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
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Introduction

The Refugee Law Project (RLP) was established in 1999 in response to research by Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond and Dr Guglielmo Verdirame which found that, despite Uganda’s strong international reputation for providing asylum to refugees, refugees did not always enjoy their rights in accordance with domestic and international law.

Our initial focus on legal aid to forced migrants has since expanded to include a number of intersecting thematic areas. We are currently structured into five thematic programmes, namely Access to Justice, Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing, Gender & Sexuality, Conflict-Transitional Justice-Governance, and Media for Social Change.

In 2017 our work out of the established offices in Kampala, Mbarara, Hoima, Gulu and Kitgum, continued to develop, but we also saw a significant geographical expansion, with the establishment of new offices in three areas hosting south Sudanese refugees, namely Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Lamwo. This also involved a major recruitment drive and the development of new programming, particularly around the screening for experiences of violence, mitigating the environmental impacts of forced migration, and greater focus on the use of video and radio as media for social change.

As an outreach project of Makerere University, we have continued to develop our skills in the provision of legal aid, psychological and psychosocial support, research & advocacy, training and empowerment. In so doing we continue to harness the synergy from our five thematic priorities as we serve forced migrants better, seek to inform policy and practice through research and advocacy, and to build capacity through close engagement with civil society and governmental duty-bearers.
2017 Highlights

FCO training

The UK Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded training run from 22nd March 2017 with the goal of building awareness among identified security organs on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and to build their skills in the documentation and investigation of CRSV for accountability purposes. All the planned activities required to achieve the purpose of the project were accomplished as planned, and the training was successfully delivered to 520 officers (87 female and 433 male) of the Uganda Police Forces (UPF) and Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) to prevent, document and investigate sexual violence in conflict.

“Securing Refugee-Host Relations in Northern Uganda through Enhanced Protection”

In 2017, RLP was honoured to be invited to submit a proposal to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in line with the pledges made by the Dutch Government at the Global Solidarity Summit of June 2017. The resultant €2.3 million 16 month grant aims to enhance refugee-host relationships through; training Ugandan duty bearers to ensure access to justice; building refugee confidence and capacity for self-reliance through addressing harms & injuries experienced by individuals before and during flight; enhancing refugee-host communication through creation of skills and communications platforms; addressing environmental degradation through reforestation initiatives; and through bringing insights from these activities into regional and international advocacy. The “Securing Refugee-Host Relations in Northern Uganda through Enhanced Protection” project targets South Sudanese refugees (Acholi, Madi, Nuer, Dinka and others) and their leadership (Refugee Welfare Councils), Ugandan host populations and their leadership (Local Councillors), Ugandan Duty Bearers (Uganda Police Force, Immigration, Prisons, Judiciary)
Hidden Realities

Global Disaster Preparedness Centre (GDPC) and response to resilience funding led to the screening of experiences of violence amongst war affected south Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda and birthed working paper 25 which explores whether a systematic approach to screening for experiences of violence (sexual, physical and psychological) is possible in a range of humanitarian settings (just arrived and longer-term, rural and urban) and, if so, what kinds of levels of disclosure are found, what are some of the factors influencing disclosure positively and negatively, and what might be the cost of addressing the most urgent needs.

3rd South-South Institute on Sexual Violence against Men and Boys – New Zealand

In November 2017, RLP, represented by the Director, participated in the third South South Institute in New Zealand. This built on the first and second institutes that had been held in Kampala in 2013, and Pnomh Penh in 2015.
7th Institute for African Transitional Justice - Soroti

The week-long residential programme, took place in Soroti town from 19-23 June 2017 on the theme: “Local Memories and National Truth: Active Remembering or Acts of Forgetting?” IATJ 7 confronted
and explored global experiences in relation to formal and informal truth-seeking processes after widespread atrocities and wartime abuses.

2017 Key Statistics

In the course of the year 4,356 visitors were received at the National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre (Kitgum)

A total of 19,675 refugee and host clients were served by the five thematic programmes, with support ranging from legal advice, representation in court, alternative dispute resolution, medical referral, individual, family and group counselling, support group mentoring, English Language skills, and video advocacy skills.

We had a reach of over 48,942 through various social, print, radio, video and television outlets. This helped extend the voice of forced migrants and set the tone for advocacy on matters affecting refugees and their hosts.

