share best practices, explore available opportunities as well as challenges and ways of overcoming them. This 3-day
exchange attracted 27 (19 m & 8f) participants from Men of Peace association in Nakivale, Peer counsellors from Kyangwali and Nakivale refugee settlements, PWDs association from Nakivale and Kampala, Men of Courage Group from Gulu, Kanya Kanya Group from Pader, Survivors of Torture group Kyangwali, and ASOFRA and Men of Hope Association from Kampala. Such exchanges help participants to compare and contrast both experiences and their own responses to those. They support the capacities of people to associate and work together, hence overcoming individual isolation and withdrawal, and promoting instead the development of new social fabric characterised by active participation, shared responsibility, and stronger collective voice able to engage directly with external stakeholders.

Enhanced Social Healing through local truth-telling mechanisms

In 2018, the Programme worked with three communities to convene what we term Memory Dialogues. Through these, local communities explore their past and recent history, share conflict experiences and memories, and voice their needs ranging from; medical support—treatment,
counselling support, financial support, seeking legal redress and reparations for the lost lives and property as well as missing relatives who have never been accounted for to date. Community members are able to openly and freely narrate and disclose their different experiences, some of which were previously unknown by other community members. Where members break down while narrating their painful experiences, counselling is to hand, and further psychosocial follow-ups are made in the weeks following the Memory Dialogues. As we wait for Uganda’s Transitional Justice policy, such initiatives provide an important alternative avenue for local level truth-telling and acknowledgement, and should inform and indeed feed into any national process that may be established in future.

Case Study 1: Story of a victim and survivor of a helicopter gunship bombing: Ms F, 53 years, Ojenit Village, Olwa Parish, Morungatuny Sub-County, Orungo County, Amuria District.

“During the days in 2003 to 2004, we survived without food, sometimes going to swamp to look for food and also people could still sneak home to collect food. One day we went to Alela swamp fishing and the Government Gunship came started moving where we were fishing and bombed us hitting people who were fishing and killed very many people, this is the time my co-wife and brother … among others, were respectively killed on the spot. I was hit and had over 20 bomb fragments and I do remember that only five of us survived.”

Since the incident in 2003, Ms F has been living with a lot of pain—physical and psychological trauma from the wounds inflicted on her and loss of people close to her respectively during the gunship attack. Despite receiving recently receiving some medical support to remove the bomb splinters from the body, she continues to live with distress from memory of the loved ones killed. “I was taken to Kitgum to remove bullets but some of my friends died. To date still...I am not okay as I feel pain always about this”.

In 2018, the DGF-funded Supporting Justice through Formal, Informal & Transitional Mechanisms Project, in a bid to enhance collective support systems and networks for social healing, convened and held mini truth-telling sessions and oral history documentation of survivors’ testimonies in different communities. One such initiative involved the community of Morungatuny participating in a memory dialogue and subsequently in an oral history documentation process.

In November 2018, Ms F took a leap of courage and faith and decided to narrate her story in public during one of the memory dialogues convened in her sub-county. She was living with painful memories of what she saw happen and how people were killed in her presence during the bombing. This made her break down several times in the process of giving her testimony on events that transpired during that day. The counselor who was on hand during the memory dialogue noted that; “Some participants broke down while giving their stories especially when they remembered events that unfolded during their days of captivity, life during war and how their relatives were tortured or killed (events during or after war time)”.

This pivotal moment changed her social life and mindset, especially the psychological thoughts that came with it. After her testimony, she was able to receive counselling with the help of a counsellor embedded within the RLP’s memory dialogue team.

Participating in the memory dialogue presented her with an opportunity to gain some relief from the emotional guilt of not talking about what had happened and bad feelings developed after the incident. Because of the emotional relief and counselling, she is now able to narrate and speak freely about what happened to her and her family without breaking down as was before. “I am at least relieved after sharing my story”, she narrates.
She subsequently participated in an oral history documentation and acknowledged the support she received from her family and community after participating in the memory dialogue. “I realized that both my family and the community were behind me and I lived happily again with their support”.

At the end of the testimony taking during the dialogue and the one hour and thirty minutes narration during oral history documentation, she was able to come to terms with her grief.

“The memory dialogue was able to make us discover victims and survivors, bring hope to the people and relieve pain from some survivors” said the Speaker of Morungatuny sub county in Amuria district.

Sixteen other individuals who participated in the memory dialogue and requiring psychosocial support also received counselling.

Strengthening the NMPDC

Fostering Dialogue & Remembrance

As part of the process linked to strengthening the NMPDC, a number of activities were undertaken to ensure that we foster Transitional Justice initiatives in Uganda. These included:

- Supporting 11 Memorial prayers organized by communities that suffered massacres. Communities pray annually for their departed one and continue to advocate for justice namely; in Atiak, Lukodi, Obalanga, Ombaci, Omot, Mucwini, St. John’s Seminary, Namukora, Ringili etc. These have become key moments in holding leaders accountable as victims do ask for answers and as RLP we support by documenting these events for them.

- Conducting further massacre scoping in 48 different sites/areas in districts of Kasese (19), Kumi (13), Soroti (6), Kapelebyong (10), Arua (8), Terego (1), and Yumbe (1).

- Documenting 126 oral histories from people whose different experiences and narratives of conflict can help shape our thinking.

- Holding two public exhibitions as part of awareness raising and as part of keeping the issue of Transitional Justice alive in various spaces.

In the course of 2018, ninety (90) artefacts related to culture and conflict were donated or loaned by
community members in West Nile (32), Rwenzori (30), and Teso (28). Through the artefact collection, the project was able to realize the values and memories individuals attach to the various materials they have. For example, while collecting artefacts in one of the massacres sites (Kinyabisiki village, Kyondo Sub County, Kasese district), a young man came with two artefacts, a spear and a bullet shell. He chose to donated the bullet shell, but kept the spear, saying, “this spear was the one that was used for killing my brother”.

CTJG organised three (03) travelling testimony exhibitions as part of fostering awareness on Transitional Justice in the minds of the people. Our stall had many visitors and as RLP we were able and proud to have chaired the Committee on Peace and Culture during the International Cultural Fair at the Uganda Museum and participate in the Teso Cultural Heritage festival graced by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda. On average 200 people, including some researchers and international students, visited our stalls.

All these provided the CTJG programme with a platform for advocacy and dissemination. The
narratives from victims and survivors themselves help us to create awareness on TJ issues, and

shape and document a clear history of events that is invaluable for our archives and also, relatedly, for future accountability and truth-telling purposes.

**NMPDC visitors**

In 2018, the NMPDC received 3,761 (1,066F; 2,695M) visitors, including local community,
international visitors, researchers etc. This is boosted by the over 1,408 artefacts and/or materials exhibited at the centre such as the; 211 objects, 250 framed photos, 215 art drawings, 102 curated as permanent exhibition, 500 on Janani Luwum, 25 photos on Amins’s Cabinet, 15 photos of Obote’s Cabinet and 30 assorted photo donations. The centre has newspapers clippings from the Daily monitor, East African, Observer and the old famous Crusader.

Nine (9) documentaries were screened at the NMPDC with an aim of further fostering dialogue and having exploratory conversation around Transitional Justice. These attracted 730 individuals (379F; 401M).

NMPDC facilitates access to historical information for the visitors. The centre recently had a team from Congo who visited to learn how we are coping and dealing with our past. They thought we had exported the LRA and this was summed up by the comment by one of the delegates, an LRA victim from Congo who said; “I thought it was Ugandan government that were fighting us. Now I know it was LRA”.

Visitors to the NMPDC often asked questions related to our reintegration process, for instances “What role did the Government play in the reintegration process of former LRA rebels?”, “How were former LRA combatants reintegrated into the community?” and so many others. The facility is thus enabling and creating alternative spaces for critical discussions on narratives about history and the associated events that quite often do not make it into the mainstream spaces.

**Traditional Justice Application**

Our nation building process is still ongoing and we have so far ten cases mapped for local reconciliation. These include land and family disputes as well as three cases that require the use of ‘Mato Oput’ traditional justice initiatives. This builds on the country’s local reconciliation initiatives and broader peace-building processes.
Action oriented research and Advocacy

The 6th Justice Tafakari

We convened the 6th Justice Tafakari in Gulu to facilitate discussions on key emerging justice issues as part of our advocacy. The 40 (31M & 9F) participants focused on the need for joint advocacy especially for the International Crimes Division (ICD) processes - funding uncertainty, support to registry, Victims’ counsel and defense as well as a coordinated response of Civil Society Organisations. It also provided an opportunity to stakeholders to reflect, examine, digest and understand the dynamics of the ongoing trial of Dominic Ongwen at the ICC in the Hague vis-à-vis the Thomas Kwo-Yelo trial at the ICD in Uganda.

Advocacy on legal and policy frameworks

Monitoring Trial

The programme has been engaging in monitoring trials especially Thomas Kwo-Yelo Trial (Case No. 2/2009) Brief facts: 93 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity- confirmed in a pre-trial judgment. Proceedings opened in Gulu on 24th Sept. but were adjourned to 5th November, and the further adjourned to 12th November 2018. The programme provided counseling support at the court premises, as well as live streaming proceedings.

Similarly, the programme continued monitoring of the Dominic Ongwen Trial (Case No. ICC-02/04-
01/15) at ICC. Brief facts: facing 70 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Trial begun on 6th December 2016 - Prosecution and Victims done. Defense have presented 7 witnesses.