Office locations

The Refugee Law Project is now present in eleven locations with our Head Office in Kampala, Field Offices in Gulu, Mbarara, Kitgum, Hoima, Lamwo, Adjumani, and Kiryandongo, and sub-offices in four refugee settlements, namely Nakivale, Kyangwali, Maaji and Palabek.
Kampala Assessment, Intake and Community Interpretation

The assessment, intake and community interpretation (AICI) unit now doubles as the first stop for clients when they walk into RLP offices in Kampala. In 2017, the AICI team received 1063 clients (52% male and 48% female). Clients come in with issues ranging from sexual violence, insecurity, basic needs, depression and torture. The AICI team has incorporated a feedback mechanism to ensure that clients receive quality and timely service when they come to the Refugee Law Project.

The services most sought after by clients are:

- Resettlement - 18%
- Legal services - 16%
- Protection - 13%
- Livelihoods support - 12%
- Medical support - 12%
- Counselling -11%
- Other - 18%.

These paint a clear picture of how the areas of assessment, intake and community interpretation are deeply embedded in the fibre of our work with clients at RLP.

2017 saw a substantial review and revision of our reception space and process in Kampala, with considerably improved registration and tracking of clients and visitors to ensure that all clients are seen and heard in a timely manner and to maximise client satisfaction with the services provided.

The Kampala Community Interpretation Unit supported a total of 1213 sessions with 1106 being inhouse and 48 out of office and 59 group sessions. The team also made 89 translations and transcriptions, plus 87 phone calls. Under the ongoing Securing Refugee-Host Relations through Enhanced Protection project 17 community interpreters were recruited (24% nationals and 76% refugees) to work in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Lamwo.
Conflict, Transitional Justice & Governance (CTJG)

About CTJG Programme

While catalysing healing and reconciliation, the Conflict, Transitional Justice & Governance (CTJ&G) Program collaborates with multiple stakeholders to connect the often-segregated fields of forced migration, transitional justice, and governance, and to promote dealing with legacies of violence as the basis for a just, peaceful and sustainable future for Uganda. Aware of the fact that violent conflicts in the Great Lakes region have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, displaced millions and left legacies of untreated physical, psychological and social wounds that continue to impact on governance – and to demand transitional justice – the CTJ&G Program aims to:

- Conduct action-oriented research on issues of justice and human rights
- Document conflict evidence and establish a multifunctional archive
- Catalyze advocacy on justice needs of forced migrants and survivors of mass atrocities through engagement with government, media, and impacted local communities
- Provide policy recommendations with which to build peace, achieve justice and promote reconciliation.

Context

While Uganda continued to enjoy a period of relative stability insofar as there was no active armed conflict on its territory, it remained deeply embedded in and impacted by the region’s conflict dynamics. Ongoing conflict in South Sudan, for example, has a mixture of costs and benefits for the Ugandan Government; costs in terms of an influx of over one million refugees in the space of twelve months (June 2016 – May 2017) creating new governance challenges, benefits in terms of enabling Uganda to promote itself on a global stage as a “progressive” ally in the struggle of the West to contain global refugee flows and minimize their spill over into the West and global north.

The connections between conflicts generating mass refugee movements, and the post-conflict transitional justice processes signaling that return of the long-term displaced may be possible, continue to be inadequately made; forced migration is packaged as a humanitarian crisis; transitional justice as part of a political solution. Full engagement of (former) forced migrants in the development and application of transitional justice processes would promote the improved governance that is required if the return of refugees and internally displaced persons is to be considered a truly ‘durable solution’.

Key milestones

The 2017 CTJG program milestones arise primarily from the implementation of the Beyond Juba Project (BJP) III: Using our Past as a Resource for the Future! A multifaceted Transitional Justice project with an overall goal of facilitating national reconciliation and sustainable peace in Uganda. Specifically, the project sought to rehabilitate war wounded victims and empower survivors, affected communities, and key stakeholders to access justice, promote peace building and reconciliation by facilitating and scaling up individual repair and social healing, documentation, memorialization and advocacy for national reconciliation and sustainable peace building in Uganda. Below are five key achievements realized in 2017:

The need for Individual Repair following war-related injuries continues
Through the BJP III project, Refugee Law project has facilitated individual repair including surgical/medical and psychosocial assistance to hundreds of war-wounded victims/survivors of conflict in northern Uganda. Through public information sessions and group support engagement, hundreds of victims living with untreated war-wounds have been identified and profiled. In 2017 a total of 67 victims (33 female and 34 male) benefited from medical. A further 705 received psychosocial support (394 female, 311 male). These involved physical repair (including surgical operations and oral medication) and psychological rehabilitation resulting in improved physical and emotional/psychological healing of war victims and their active participation in State-Building processes. Follow up on recovery reveals that 90% of rehabilitated victims have healed and appear more empowered with some now engaging in livelihood activities such as agriculture while others are actively participating in TJ processes like the ICC and ICD trials, as well as local reconciliation and reconstruction efforts in their communities. Ultimately, restoration of human dignity is evident as wounds continue to heal.

**Uganda’s only History Clinic attracts ever higher numbers**

Second, the National Memory and Peace Documentation Centre (NMPDC), Uganda’s only dedicated documentation facility that is archiving and displaying historical information on conflict legacies, attracted 4,356 visitors, it’s highest level so far. These included students, victim groups, tourists, academicians, government officials and various development partners and embassies from within Uganda, other countries in Africa, Europe and North America. Notable delegations in 2017 included:

- Twelve guests comprising community leaders and government officials from Niger, Chad, and the USA participating in the Lake Chad Basin/LRA Campaign Exchange visit
- Delegation from London School of Economics and the Danish embassy delegation led by HE Mogens - Danish Ambassador.

NMPDC key points of attraction include; a functional library open throughout the week, a permanent exhibition comprising of 27 panels featuring over 400 articles on display, and an archive of about 14000 items including a collection of 1318 artefacts often used in public and traveling testimony exhibitions. Beyond documentation for instance of massacre sites for preservation of conflict memory, the NMPDC is dynamically catalysing healing and reconciliation by working closely with clan leaders to support local TJ initiatives, as well as cultural revival in post-conflict northern Uganda. The Centre is also influencing debates on accountability for past human rights violations while facilitating access to historical information.

**A model Transitional Justice curriculum is developed and launched**

In partnership with National Curriculum and Development Centre (NCDC), a model Transitional Justice curriculum for lower secondary school was developed as a means to engage young people in schools to understand how past conflict legacy affects national reconciliation, and to equip learners with knowledge and skills to address such legacies. Commissioner for Secondary Education Mr Sam Kuloba officially launched the newly developed Transitional Justice Curriculum infused into the social studies learning area.

**Memory Dialogues kick-start in war-affected communities**

2017 saw us roll out a long-discussed proposal; we piloted ‘Memory Dialogues’ as an innovative local truth-telling initiative, through which victims, witnesses and perpetrators share their conflict experiences and testimonies, even in the absence of formal state-led processes. Dialogues were held in Mucwini (Acholi), Barlonyo (Lango), Ombachi (West Nile) and Obalanga (Teso), and demonstrated that truth-telling is possible and vital in fostering healing, provoking disclosure and as such enabling the collection of testimonies which in turn are critical for promoting a collective sense of history and future accountability. Meanwhile, the countrywide dissemination of the Compendium of Conflicts including in schools like; Obalanga Comprehensive SS, Amuria SS, Starlight College, Labera Girls School, Kitgum High School, and YY Okot memorial reveals the need for a second edition as communities become increasingly willing to share their conflict experiences and expose previously unknown conflict legacies.

**National, regional and international advocacy continues unabated**

RLP has deepened understanding and increased various stakeholders’ interest in Transitional Justice processes like accountability monitoring. It has greatly contributed to regional and international
Transitional Justice frameworks and processes through its monitoring, documentation, and advocacy around on-going local and international efforts such as the African Union (AU) continental policy on transitional justice, trial of Dominic Ongwen by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Thomas Kwoyelo before the International Crimes Division (ICD). Through civil society platform meetings, RLP has rallied active Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to advocate for justice and peacebuilding. For instance, 24 key CSOs and media agencies were mobilized to complement efforts by the ICC/ICD. Equally, new parliamentary engagement strategies have been established in a bid to reawaken TJ and Peacebuilding Policy development processes while deepening engagement with key sectoral ministries like JLOS. Additionally, RLP’s contribution to the development of an African TJ discourse is remarkable especially through the annual Institute for African Transitional Justice (IATJ) that continues to attract the best minds and practitioners on the continent and beyond.