All in all, this enhanced the participation of victims through provision of information on the court process and proceedings, as well as the opportunity to participate in the trial.

**Networking and Stakeholder engagement**

*Local & National Discourse*

At the national level, we engaged in ten (10) Government led initiatives, 10 meetings organised by DLGS, 25 meetings organised by partners. We also participated in 6 different commemoration events as part of networking with various stakeholders and at the same time influencing ongoing national discussions. We have used such spaces to advocate for good governance and respect of human rights. Issues arising from these engagements that require urgent attention are; How do we engage government officials or representatives who continue to be absent in critical meetings and gatherings that require their response, and how can civil society play a role in mobilising government?

During the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day in Kitgum at the NMPDC, one of the peace icons in the region, Rtd Rev Bishop McLeod Baker Ochola II, re-echoed such concerns of togetherness and solidarity saying; “A country like Uganda, we are not yet a nation because we cannot walk together, we have to build ourselves to become a nation.” Similarly, the Local Council V Vice-Chairperson said; “CSO’s should continue to speak out on Human rights and should not leave it to politicians”.

*International Discourse*

Refugee Law Project convened and hosted the 8th Institute of African Transitional Justice (IATJ8) in Arua, West Nile under the theme “Doing Inclusive Gender in Transitional Justice: what might this look like in post-conflict African societies?”. The Institute brought together survivors of various forms of conflict-related sexual violence, local leaders (government, cultural, religious), academia and TJ practitioners from within Uganda and beyond. The week-long Institute availed various platforms for discussions around ‘gender’. It highlighted how gender has come to be seen as co-terminous with ‘women’, leading to what can be described as ‘exclusive gender’ that ignores the gender concerns
of non-female persons. The Institute focused on the need to practice inclusive gender in transitional justice, by incorporating the gendered experiences of men, women and gender non-conforming people.

Internationally, RLP participated in the 2nd Continental Transitional Justice Forum in Khartoum, as well as in the Zimbabwe Policy Symposium.

**Media Engagement – Newspaper features**

As a programme, members of staff under the CTJG programme continued to engage in writing articles. Our Community Outreach Officer contributed:

- Legacy of conflict in Northern Uganda: To Forget or to Remember?
- Let Uganda embrace ‘Dark tourism’ to attract more visitors, What needs to be done to support families of the missing in Uganda?
- Legacy of Conflict: Need to recognize the unsung local peace icons in Uganda
- Animal-human feud: UWA needs to formulate compensation policy

**Our Research and Advocacy Officer contributed:**
- Why the sudden silence on the transitional justice policy?
- We need a truth and reconciliation commission.

These articles were published in two of Uganda’s leading daily newspapers, the Daily Monitor and the New Vision. A further two (2) articles were written by the Research and Documentation Officer and published in a journal. This goes a long way in enhancing RLPs engagement with the different media platforms as an advocacy tool and sustainability strategy.

NMPDC featured on Al Jazeera on the 18th October 2018 in a segment by Malcom Webb titled ICC trial of LRA leader only part of search for justice in Uganda, and the CTJG Programme represented RLP on a TV talk show on NBS TV International Day of Peace.

**Lessons learnt**

Healing war wounds and traumatised communities is key in realising sustainable peace, and transitional justice is in our hands rather than a monopoly of states.
Access to Justice for Forced Migrants Programme

The Access to Justice Program (A2J) is responsible for ensuring that forced migrants such as refugees, asylum seekers, and deportees are able to realize their human rights regardless of their legal status.

Comprehensive legal aid and psychosocial support to forced migrants

This objective involves legal representation, mediation, police follow-ups, refugee status determination, and provision of psychosocial support.

Legal representation before court in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASES RECEIVED</th>
<th>CASES CONCLUDED</th>
<th>CASES ON GOING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33 Clients released on bail

Table 1 summary of the state of the cases received

The objective of legal representation is to ensure that refugees who cannot afford the services of a lawyer also have access to justice through the provision of pro bono court representation services. It involves representation of clients in cases before the courts of law. The 2018 annual target for the A2J programme was legal representation for 1,200 clients. The cases received are mainly acquired through the various police follow-ups, prison visits and legal advice clinics where clients with court cases are identified for legal representation. The legal representation is done for court cases of criminal nature while civil court cases are referred to the appropriate partners because of their associated costs. Cases are said to be concluded when the court makes judgment, resulting in either a conviction or acquittal.

From the concluded cases, our clients have benefited in a number of ways, including re-gaining their freedom after long periods in detention, having their cases come up for hearing and, for those convicted, being given lighter sentences. The legal representation has also helped the judiciary reduce on case back log. The on-going cases are the ones in which the court has not yet made final decision and the matters are still undergoing trial.

It has been observed over time that some cases take long to be disposed of in court mainly due to the nature of the case (e.g. capital offences which involve lengthy indictment procedures), inadequate judicial officers in the areas of operation, absenteeism of judicial officers, inadequate state attorneys to sanction cases and slow police investigations. We have attempted to mitigate these challenges through organizing mobile court sessions in the various communities of operation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismissed for want of prosecution</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted and Sentenced</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissed pending arrest of the accused</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciled at Court</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquittals</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 concluded cases
### Table 3 ongoing cases

#### Facilitating mediations and other forms of dispute resolution mechanisms

**Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases Received</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Snapshot of nature of cases mediated upon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>- Domestic Violence (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concluded</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>- Family disputes (53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>- Assault (45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuccessful</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>- Theft (16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Individually Beneficiaries**

A total of 1,368 individuals (827M, 541 F) benefited.

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**Table 4 cases mediated upon**

The objective of mediation is to resolve conflicts amicably without recourse to lengthy court procedures. Mediation is done by bringing the conflicting parties before an independent umpire who ensures that the conflict is resolved in a way that is agreeable to both parties. We received...
a high number of clients who opted for mediation because of sensitization about the merits of mediation and ADR during the various information sessions in the field offices. This has led to high demand for mediation in the settlements, which the A2J programme has not been able to fully meet.

The impact of mediation is that it restores lost relationships between the conflicting parties, unlike if the matter is taken to court. It is done in all our offices and is mainly for civil cases and minor criminal misdemeanours. As a result, there is improved relationships between refugees amongst themselves and improved relationships between the refugees and the host communities in the districts of Adjumani, Lamwo, Kampala, Mbarara, Hoima and Moyo.

Legal advice

Legal advice involves giving legal opinion to clients on the various legal issues they present. Most of the legal advice to our clients takes the form of on-spot legal advice, which involves giving legal advice to clients at the point of service delivery, e.g. at the police stations during police follow-ups or in the court room during the course of court representation. Legal advice is also done through mobile legal advice clinics (MLAC) and information sessions.

2,578 individuals (1,021F, 2 GNC and 1,555 M) benefitted from direct legal advice on: Bail application procedures, Merits of ADR, Refugee status determination, Criminal trial procedure, police bond procedure, resettlement. Categories of persons that benefitted included: Survivors of torture (30); Youth (685); PWDs (15); SGBV (58).

The A2J programme also got a boost from paralegals stationed in the refugee communities who give legal advice to persons in the communities they come from. Legal advice has led to improved knowledge among the refugees about their rights, duties and obligations while in Uganda. It has also helped them avoid getting in conflict with the law through sharpened knowledge about crimes in Uganda. This will go a long way in lowering the crime rate in the refugee and host communities. There is therefore a need to extend legal advice services to more refugee settlements in the country.

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Police follow-up Outcomes

Outcomes
383 follow-ups, benefitting 783 individuals (556 M, 227 F) in 383 cases

Categories of beneficiaries
Torture Survivors (6), youth (285); PWD (5)

Modes of follow-ups
Physical 243, Phone 93, Letters 47.

Table 5 police follow-ups

Police follow-up involves conducting physical visits to police posts and police stations where clients are held in custody. This is done in Kampala and in the field offices. The purpose of police follow-up is to enable clients in police custody enjoy their right to personal liberty. The activity is done to ensure that clients are not detained for long periods beyond the mandatory 48 hours. The impact of police follow-ups is that clients are able to re-gain their personal liberty through police bonds. It was observed that many police detention facilities operate below international standards. They are at times over-crowded and lack separate male and female detention facilities.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

Outcomes:
- 143 cases identified and prepared for RSD, benefiting 326 people (87M,239F)

Refugee status determination (RSD) refers to legal aid given to clients who need assistance with passing the test for refugee status under the Refugee Act, 2006. Currently, RSD assistance is mainly extended to the Eritrean migrants many of whom have applications for refugee status rejected by the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) and the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB). This is because Eritreans are not given prima facie refugee status by the OPM. However, there are also some clients from countries with prima facie status like DRC and South Sudan who present RSD issues, mainly because they did not enter Uganda through the designated reception centres for refugees. As a way forward for the Eritrean refugees, the A2J programme decided to assist them apply to the High Court for judicial review of the REC and RAB decisions.

Separate detention facilities for the juvenile inmates are also almost inexistent. For example, most police posts in Adjumani district lack detention cells; suspects are detained in police offices and staff
quarters. It was also observed that most of the detainees are kept beyond 48 hours because the police posts don’t have transport facilities to take suspects to court. Sometimes, the detainees do not have substantial sureties to enable them get police bond.

Detainees are also held for long to enable police carry out its investigations. For some offences like the sexual offences, the victims are hesitant to report to the police to record statements, which delays investigations. Some victims cannot afford to pay for the services of the police surgeon who must give testimony in court by way of a medical report. This is the case with districts like Adjumani, Moyo and Lamwo. As A2J, we mitigate some of these challenges by extending financial support to the victims of sexual offences to acquire medical reports. We also reach out to family members in the settlements to stand surety for detainees.

Referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Place of Referral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medication</td>
<td>MSF (23), MTI (29), Interaid (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation, RSD, Documentation</td>
<td>OPM (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Matters</td>
<td>ULS (15), Justice Centres (12), FHRI (08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Conflicts</td>
<td>RWCs (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family tracing/ Missing relatives</td>
<td>Red Cross (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihood</td>
<td>HIJRA (32), JRS (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resettlement, house rent, protection</td>
<td>Interaid (37)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 external referrals made

Referrals can be both internal within the organization and external, to other partner organizations. Most A2J referrals to partners arise from matters of a civil nature such as commercial contracts and land conflicts before the courts of law. We also make referrals in respect of those services which are not offered by RLP, such as resettlement. We also receive and attend to referrals from other partner organizations who have clients that require legal aid. We refer many cases related to livelihood challenges like food, medication, clothes, rent, etc which RLP only provide in very specific circumstances. After making referrals, we also do follow-ups to ensure that the clients’ issues are adequately addressed by the partners. The impact of referrals is that clients who lack knowledge of where to seek assistance are eventually assisted by the partners.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

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Advocacy for reform in law, policy, and practice

- In meeting with the SGBV working group, standard operating procedures for SGBV cases were developed and finalized. These were meant to streamline procedures for the cases of SGBV victims
in courts of law. This is a welcome initiative to cover the legal lacuna which had been overlooked.

- The Programme Manager, Access to Justice, together with the Programme Manager, Gender & Sexuality, participated in UNHCR’s annual consultations with NGOs in Geneva. This was under the theme, “Putting people first” this emphasized the need for AGD – inclusive programming, Framework for accountability for affected people and advancing gender equality. Patience Katenda, a Legal Officer in the Access to Justice Program represented RLP in a TV talk show on freedom from torture.

- A fruitful meeting was held with stakeholders and the Judge at the Masindi High Court for a discussion about overstay on remand for refugees in Masindi prison. This resulted in a special criminal session for 40 cases benefiting a total of 31 refugees and 21 nationals.

- The Programme participated in Stakeholder meetings about Mobile Courts with partners, including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Uganda Law Society (ULS) & Humanitarian Just Relief Aid (HURA). A final budget was reviewed and funds were disbursed before commencement of Mobile Court sessions. The Access to Justice programme meet with commissioners from the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) to provide input for review of the Refugee Act 2006 and the Refugee Regulations of 2010.

The 2nd Annual Regional Forced Migration conference was held from 21st-22nd November 2018 at Skyz hotel in Naguru-Kampala under the theme “Emerging Issues in Securing Refugee-Host Relations in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.” Issues discussed included;

- Limited coordination between Central and Local Governments
- The impact of the refugee community on environmental degradation and climate change
- The need for integration of refugees into the Government’s programmes
- The need to increase participation of the local governments in implementing the CRRF and ReHope strategies
- The need to create self-reliance amongst refugees so that they can survive on their own without resorting to government and the humanitarian agencies for example, through technical education
- The settlement model that makes the host population think that the settlements are more privileged
- The fact that many RLP clients present medical issues that require a one-stop health facility that addresses both medical and psychological issues.

The Programme was closely involved in commemoration of the following International Days:

- International women’s day under the theme empowerment of rural women & girls, challenges and opportunities
- World Refugee Day
- International day in support of torture victims
- International day of the Elderly
- International Human Rights Day
- International day on Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- International day for the Elimination of Violence against women
- International literacy day.

Research on access to justice challenges faced by forced migrants and the possible solutions was conducted with the school of law at MUK in Lamwo, Adjumani and Kiryandongo.

**Empowering forced migrants**

**English For Adults (EFA)**

The EFA classes are hinged on the “Speak Your Rights” curriculum which combines teaching English
language skills with building a foundational understanding of forced migrants on their rights and obligations. In 2018, EFA grew substantially. From operating in only three districts (Kampala, Isingiro and Kikuube (former Hoima)) with only four learning centers, EFA was extended to four additional districts (Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Adjumani and Yumbe). EFA today operates in fifteen (15) learning centers with twenty-eight (28) facilitators.

In 2018, with funding support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Dutch government through the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-Women), EFA enrolled 2746 learners. 2427, or 88% of learners completed the level they enrolled for. 319 moved on for a range of reasons that included; long distances to the learning centers, getting employed and operating own businesses, relocation to other settlements, uncomfortable studying with their babies in class, family challenges and livelihood issues, health complications, pregnant or delivered, achieved learning needs and returned to their countries of origin.

78 learners managed to finish Level Five at the Kampala learning center. They graduated in December and were awarded certificates, thus joining the very many Speak Your Rights ambassadors in the forced migrants’ and hosts’ community that EFA has nurtured 2007.

In 2018, we also realized a great improvement in bridging the performance gap between different genders especially with the exceptional performers (those who achieve 80% and above at the end of the term). Out of 206 exceptional performers, 117 (57%) were males, 87 (42%) were females and 2 (1%) were sex gender nonconforming as compared to 2017 were it was 68% males, 32% females and 0% SGN.

EFA also managed to reach out to refugee and host communities to conduct environmental education. Over 3000 tree seedlings were planted in Lamwo, Adjumani and Kiryandongo districts as a remedial response to the environmental degradation in those districts. One learner, a person with disability (no hands and one eye), with the help of the facilitators and fellow learners in Nakivale has persisted on the course from level one and during the last quarter assessments for level two, he emerged the best. This has encouraged him and many other learners with a disability to continue with the course. Five of our learners, because of the acquired English language skills, were elected as ranch and
cluster leaders which is a very important forum for defending and demanding community's rights. 18 learners (5M & 13 female) reported that they are employed by different institutions including Refugee Law Project.

Under coordinating online courses, we have continued working with RESPECT University based in Canada. We enrolled 63 learners on two courses namely; Business Administration and Office Management (21 males and 21 females) as well as Organizational Culture and Human Resources management course (17 males and 4 females). There has been good progress by all learners on both courses, and we expect them to complete their courses by May 2019. In the same objective, we have conducted 35 information sessions across all RLP offices operating areas benefiting 6893 persons (4351 females and 2542 males). The main outcome is that refugees and hosts have been empowered with knowledge on their rights and duties and how to live in harmony.

There is a reduced tension within and around the settlements which has given clear signals of peaceful co-existence between the refugees and host communities.

Community policing sessions, a key community engagement activity of the Access to Justice Programme, have also greatly contributed to promoting peaceful co-existence of refugees and hosts. During 2018, we reached 4377 (2632 females and 1745 males) beneficiaries across our operating areas. These sessions brought in different stakeholders like OPM, Police, Immigrations, etc
to deliberate on different matters affecting communities.

Furthering the agenda of empowering forced migrants and hosts on their rights and duties, we have also printed and disseminated 28,050 information, education and communication (IEC) materials, of which 26,350 were disseminated. These include; bail in Uganda brochures, refugee act factsheet, refugee regulations factsheets, plea bargaining in Uganda brochures, T-shirts, caps and banners with different international days' celebrations messages, posters on HIV and sexual violence. These have been developed and disseminated in the different refugee community languages including English, French, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Somali, Kakwa, Madi, Acholi, Aringa and Juba Arabic. Other IECs are under review and include; the court system in Uganda, how laws are made in Uganda, Sexual offences in Uganda, and an EFA brochure.

As Refugee Law Project, we are convinced beyond reasonable doubt that, notwithstanding challenges of limited learning facilities and lack of child friendly spaces for learners who come with their children, the combination of all these activities through the Access to Justice Programme has substantially empowered forced migrants and hosts in Uganda to enjoy their human rights and lead dignified lives.
Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being Programme

The Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing Programme aims at promoting the mental and psychosocial well-being of refugees through providing situation appropriate services that respond to the different mental and psychosocial needs of forced migrants.

Varied approaches are required to holistically address these needs. Forced migration exposes refugees to physical, social and psychological harms and responding to one harm is seldom enough. Before, during and in the country of asylum, refugees go through different types of torture and other violence, and often are separated from and/or lose loved ones. Such traumatic experiences overwhelm their ability to cope, some get wounded and require medical support. Social support systems, including friends and family, are broken leaving refugees with no protective system to enable them cope and recover. The uncertainty of not knowing how long someone will be in exile, in addition to insecurity and difficulty in accessing basic needs, can be a daunting experience for many refugees.

The programme therefore uses a multi-dimensional approach to support refugees cope with such challenges. It implements service provision like counseling and psychotherapy, links refugees to health services, builds the capacity of refugees to understand their mental health and psychosocial needs and support one another, and also seeks to build social support structures that can provide a psychosocial buffer for recovery and growth, notably support groups. We also build the capacity of different stakeholders and staff to enable them respond appropriately to the Mental Health and psychosocial challenges of refugees. In the Kampala office, the largest number clients we work with come from Democratic Republic of Congo (69.5%), followed by Burundians (13.6%), South Sudanese (11.5%), Rwanda (2.5%), Eritrea 1.6%, Sudan 0.7% and Ethiopia 0.6% respectively.

Treatment and care for persons with psychological and psychosocial challenges

Individual counselling

Our target for individual counselling in Kampala in 2018 was 436 clients, but this year we went above target and were able to offer individual counselling to 515 clients (325 F, 184 M, 6 GNC. Women continue to seek counselling more than men, although we have observed some increment in the number of male clients seeking counselling.