**Key Lesson Learnt**

Transitional Justice does not always require regime change and indeed, it can be de-linked from state level governance changes. However, doing transitional justice in such contexts requires multi-sectoral engagements, and innovative civil society leadership. The recent influx of South Sudanese refugees and widespread environmental degradation presents new challenges and opportunities that require rethinking of transitional justice to accommodate the justice needs of fluid and mobil populations.
Media for Social Change (M4SC)

The M4SC team pursues its vision of having informed forced migrants and host communities that are contributing their own voices to critical debates, thereby influencing social and policy change. To achieve this goal, the M4SC programme strives to make media tools accessible and useful to RLP as an organisation, as well as to forced migrants, host communities and policy makers to further catalyse social change.

In 2017, the M4SC team continued to deliver on the following objectives;

- Amplifying voices of forced migrants
- Creatively using media to engage & influence stakeholders on forced migrants’ issues
• Providing technological support to facilitate delivery by all RLP thematic programmes as well as forced migrants,
• Contributing to global discourse on the use of media to influence change
• Ensuring sustainability of the programme to deliver on its mission

Through the M4SC programme, RLP is committed to building capacities of forced migrants and host communities to actively engage with stakeholders and advocate for themselves. Through these efforts, 10 refugees (2F, 8M) graduated after completion of inaugural 6 months Basic Video Advocacy course offered in Kampala. Outcomes from this included the production of two joint video projects as well as individual projects by the trainees; the documentation of a debate by refugee youth in the wake of the Global Solidarity Summit on refugees; trainees earning livelihood from filming private events; as well as a news feature highlighting the importance on the course that was aired on CGTN Africa. In the third quarter of the year, a second intake for the course also commenced with 22 trainees enrolled (3F, 19M).

Film being a versatile tool for engaging audiences, the M4SC facilitated 12 community film screenings in northern Uganda and 3 Peace Film Festivals for tertiary students in Kasese, Arua and Soroti. Through these, communities were engaged on issues related to conflict, governance and transitional justice.

Furthermore, the Programme built capacity of refugee youth, through the Rendezvous refugee youth support group, to engage communities on issues using film e.g. poverty, HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy, drug abuse etc. Through this venture 16 facilitated film screening sessions were conducted by the refugee youth with 7 follow up/feedback sessions with a variety of audiences identified from refugee communities in and around Kampala. This greatly contributed to a growth in confidence among the refugee youth involved; vital information was passed on to refugee communities; and there were noticeable changes in opinion and attitudes from both the youth and some members in the audiences engaged.

With the awareness that communication of RLP’s work has to be done strategically for optimum impact, as well as the fact that there is an ever-increasing global online audience coupled with constant developments in online applications and systems, the Programme, through concerted efforts, ensured regular and constant engagement with audiences online through the website, email listserv, and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube. Below is a summarized breakdown of activity on these platforms

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<th>No. of followers</th>
<th>No. of posts made</th>
<th>Reach/Impressions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>4,375</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>23,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>2,756</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>25,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LinkedIn</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listserv</td>
<td>3,271</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3,271</td>
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Through the specialized and technical support provided by the programme to the entire organisation, the Programme was able to develop a digitized/electronic screening tool used to capture clients’ experiences of violence. This tool was installed on tablets and used in research study with collected data presented in a spreadsheet for easy analysis. The Screening tool enhanced the data collection and analysis exercises by making it quicker and less cumbersome. Part of the findings from this study are documented in the RLP Working Paper 25 – Hidden Realities.
End user support, especially ICT related, was provided throughout the organisation including setting up equipment in the three new field offices of Kiryandongo, Adjumani & Lamwo. Additionally, using the videography and photography skills, over 30 RLP-related events were captured on video, photography and audio.

In-house capacity for desktop design and publishing has been built, and over the course of the year 59 materials including reports, posters, banners, fliers, certificates, name tags, branding stickers were designed in house. This has enabled considerable financial savings against the cost of having the work done commercially.

As one of the major outputs, the Programme continues to produce audio-visual material to create awareness and social change on pertinent issues such as human rights, forced migration, conflict, governance to mention but a few. Through these efforts, 9 videos were produced and disseminated,
including the “Bail Denied” documentary that was launched during commemoration of World Refugee Day 2017.
Access to Justice for Forced Migrants (A2J)

The objectives of the A2J program are:

- Provision of comprehensive legal aid and psychosocial support to forced migrants
- Enhancing the capacity of state and non-state institutions in delivering justice to forced migrants
- Advocating for reform in law, policy and practice, d) To empower forced migrants on their rights and duties
- Ensuring program sustainability to deliver on its mission.