Many refugees present with various mental health issues including distress, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms characterized majorly by intrusive thoughts, night mares and insomnia, depression, anxiety symptoms and grief among others. Clients with suicidal ideation were 23 (3.1%). Given the fact that suicidal ideation is considered an emergency this was a big number. Majority contemplated suicide due to failure to provide their families with basic needs. For most of these, especially household heads, life is extremely challenging when they are unable to afford food, medical care and school for their children. This brings a sense of hopelessness that makes them doubt the meaning of life.

Using eclectic methods of psychotherapy, we are able to provide counselling and restore hope. Methods we use include Trauma focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF-CBT), experiential therapy and client –centered approach.

Group therapy

Group therapy is based on the idea that many kinds of distress are connected to interpersonal dynamics, either as a cause or a remedy. Four therapy groups were run for clients who felt comfortable being in a group, benefiting 47 refugees. Group therapy provides interpersonal dynamics that enable disclosure and empathic understanding that is difficult to find in individual counselling. Members are
able to provide psychosocial support and share experiences that encourage one another to cope. Being in a group makes people feel less alone and realize that other people are also struggling with the same challenges or even worse. For some clients, this is a big relief. Interpersonal therapy for groups and CBT are used during group therapy.

Household, family and couple counselling
The household is a key social support system that protects and provides the social and psychological resources people need to cope with distress. Our target for family therapy was counselling 66 families but we provided counselling to 86 families. Key issues presented by families were; transition in roles where wives feel burdened by the huge weight of taking care of the family and husbands feel guilty and frustrated for not being able to provide; communication problems; sexual related problems resulting from sexualized torture; distress resulting from failure to meet basic needs. Another issue is some members having nightmares that end up affecting all household members.

Outcomes
Hope for the future is restored (215 clients 65.6% of 328 clients that gave feedback), with reported improvements in sleep, levels of hope, reduced anger, positive view for future, understood effects of PTSD, gained calmness, peaceful in mind, started eating, improved health, happy again, improved personal hygiene.

Linking and referring clients for medical support
This involves supporting clients to access medical care through partnership with existing health centers. We surpassed our target of 200 referrals, and managed to refer 267 clients for medical support to Mulago, Lacor, Naguru China hospital, KCCA health Center, CoRSU and Butabika hospitals.

The biggest challenge is that the majority of the hospitals we refer clients to do not give medicines but write prescriptions for clients to go and buy for themselves, yet the majority of clients are unable to buy these drugs making it difficult for them to recover completely and in timely manner. Although UNHCR provides medical support through its major implementing partner InterAid, the need for medical support by clients is very high. Sometimes a client can spend a month without being attended to, delays which affect their recovery and resilience.

The Psycho-medical and Legal Camp
This initiative brings together different service providers including legal, medical and psychosocial in one place to provide medical, psychological and legal services to refugees, including some that they would otherwise have difficulty accessing normally, such as screening for cancer screening and Hepatitis B. It is part of the key activities the organisation has been implementing since 2017 during the anti-torture week that ends with the commemoration of the International Day in support of Torture Victims (26 June). The camp also connects clients with service providers that eventually become referral pathways for them.

This year, the camp brought five service providers on board including; African Center for Torture Victims (ACTV), Jesuit Refugee Council (JRS), InterAid Uganda, Naguru Chain Hospital, AAR Health Clinic and City Optical Clinic.

Promoting resilience and self-reliance

Mentoring support groups
Support groups is a psychosocial approach which involves refugees with varying vulnerabilities and needs coming together on a regular basis to share their challenges, learn from each other, and engage in joint activities. Through support groups refugees build relationships and create social networks
that become a support system that meet their need for affiliation, source of encouragement and counsel, and a collective voice through which they are able to speak for their rights and advocate for their interests and needs. In a group, members learn to listen and provide empathic understanding to members who have gone through related experiences. Hence groups provide the peer-to-peer support that people need to cope with challenges.

Through support groups we continue to build the social support fabric is often broken by violence before, during and after flights.

This year we worked with five support groups in Kampala. These included; Association of persons living with disabilities, Association of Older Persons, Association of Female Refugees in Africa, Survivors of Torture and the Youth support groups known as Rendezvous.

Working with the Association of Persons Living with Disability we were able to carry out profiling for 240 refugees living with disabilities in Kampala during the verification exercise that took place at between January and April. This is the first one of its kind. Useful data on PWDs is still lacking and this affects our understanding of their needs. Once analysis is finished, the report will be shared with all partners, which may be used for planning better intervention for all partners working with refugees especially in Kampala.

The Association also took center stage in organizing the commemoration on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3rd December) that we commemorated at a later date on the 30th December 2018 at Refugee Law Project Office. During this event different stakeholders were present including representative from the MGLSD who was the guest speaker.

This event provided a platform through which the association interacted directly with the Commissioner for Disability and elderly and they were given an invitation to go directly to the ministry to understand mainstream programmes for disabilities.

The Association also took the lead in organizing a child-friendly space for children with disability during which children and caretakers were sensitized about inclusiveness. 20 children attended. There was cutting of a cake to celebrate the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. The Executive Committee members brought some gifts including sweets and sugar, which were given to each child present. It was a time of celebrating these children, and they children danced and had fun with one another. It also encouraged caretakers to involve their children who are often excluded from other activities due to their disabilities.

We worked with support groups to carry out a child-friendly space for children that had finished primary 6 at the end of the year to facilitate dialogue about planning for holidays and making them fruitful for both children and caretakers. It was a good time of children reflecting on how they will spend their holiday, communication with caretakers and planning for Primary Seven. 20 children attended. Both children and caretakers appreciated the space saying was important because often unspoken expectations bring a lot of conflict between children and caretakers during holidays. The children appreciated the fact that they were able to begin thinking about their primary seven even before the year ends which will help them use some of the holiday time to revise their school work.

The programme further supported the initiation of 14 new support groups in Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Lamwo and Yumbe, benefiting 422 refugees. This was the first time that we initiated groups bringing together both refugees and host community members. Both refugees and hosts appreciated the fact that this time they can sit in the same spaces and talk about challenges that affect them. Comments from group members indicate that they feel safer and they find it a very good strategy in securing refugee-host relations.
The Children’s Corner
The children’s corner is a space that was established in 2018. Although our services do not specifically target children, many come to the organisation accompanying their caretakers as they seek different services. Some come with English for Adults Learners, or with clients accessing other services like psychosocial support and legal aid. These children often get bored in sessions with their caretakers and begin disrupting caretakers making it difficult for service provision. In addition, these children have their own needs, especially emotional needs that are often ignored since they are rarely in position to talk about them the same way adults do. The majority of the children are below age 10.

To make children’s visit meaningful, the corner was established to provide children with a safer space that provides them with play materials through which they play with others and learn social skills, express their emotions and exercise their curious mind. The space is a protective measure itself as it occupies children and prevent them from loitering around. The space relieves caretakers of the burden of having to take care of the child while learning for example. For counselling and legal aid sessions it is often inappropriate for the child to listen to the caretaker’s issues apart from instances of family and household counselling. The space facilitates such sessions by giving children a conducive environment where they can meaningfully play as they wait for their care takers hence the best interest of the child is taken care of. The corner received 201 children; 118 girls and 83 boys.

Strengthening community and national structures

Duty bearers training
Building the capacity of duty bearers contributes towards better service provision and the protection of refugees from further harm. Many duty bearers may not understand the mental health and psychosocial challenges refugees go through, which may affect the way they respond to their needs.

We successfully participated in training 1428 duty bearers; 878 Uganda People’s Defense Forces (UPDF), 270 police officers, 100 prison Officers, 137 health workers, 23 community interpreters and 20 journalists. We addressed the mental health challenges that refugees face and how they are interlinked with the psychosocial challenges that limit their ability to cope in Uganda. Specifically, duty bearers were trained on how trauma and PTSD may affect someone’s functioning leading to inappropriate coping mechanisms like avoidance, hyper arousal, helplessness, drug abuse among others. The trainings aimed at increasing their awareness so that they are able to exercise patience and understanding while working with refugees during interviews, investigation or treatment. The training also equipped duty bearers with knowledge and skills in understanding vicarious trauma and exercising self-care and peer support.

One of the key outcomes was participants getting to understand the difference between mental health and mental illness. For many duty bearers it was news to know that we all have mental health and anyone can be affected by a mental illness. For most uniformed men, it was an eye opener to some of the PTSD symptoms they were struggling with themselves or that they had struggled with or seen other colleagues struggling with but often misinterpreted as weakness, indifference or misbehavior. Understanding our own mental health is key to understanding others and therefore these trainings are very key in helping duty bearers understand the plight of refugees.

Capacity building for staff
The programme facilitated 5 training workshops for staff in which 51 staff and 21 interns were trained; Workshops on Psychological First Aid were held in the offices of Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Lamwo, 1 training on child protection and safe-guarding was conducted at Kampala office, and 1 workshop was held to look at the Anti-Torture Regulations (2016).
Psychological First Aid training
Given the nature of issues we work with, we listen to a lot of painful experiences that can easily affect our own lives but also the way we serve clients. Staff are prone to compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma. These trainings equipped participants with knowledge about mental and psychosocial vulnerabilities of the clients they work with and how this may also affect their lives so that they are able to take precautions. Staff shared self-care and peer support mechanisms they go through their work. A key outcome of these trainings is that staff are able to recognize their own vulnerability to burn out, compassion fatigue. They also appreciate that self-care has to be intentional and personal. They also appreciate that you do not have to be a mental health specialist to give psychological first aid to clients. They also gained psychological first aid skills and the confidence to respond to clients who are distressed, which often causes anxiety to people who are not trained psychosocial work.

Training on child protection and safeguarding
Staff were able to appreciate that in our work we find ourselves in contact with children on a regular basis, which therefore requires us to plan ahead of time to safeguard children. They also appreciated that child safeguarding goes beyond children encountered at work but also their own children and those of loved ones because if they are not safe the staff will not be able to settle and work productively. Staff were able to assess how child safe RLP is for children and to identify areas for improvement.

Training on Anti-Torture Act (2012) and regulations
This training equipped staff with the knowledge about the regulations, how they can identify and report cases of torture, options available for victim protection and the complexities involved.

Capacity building for clients
The programme carried out 11 training workshops in peer support and psychological first aid skills for support group members. These workshops were carried out in Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Lamwo and Yumbe, benefiting 129 refugees with knowledge and skills in understanding their emotional needs and those of others, trauma, its symptoms and what to do in order to address it, including key elements of peer support; listening, attending and responding skills that will help them respond to one another’s’ challenges. Group members understood the importance of confidentiality and respect for diverging views and experiences in creating a safer space for all members to interact and build meaningful relations.

Psycho-education sessions
This year, we carried out 9 psycho education sessions aimed at increasing the knowledge of refugees and staff on psychological issues that they may encounter to raise their awareness and readiness to respond. These sessions, benefiting 30 staff and 305 clients, covered the following topics; PTSD, depressive symptoms, counseling, suicide and psyche ache, family tracing and reconnection.

Through comments during different sessions we noticed that people’s understanding and attitudes towards mental health challenges is changing. For example, participants understood that suicide is a mental health issues and not cowardice or curse as it is usually perceived culturally. Slowly this begins to create understanding and acceptance and support for people with mental health problems, who are otherwise often stigmatized.

Milly (not real name) came to RLP in 2016. She was seeking counselling for the many challenges she had. She had nightmares and could hardly sleep at night. She also had livelihood challenges because at the time she was living with a well-wisher who had accepted to host her in her house. In return, she...
had to do house work for the home as a maid.

Having shelter lifted part of the livelihood burden but unfortunately, not long after she came to live in this household one of the males tried raping her on several occasions. This caused her to live in constant fear and further aggravated her sleep problem. Her nightmares became a source of discrimination from other household members. She was labeled for having demons and interrupting people’s sleep.

Milly had lost both parents and had witnessed her father and brother being chopped to death, an experience that got stuck in her mind. Every time she tries to sleep, this comes running back. Milly was assessed and found to have severe depressive and PTSD symptoms characterized by nightmares, avoidance, lack of sleep and extreme hopelessness. Milly could not talk about her story to the counsellor because every time she even started thinking about talking she would breakdown and cry uncontrollably. She was very sceptical and could not trust anyone and so it took the counsellor a long time to break through and have a conversation with the client. After three sessions, the counsellor decided to enroll her in a group therapy because it was hard to talk to Milly individually. Milly hesitantly accepted to join the group.

Milly sat in the group therapy sessions for five months without saying a word. During the 6th session she broke down told the group about her experience, her current challenges and all the pain she is going through. The counsellor referred Milly to a shelter to get her out of the abusive environment she was in. At the shelter, she was able to learn English and vocational skills all while undergoing counselling with the MHPW team. After 9 months, she graduated having trained in computer skills and catering and with their financial support started living on her own. This is also the time that she had recovered from depressive and PTSD symptoms. She was enthusiastic and presented a positive attitude towards life and was looking for opportunities to go back to school.

At this point our counsellor supported her to apply for a scholarship in Windle Trust, which she did and won a scholarship to continue with her university studies in one of the universities in Kampala.

In her own words Milly said to the counsellor, “look what I have become. I can sleep, I have recovered from grief of my family, I can talk without crying, I can smile I have so much joy. And now I have a full scholarship to study my degree and finish school. I now see where I am going, my life was dark but now it is full of light.”

Inviting Milly to join group therapy where safe space was cultivated as the peer-to-peer support helped her to process her pain. It allowed her to have a sense of the trauma that she endured in the past, and enabled her to learn to cope with it.
Influencing policy and practice

Working groups

We participate in the Interagency Case Management Committee and the Finance Committee that brings together key organizations working with refugees. This includes OPM, InterAid, Jesuit Refugee Services, African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and Red Cross. A key outcome of this is our improved working relationship with these organizations which results in more effective referrals. Through this committee, for example, we were able to facilitate a family that had a very sick mother and grandmother to get family support and food.

We have actively engaged with the Child Protection Working Group housed by Ministry of Gender. Our relationship with the Ministry has been strengthened. Due to this relationship, one of our staff was trained in child safeguarding and as a result the Ministry agreed to support RLP with trainers on child protection and safeguarding, which took place in September.

We are part of the Persons of Concern Working Group housed at UNHCR. Through this network we are able to share our work with the elderly and Persons with disability. Due to our engagement, we were facilitated to carry out the profiling of PWDs that was done at the beginning of the year during verification of January to April 2018.

International day commemorations:

Day of the African Child: Theme; ‘leave no child behind’

For this day we had a breakfast discussion with 18 support group leaders on 15th June 2018; Angels, AMUREV, MOH, Children-focal point persons, LWH, ASSOFRA, Youth/Rendezvous, Torture survivors, and the Elderly. While all children are vulnerable, forced migration makes children extremely vulnerable. Celebrating the day and involving refugees signals Refugee Law Project’s concern for children in situations of forced migration, and provides an opportunity for refugees to meet in a public
space and talk about issues that are affecting children. Members reflected on different extremely vulnerable children within the refugee community, including those born out of rape, children out of school, child mothers, and children with disability, unaccompanied children, and children on streets and orphaned children.

International day in support of torture survivors

**World Health Day;** theme Universal Health Coverage: everyone everywhere. We joined the rest of Ugandans and refugees to celebrate the Day in Luwero

**World Mental Health Day: Theme; ‘Young people and mental health in a changing world’** Mental Health is still a subject that is not often talked about. For this day, we conducted a breakfast meeting with the Rendezvous-youth group members during which the youth had an opportunity to reflect on some of the key challenges they face as refugee youth struggling to adjust to a new environment with very limited resources. They pointed out the fact that there are a lot of stressors in their lives; some have to work two jobs to be able to support their family. This was a concern to many recounting that they have been drawn into responsibilities too early because their parents are unable to play their role. Others reflected on how they are not sure of their future and issues that often has a toll on their mental Health.

The breakfast meeting culminated in discussing various mental health issues including anxiety, depression, PTSD, drug abuse and addiction. This aimed at equipping the youth with knowledge on how to identify these and seek help.

9th November 2018 together with Rendezvous, Ministry of Health and other partners, we commemorated World Mental Health Day under the theme: “Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World at Kyambogo University.
Outcomes
Youth were able to perform a skit at Kyambogo University showing how refugee youth are more vulnerable to mental health challenges and created awareness about the refugee youth group and their activities

International Day of Older Persons: Theme; “Celebrating Older human right champions”
On 4th October 2018, together with AREPU, an organization of older refugees, we commemorated the day at the AREPU office in Nsambya Kevin. This day brought in attendance OPM representative, the LC chairperson and leaders from other support groups 58 older persons attended, and 9 RLP staff. This day is highly appreciated by the older persons and many commented that to makes them have a sense of value because they are often looked at as less important. The presence of both OPM and the LC is a sign of improving refugee-host relations.

International Day for Persons with Disabilities –Nakaseke
On 30th November 2018 RLP joined refugees living with disabilities to commemorate the day. This time children with disabilities were brought on board and their day was 14th December 2018. Celebrating the day is a continuous reminder of the needs of persons with disabilities specifically for this years’ theme which highlighted inclusiveness.

Articles and talk shows
International Day in Support of Torture Victims,
Theme: Rehabilitate Survivors, Bring Perpetrators to Account (25th June 2018)
Participation in a TV show presented an opportunity for us to sensitise the general public about torture especially for refugees during conflict.
- How torture differ from other acts of violence
- Rehabilitation for torture survivors
- How children are affected by torture
- What makes accountability difficult
Torture often leaves the victim with multiple traumas that require intentional, multifaceted interventions. Torture is an exceptional source of pain that often affect the victims’ perspective about life. Unfortunately, it is often not talked about making victims die in silence. This talk show aimed at bringing the subject of torture to the public domain.
Press statement: Rethinking rehabilitation and support for survivors and Victims of Torture

International Day for Persons with Disabilities: (3rd December 2018)

Key issues
- What laws and policies address disability issues in Uganda
- The relationship between forced migration and disability
- What is blocking persons with disability from accessing their rights and inclusiveness

Press statement: Ensuring inclusion and equality for Persons with Disabilities requires change of attitude for all, and political will-New vision

Persons with disabilities are still excluded from all services and opportunities. Sensitising the general public helps change people’s attitudes, one of the key obstacles to access. Persons with disabilities are often stigmatised right from their households and therefore sensitising the public about their rights and role is important. The talk show and the press statement brought the discussion about empowering and according equal access to services.

Documentation Developed in 2018

Article on Mental Health Magazine - Ministry of Health. Growing up as a young refugee; the complexities of mental health among refugee youth in Uganda
With this, we are continuing to draw the attention of the ministry, the general public, refugee agencies and refugees to the mental health needs of the youth.

We also developed Trigger and Depression brochures for design and distributing. One of the major symptoms of mental health among our clients is depressive symptoms. The brochure was developed to inform both staff and clients the signs and symptoms of depression, its dangers and how to seek help

Guideline for working with support groups.

As we continue to rebuild the social resources for refugees to prevent further by proving support systems through support groups, the year 2018 we decided to develop a working guideline based on challenges and lessons learnt to harmonise our work. This guide will not only guide our staff but may become a helpful resource for other refugee agencies; the guideline will be operational in 2019.

Fundraising and mobilising resources for program development

We wrote a proposal for ‘Provision of Legal Aid and Psychosocial Services to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Deportees in Uganda’ to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and received the grant to implement activities for 2019.
Media for Social Change Programme

In 2018 the Programme continued to play the role of mouthpiece for the organisation, and to support other programmes through documentation of activities, packaging, relaying and dissemination of work. Notable among the activities that the programme undertook to achieve the above were the Basic Video Advocacy (BVA) training, the Community Interpreters (CI) training that saw over a hundred trainees graduate with skills in BVA and CI skills. The programme equally prides itself in giving hope through mentoring the Rendez-vous Youth Group. The year also presented with opportunities to share experiences accumulated in the field of media advocacy to other spaces as well as making new linkages across the continent.

Amplifying Voices of Forced Migrants

Basic Video Advocacy training: In total, 107 forced migrants and refugees were trained. The team produced 8 video clips (including a music video); Lamwo (The Future) Kiryandongo (The Tap, The Net), Adjumani (Parenthood, Security, The Money, Blood, New Life (music video).

The trainings were instrumental in building the capacity of the participants with most testifying that they can now speak for themselves. With the training, participants were provided with space and tools with which they have been able to continue doing the following:

- Documenting events & RLP activities in the field e.g. international commemorations, oral history documentation among others
- Making videos for the communities that they live in as a source of income
- Created a vibrant WhatsApp group - Learners sharing ideas & motivating each other
- Formed Committees at district level for coordination & planning e.g. Kiryandongo and Lamwo
trainees

The videos produced by Media for Social Change in 2018 continued to influence discussions around key issues. Key among those was ‘21 years running’ which was screened by the Dutch Embassy in Kampala to key stakeholders during the 16 days of activism on violence against women. The videos were also instrumental in the trainings that RLP carried out with various stakeholders as they were always used by the training teams.

Sauti Yetu (Our Voice)
Rendezvous Youth Group recorded podcasts on; Peer pressure, Teenagers & sexual relationship, Peace, Mental health, Lessons from MDD gala (Early Marriage).

Using Media

Social Media

Our social media platforms continued to be key in updating our clients, partners and stakeholders on RLP work and ensuring visibility of our work throughout the year.

Breakdown of postings to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and our own email Listserv

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posts to Platform</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
<th>% Change 2017-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>+34</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listserv</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>+453</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkedin</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>+17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Digitizing, Transcribing and Editing

A team of 10 individuals was engaged to digitize, transcribe, type out transcripts and edit video clips of videos, recorded interviews and other video footage of social justice events and activities like meetings, community/memory dialogues to mention but a few. In this period, a total of 477 analogue tapes have been digitized; 431 analogue tapes relabeled; 514 video clips edited and exported on video timelines; 530 video clips (an equivalent of 178 hours) have been transcribed; and 652 pages of video transcripts word processed and typed out in Microsoft Word.

Technological support

The electronic screening tool was successfully used throughout the year in nearly 5,000 screenings. The updates developed and implemented i) improved the questions and specified names of interviewers ii) increased maneuverability iii) Optimized MS Excel sheet generation

At Field Office level we delivered and installed equipment (Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Adjumani, Gulu, Arua), established internet connectivity (Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Adjumani, Arua, Yumbe, Nakivale & Kyangwali), and provided remote (on phone) troubleshooting. A range of new equipment was procured & software installed, we identified a new Internet Service Provider for Kampala with increased bandwidth, restructured the LAN topography in Kampala office to optimize connections with some computers on ethernet (cabled connection), installed the CCTV system in the Kampala office.
**Shaping global discourse on media use to influence change**

**Conferences**
- Enslavement, Conflict and Forced Marriages in Africa: Methods, Ethics and the Political economy of Knowledge Production” in Johannesburg - Presentation on Bringing Up My Enemy’s Child, Discussions on video advocacy training in Rwanda
- 2nd Edition of Pan African summit “The Migration – From one bank” in Casablanca, Morocco. Summit had 204 journalists from across Africa. Otim Patrick (the video advocacy manager) was on the main panel; shared RLP’s experience of using media to engage forced migrants
- Film festivals
  Screening of 21 Years Running & They Slept With Me at PSVI film festival, British Film Institute, London (Fighting stigma through film).

**Generation of audio-visual materials**
- 19 projects completed
- 4 Voice overs

**Cultivating sustainability**
- STEPS regional conference in Cape Town
- Contact made with STEPS partners from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana & Malawi and funders from Germany
- WhatsApp group created for sharing updates & ideas
- Story development workshop in Nairobi
- Generation Africa Project - aimed at producing documentary films in East & West Africa
- Exchanging ideas on stories
- Media Challenge Expo 2018
- Reframing media coverage on refugees
Gender and Sexuality Programme

The main aims of the Gender and Sexuality Programme are to facilitate gender sensitivity and inclusivity, awareness and to provide inclusive Sexual Gender Based Violence prevention and response interventions.

The programme actively engages individuals, families, communities and institutions, whether as victims, perpetrators or stakeholders, at local, national and international levels to transform practice, policy and discourse on gender and sexuality towards greater inclusivity for all. Gender and Sexuality’s work is geared towards ensuring best practices, documentation and dissemination of information about SGBV among forced migrants, conducting evidence-based advocacy and lobbying and research on Sexual and Gender related issues among forced migrants.

Programme Vision

Gender and Sexuality programme envisions a conducive environment in which all people understand, attain, recover and enjoy their sexual and gendered being and rights regardless of legal status.

The Gender and Sexuality Programme’s mission is “To actively engage individuals, families, communities and institutions, whether as victims, perpetrators or stakeholders, at local, national and international levels to transform practice, policy and discourse on gender and sexuality towards greater inclusivity and access for all.”

The Programme’s strategic goal is “to be a leading programme nationally and internationally in providing, documenting and disseminating inclusive SGBVP prevention and response interventions and services as well as conducting research, training and advocacy in the areas of Gender, Sexuality and Forced Migration.”

The Programme focuses on ensuring best practices to SGBV prevention and response, Documentation of best practices, Advocacy & lobbying on key SGBV issues of focus, and research on gender and sexuality issues.

For purpose of presenting key milestones achieved in 2018, the sections below highlight the Gender & Sexuality milestones vis-à-vis the Programme’s vision statement and key objectives provided above.
As part of the programme’s vision “A context in which all people understand their sexual and gendered being...” and its objectives on advocating and lobbying, and through key community-related engagements on during information sessions, awareness raising sessions, Community policing sessions, training and mentorships sessions, debates and survivor-led awareness raising sessions, the programme was able to reach 18,654 people during the year presented in the table below.

Our training sessions targeted Officials of Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda People Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Prisons (UPF), Judicial officers, Magistrate officers, Media personnel, Paralegals and Peer Counsellors, Community Interpreters, Medical Students, Medical Workers, and Youth from refugee and host community in and around refugee hosting areas.

Awareness raising and information sessions on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) were organized in refugee hosting districts of Adjumani, Kampala, Kiryandongo, & Lamwo targeting refugees and host communities therein, to raise awareness on issues related to forced migration and conflict-related sexual violence. Debates were organized to raise awareness and promote dialogues on CRSV among refugee learners in our English for Adult Classes in the above-mentioned districts.

Members of refugee survivor support groups that the programme directly works with organized successful survivor-led advocacy sessions. The groups are Men of Hope Refugee Association in Uganda – a refugee male survivor-led group, Association of Women with Children Born out of Rape (AMERUV), Angels Refugee Support Group – a support group of sexual and gender minorities, and Living with Hope – a refugee-led support group of persons who contracted and are living with HIV/ AIDs due to experiences of sexual violence. Whereas the programme works with and is affiliated to other support groups, we were able to proactively engage the above-mentioned groups who were supported to organize and lead community information and awareness raising sessions on issues related to CRSV, but specifically to key issues of concern of each support group.

The programme also organized several events in various parts of the country in commemoration of international days including but not limited to International Women’s Day, Elimination of Sexual Violence Day, UN Day Against Torture, World Refugee Day, World Aids Day, Day of the African Child, and during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence against Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>SGNC</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainings</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,906</td>
<td>2,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness &amp; Information</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>3,220</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>4,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Policing</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>1,404</td>
<td>2,622</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>4,026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Programmes Focus and Objectives

In addition, the Gender & Sexuality Programme works to ensure that SGBVP survivors attain, recover and enjoy their gendered beings irrespective of their legal status. This informs the programme’s core objectives; 1) to model best practices to SGBVP response and prevention, 2) to document best practices on SGBVP, 3) to advocate and lobby on key SGBV issues of focus, and 4) to conduct evidenced based research on gender and sexuality issues. The section below presents 2019 highlights on each of the objective above.

#### Modelling Best Practices

In 2013 RLP partnered with Johns Hopkins University of Public Health on developing an Assessment Screening for Identifying Survivor Toolkit (ASIST-GBV). Since then, RLP has screened thousands of refugees and a few hosts from refugee hosting areas across the country. Recently, and with generous funding support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda through the project “Securing Refugee-Host Relations in northern Uganda through Enhanced Protection”, the Gender & Sexuality Programme was able to finalise its model on working with direct clients. Dubbed “Screen-Refer-Support-Document (SRSD)”, the SRSD model captures the systematic processes and detailed activities involved in our SGBVP programming and client support from identification/reporting phase through to documentation of detailed testimonies and success stories. Pictorial presentation below;
SCREEN

Following successful community information and awareness raising sessions and through effective community mobilisation, the programme conducted large-scale screenings for experiences of war. From these we identified thousands of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (figures further below). Until 2 years ago, RLP conducted paper-based screening. This was not only labour intensive but also mired in challenges related to skip patterns during interviews, challenges regarding storage space, and time and cost of manually entering and cleaning data among others. Currently, and using digital tablets and internally programmed software, the screening process has been made simpler, and provides higher quality and more secure data.

From January to December 2018, we screened 4,316 refugees and hosts (2,822 females, 20 sexual and gender minorities, and 1,474 males representing 65.4 percent, 0.5 percent, and 34.2 percent respectively). Screenings in Kiryandongo, Lamwo, & Adjumani were halted in September to allow the team to catch up on the backlog on referrals and preparatory counselling. This way, it provided space and time to support transportation for cases scheduled for medical reviews.

From the 4,316 refugees and hosts screened from January to December 2018, the programme identified 1,432 survivors of war-related injuries representing 33 percent of the total screening. Evidently, the screening process contributes to enabling disclosure through tackling silences regarding experiences of CRSV – silence on which harms individuals, their households and communities.

Enabling disclosure for war-related injuries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screened</th>
<th>65.4%</th>
<th>0.5%</th>
<th>34.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiences of war (Before, During, &amp; After Flight)</td>
<td>RLP</td>
<td>Approve Facilities (Physical)</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Experiences</td>
<td>Supplemental feeding</td>
<td>Assistive devices</td>
<td>Families for adherence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy (Psychological)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,432 DISCLOSED
Experiences of war-related injuries
(Planned 1,296)
33.2% Disclosure
REFER

Subsequently, the programme referred a total of 1,726 clients internally and externally. Internally, 1,054 clients were referred to RLP staff for psychological therapy and later medical rehabilitation with approved service providers. Externally, the programme referred 672 clients to operational and implementing partners for services beyond Gender & Sexuality and Refugee Law Project’s mandate and resources. With halting of screening due to overwhelming demand, the programme still performed way beyond the planned target. The programme planned for 1,080 medical referrals but referred 1,726 clients representing 160 percent above towards set target.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal Referrals for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation</th>
<th>Breakdown of Total referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender/Sex</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGNC</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Higher Proportion of Men Screened required a Referral

A critical look into the 2018 statistics highlights interesting gendered patterns; whereas the programme screened more women than men (65.4 percent and 43.1 percent respectively), 29.4 percent of men screened were referred and supported compared to 21.6 percent of women, and 55 percent of sexual and gender minorities.

Support

Referral is an important aspect in the process in providing comprehensive support to survivors. However, effective referrals require that survivors are followed-through and supported through the healing processes. As a programme, we ensured that, besides covering medical bills, we transported clients and their caretakers to and from the hospitals, provided meals and supplementary feeding upon discharge and recommendation by medical workers, procured recommended assistive devices, and supported households for a supportive healing environment, care and adherence to medical treatment as well as reducing chances of triggers and relapse. In 2018, the Gender & Sexuality supported 1,054 clients representing 74 percent of those identified through the screening process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>Referrals</th>
<th>% S-R</th>
<th>Caretakers Transported</th>
<th>Total Clients Transported</th>
<th>Estimated # of Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freq</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Freq</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Freq</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,822</td>
<td>65.38</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>57.87</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,474</td>
<td>34.15</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>41.08</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGNC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,316</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From one to many: Our experience shows that a behind each individual survivor, there are frequently many more. At least half of the clients who screened positive told us that one or more people - mainly household members including children - witnessed what happened to them. Also, supporting healing process can seldom be achieved in isolation even with robust means and
finances of an institution. As such, and with conditions provided by health workers that no patient is admitted without a caretaker, we supported caretakers too – including a few who later asked difficult but necessary questions; “How about me? It also happened to me and I need support”. From this narrative, we supported 17 female and 7 male caretakers.

While this wasn’t planned, we ended up supporting transport, feeding and in some scenarios medical bills of caretakers who fall sick while taking care of a patient. Only 22 percent of our clients did not require caretakers. Also, we learnt that there are 3 hospital visits on average per client and we documented 5,628 hospital visits in 2018 and with huge pressure on our already limited human, financial, and logistical resources.

Psychosocial Support: During the course of 2018, our team in Adjumani, Kampala, Kiryandongo, and Lamwo conducted 4,494 counselling sessions – highest number of counselling session to have been conducted in a single year ever in the history of the Gender & Sexuality Programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indiv. Prep</th>
<th>Family Prep</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freq</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Freq</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>1,663</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGNC</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4,494 Counselling Sessions

2.2%
Adherence Support: In the course of the year, we supported clients with assistive devices, medical expenses, adherence support, psychosocial support, and supplementary feeding. Subsequently, we realized that through the rigorous support provided, we built progressive trust, strengthened family support, enabled disclosure of household members and other community members, and above all, contributed to securing refugee-host relations especially in northern Uganda. In 2019, we plan to upscale participant and supportive healing through proactive screening of household members and caretakers.

Document
In the programme, we strongly and rigorously document every tiny bit and process of our work, and believe that “Unless documented, it has not happened”. Over the last year, we further amended the above phrase to include “Unless documented and shared, it has not happened”.

Testimonies: In 2018, the programme recorded 84 in-depth testimonies (30 females, 32 sexual and gender minorities, and 22 males) for documentation and archival purposes and possible resettlement referrals in the future.

Success Stories: In collaboration with the Media for Social Change Programme, we documented 24 success stories (9 females, 15 males) following successfully medical rehabilitation and evident positive changes in the lives of clients who specifically have regained their full functionalities following months if not years of dysfunctional physical, social, psychological and psychosexual pain and despair prior to contact and interaction with RLP. For further information, refer to video clip (21 Years Running).

Medical Recovery Visits: In the course of the year, we documented recovery of 939 (out of 1,054 clients referred for medical rehabilitation) clients through home visits and using our internally designed tool to document recovery progress and ascertain further interventions if any.
Documentation Tools: Besides documenting clients’ in-depth testimonies and success stories, 2018 was spectacular for the Gender & Sexuality Team. During the year, the programme strengthened its documentation methods and tools. Therein, several online and offline tools were generated and staff oriented on to capture key information to inform further programming, research, donor reporting, and institutional reporting and strategic direction.

Advocacy and Lobbying

Religious leaders play critical roles in supporting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Guided by the International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict (First and Second Edition). RLP was invited to present in a training of religious leaders on the international protocol mentioned above organized by Association for Religious of Uganda. Represented by the Programme Manager, David Onen, RLP presented its work on systematic screening for war-related experiences. Titled “Refugee Law Project Model on Addressing Conflict-related Sexual Violence”, RLP interacted with several religious leaders from across the country – demonstrating a commitment of a fraction of religious leaders in Uganda in the fight against sexual violence in conflict (Pics below).

Annual UNHCR Consultation with NGOs (Geneva)

In 2018, under the theme “Putting People First”, the consultation took place from 27 to 29 June 2018 at the International Conference Centre Geneva (ICCG). This participation follows annual RLP’s participation in UNHCR’s Consultation with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from around the globe working with refugees to share experiences, develop contacts, and strengthen refugee protection globally.
The annual consultation brought together over 300 diverse humanitarian and development professionals worldwide and RLP was invited. During this event, and as part of an institution that envisions a context where all persons enjoy their human rights irrespective of their legal status, I enthusiastically offered evidence-based insights on how to strengthen working for and with local refugee leadership, National Systems strengthening, Self-reliance and economic inclusion, and Age, Gender and Diversity.

Owing to our experience on working with refugee and host survivors of war, the consultation was vital for strengthening protection, and therefore an essential space for high-level dialogue on addressing the global refugee crisis as well as amplifying refugee voices.

**2019 Projection – SRSD Model**

- **Screen**
  - Host & Children
  - Cover backlog
  - Screen Caretakers

- **Refer**
  - Tracking External Referrals

- **Support**
  - Support Group Registration
  - Stock taking on WWSG

- **Document**
  - Caretakers testimonials
  - Compendium of Survivors’ Voices
  - Online Reporting
Join us as we celebrate in 2019

2019 Projection – Advocacy for SRSD Model

- Internal capacity building esp. new staff
- Presentation of results
- Organise the IV SSI
- Disseminate Progress and Lessons on Strengthening Refugee Host Relations
- Advocate for buy-in the SRSD Model at National Level
- Settlements
  - District Level
  - National Level
  - International

University Students
(Medical, Refugee, Psychology, Legal, & Gender)
Operations and Programme Support

Assessment, Intake, Community Interpretation and Front Desk

- RLP front desk received over 4190 clients
- Assessment and Intake unit received over 1195 clients (Intake 586 new clients)

Community Interpretation Unit

In 2018, the CI unit celebrated 10 years of bridging and connecting RLP’s work to all forced migrants irrespective of their country of origin. In 10 years, RLP has trained 166 CI’s on the core ethos of interpretation and equipped them with skills to facilitate dignified and empathetic service delivery. 37 CI’s currently work with RLP in the different locations where RLP has presence and many of the rest work with Courts of Law, OPM, UNHCR, InterAid Uganda, and other Implementing Partners.

The demand and need for interpretation services is ever growing and this was evident as all the interpreters trained by RLP in Kiryandongo were taken on by UNHCR to support the verification exercise in Kiryandongo. In Adjumani, on a visit to the magistrate we learnt that some cases have to be delayed because there is no interpreter stationed at court. The need for interpretation services extends further to the UPS and UPF operating in areas with refugees.

Training Coordination Unit

In cooperation with all the thematic programmes, RLP was able to train members of the Ugandan Judiciary, Immigration services, Uganda People’s Defence Forces, Uganda Prisons Services and the Uganda Police. These trainings were conducted under 4 different grants:

- Netherlands MFA (Securing Refugee Host-Relations in Northern Uganda through Enhanced Protection). Various trainings were carried out on introduction to forced migration, and Refugee rights and duties and these included; 5 trainings were conducted at the National Police Training School targeting 225 police officers (190m & 35w) in April June, July and Dec 2018. A further 8 trainings benefitting 192 police officers (140m & 52w) were held in Adjumani, Lamwo, Kiryandongo, Arua, and Kitgum districts in Mar, July, Aug and Nov 2018. 4 trainings were carried out to benefit 100 Prison officers in Adjumani, Kitgum, Masindi and Gulu districts 100 (68 m & 32f) in October 2018. 4 trainings were carried out to benefit 146 UPDF officers.

- Foreign & Commonwealth Office BHC Kampala Project (Consolidation of Capacity Building for Uganda People’s Defence Forces and Uganda Police Force to Document and Investigate Conflict Related Sexual Violence). A total of 420 (322m & 98w) UGABAG Commanders were trained at Singo Peace Support Training School. In addition, 102 police instructors at Kabalye NPTS were trained from 11th to Fri 13th July 2018 (96m & 6w). 45 Senior Police officers trained 40m & 5w) at Bwebajja Senior Police Command College from 27th, 28th and 29th Nov. 2018.

- Democratic Governance Facility (Supporting Justice through Formal, Informal and Transitional justice mechanisms)

- UN Women (Enhancing the Protection of Women Survivors of Sexual Violence (Refugees and Host communities)).

1 training for Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) officers targeting 20 (16m & 4w) was conducted at Royal Suite Hotel Bugolobi from 14th to 15th Feb 2018. 3 trainings benefitting 40 UPDF officers were conducted in Arua, Gulu, and Kitgum in Aug 2018. 120 (109m & 17w). 1 training was organized for 25 judicial officers at Bomah Hotel in Gulu from 20th to 21st March 2018 (15m & 10w). 1 training benefitting 28 immigration officers (17m & 11w) conducted at Dove’s Nest Hotel Gulu from 5th to 7th Nov 2017. 1 training was conducted for 43 media personnel in Gulu from 23rd to 24th April 2018 and in Kampala on 17th Nov 2018. A total of 43 (31m &12w) media personnel were trained.
3 trainings for paralegals conducted in Lamwo, Kiryandongo and Adjumani targeting 43 paralegals (29m & 14w) all of which took place in February 2018.

Other beneficiaries included Peer counsellors, Community Interpreters, Medical students of Gulu University and Refugee youth on videography skills.

**Human Resources Unit**

At the beginning of 2018, RLP had 135 full-time employees, entitled to; medical insurance, travel insurance, 10% National Social Security Fund, Group Personal Accident and Workman’s Compensation insurance, and 24 days annual leave.¹ New funding secured from UNWomen, European Union, KIOS, PROVICTIMS, Democratic Governance Facility and the cost extension granted by the Royal Netherlands Embassy prompted further recruitment.

Employee turnover in 2018 stood at 10%. Reasons included both voluntary (Resignations 11) and involuntary exits (Disciplinary terminations 3, End of contract terminations 5), promotions (12), and reassigments (13). The resultant human resources gaps had to be addressed through new recruitments. Vacant positions are advertised on organisational social media platforms, as well as through national media houses like Monitor and New Vision. A total number of 3352 applications were received throughout the year. Organisational policy is to draw up a shortlist of 6 for any vacant position. We managed to shortlist 230 applications from which assessments were done and we managed to bring on board 62 employees in 2018 to occupy positions like Project officers, Legal Officers Legal Assistants, Project Assistant, Driver/Logisticians, Community EFA Facilitators. Four vacancies were not filled. 16 of the 62 are themselves refugees, 46 are nationals.

- **Overall** Refugee to Non-Refugee staff ratio
  - 29% non-Ugandan and 71% Ugandan
- **Overall** Gender Ratio – 119 male and 71 female 2018 compared to 79 male and 55 females in 2017

**Fleet management**

As RLP has carried out its activities and continues to do so, mobility of both clients and staff coupled by duty bearers such as the Police in the settlements has been and still is crucial in enabling RLP fulfill its mandate.

In 2018 the RLP fleet comprised of 9 motor vehicles and 25 motorcycles. A further 2 motor vehicles and 8 motor cycles were procured for the Uganda Police Force with funding support from the Netherlands MFA, to aid operations in the settlement. All the vehicles and motorcycles are regularly maintained and comprehensively insured, and are operated by trained and qualified drivers and riders with valid permits.

RLP’s Fleet Management Policy² guides the acquisition, maintenance, acceptable use and designation of organisation motor fleet. The provisions of the policy are implemented within the context of the legal aspects of Uganda Traffic laws, other organisational policies and managerial directives.

**Finance Unit**

**Income and expenditure**

In 2018, RLP received 3,869,247.92 USD compared to 2,233,304.99 USD in 2017 and spent 2,909,646 USD compared to 1,495,189 USD. The finance unit has continued to process all the necessary documentation through Makerere University to allow proper and timely implementation

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¹ This excludes the Interns, Volunteers and Research Associates who are temporary staff
² The policy can be accessible on page 36 of the RLP’s Human Resources and Procedural Manual
of activities.

**Audits completed in 2018**
1. DGF – BJP III & II
2. A2J
3. 2017 Institutional Audit
4. UNVFVT 2017 Audit
5. Board Survey – Ministry of Finance through Makerere University

**Upcoming Audits in 2019**
6. UN Women – CERF March 2019
7. DGF for the Period May 2018 to 31th December 2018
8. 2018 Institutional Audit

**Grants Unit**
The grants unit continues to pursue funding opportunities that allow RLP to participate in the work of empowering asylum seekers, refugees, deportees, IDPs and host communities to enjoy their human rights and lead dignified lives.

**Grants completed in 2018**
In 2018 the following grants were successfully completed:
1. FGHR July 2017 – June 2018 **Access to Justice**
2. FGHR 1 July 2018 – 1 Nov 2018
3. Anonymous 1 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2018 **Core funding**
4. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture 1 Jan 2018 - 31 Dec 2018 **Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing**
5. UN Women Moyo District 1 May 2018 - 31 Dec 2018 “Strengthening the Provision of Legal aid to Refugees and Their Hosts in Moyo District”

**Running Grants in 2018**
1. Anonymous; Jun 2016 – Jun 2018, **Core funding**
2. Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Sept 2017 - 30 April 2019 **Securing Refugee-Host Relations through Enhanced Protection**
3. Swedish Research Council; Jan 2015 – Dec 2019, **Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Understanding What, When and Why** in collaboration with University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies
4. Democratic Governance Facility;
5. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, **Conjugal Slavery in War: Partnerships for the study of enslavement, marriage, and masculinities’** in collaboration with York University, Toronto
6. OSIEA 1 Aug 2018 – 31 July 2019 **Conflict, Transitional Justice & Governance**
8. EU/EuropeAid – CTJ&G – 1 Jul 2018 – 1 Jul 2020

**New Grants in 2018**
1. Anonymous; 22 Jun 2018 – 1 Aug 2020, **Core Funding**
2. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; 1 Jan 2018 - 31 Dec 2018
4. UN Women; 1 June 2018 – 31 December 2020, Leadership and Communication Initiative for South Sudanese Refugee Women and Their Hosts in Adjumani & Yumbe Districts
5. UN Women; 1 May 2018 – 31 Dec 2018, Strengthening the Provision of Legal aid to Refugees and Their Hosts in Moyo District
7. OSIEA; 1 August 2018 – 31 July 2019, Digitizing documentation of human rights violations from conflict afflicted regions in Uganda
8. Foreign & Common Wealth Office (FCO Phase III); Jun 2018 – March 2019, G&S
9. EU/EuropeAid; 1 Jul 2018 – 1 Jul 2020, C$TJG
10. KIOS; Nov 2018 – Nov 2019, G&S with A2J

In 2019, the grants unit will to continue to aspire to raise funds while supporting the writing of competitive proposals, engaging with support groups and continue to carry out timely donor reporting as well as the having regular grants meetings.

Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Unit
1. Staff induction in M&E principles & Results Based Report (DGF, EU & UN WOMEN projects induction)
2. UN WOMEN – LEAP project Baseline survey
3. EU project Baseline survey
4. M&E visits & project review for UN WOMEN - CERF & LEAP projects

2019 in perspective
• Support programmes in data analysis (robust data) to inform new proposals
• M&E capacity building for staff and timely M&E support visits
Appendix 1: Breakdown of Clients seen in Kampala in 2018, by nationality and by issues

See attachment