The Access to Justice Programme brings free legal aid services to forced migrants in the form of follow-up of cases at police stations and detention facilities; representation before courts of law and other quasi-judicial bodies; drafting of legal documents, and the promotion of alternative dispute resolution. We also build the capacities of state and non-state actors on issues of forced migration, and empowers forced migrants to better demand and defend their rights. Legal and human rights awareness and community empowerment is achieved through information sessions, English for Adult classes, Refugee Education Sponsorship Program Enhancing Communities Together (RESPECT) University courses, community policing, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, encouraging the formation of support groups and training of community interpreters.

The programme also conducts studies on access to justice issues, and uses the findings to seek solutions by engaging with the various stakeholders involved including police, Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), prisons, the Judiciary, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Office of the Prime Minister.

In 2017, the Access to Justice Team provided legal representation before court to 425 individuals, facilitated mediation for 976 individuals, provided legal advice to 1475 individuals, carried out police follow-up for 174 cases, made prison visits to 125 individuals, and supported refugee status determination for 145 individuals.
Psychosocial support was provided to 828 (397M, 431F) refugees/asylum seekers who benefitted from 16 weeks of therapy. 5 depression support groups were created and the beneficiaries can provide peer to peer support to each other after completion of the formal therapy sessions.

The Access to Justice Team enhanced the capacity of state and non-state institutions in delivering justice to forced migrants by training 14 formal and informal justice institutions and bodies which empowered key stakeholders with knowledge and skills. For instance, out of the 43 police officers trained, 33 interviewed through the impact assessment activity confirmed use of the information trained on. Also noteworthy is that the Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs) can draft better mediation agreements because of these trainings.

As part of advocacy for reform in law, policy, and practice, Access to Justice hosted and participated in meetings at country, regional and international levels which led to drafting Regulations of Trafficking in Persons Act 2017, sharing of the Interpreters manual developed by Refugee Law Project (RLP) with the Judiciary, Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) developed and shared with Ministry of Internal Affairs (immigration), and the launch of a documentary titled ‘Bail Denied ’ highlighting some of the challenges encountered by forced migrants in their pursuit to access justice in Uganda. The advocacy process also led to the creation of partnerships with other organisations. For example, after our first Regional Conference under the theme ‘From Policy to Practice: Making Refugee-Host Relations a Win-Win’, the Uganda Law Society requested for RLP IEC materials.

With regard to empowering forced migrants on their rights and duties the English for Adults program continues to gain momentum with 1925 individuals participating in the program at the Kampala, Nakivale and Kyangwali locations. The online course advertised by RESPECT University attracted 71 applicants and an advanced course on Organization Culture and Human Resources that will target the 21 students who graduated from Business Administration and Office Management course has been initiated.

21 information sessions were held benefitting 3895 individuals (1760 F, 2135 M), hence refugees were empowered with knowledge and skills to demand for and defend their rights. For example, 5 clients approached RLP to secure bail for their relatives which we did. This was further complimented with 15 Community Policing sessions which benefited 2395 refugees (1077 F, 1318 M).

Access to Justice continued mentoring and monitoring support groups. In 2017, we held mentoring
and supervisory meetings with 3 different community support groups to ensure that objectives of the group were being met and to ensure that they are operating legally. We supported the drafting of Articles and Memorandum of Association for Survivors of Torture support group and presided over general elections for the leadership of Men of Peace.

2017 was not without challenges from which we drew lessons that have prompted forward-looking strategies to enable the program to ably fulfil its objectives.

- The strike by the state prosecutors that started on 6th October affected implementation of activities for example legal representation hence putting 154 cases on hold. In regards to this RLP engaged Judicial Officers to dispose of cases using other mechanisms which include mediations and dismissal for want of prosecution, especially where complainants do not follow up their cases.

- Through dialogue with immigration officers, RLP identified that many of them have limited knowledge on refugee protection and management, and also do not always distinguish correctly between different categories of migrants. RLP has modified its trainings to educate immigration officers on the same and to more strategically coordinate work with partners and stakeholders.

- RLP identified during a training that most media persons had a negative attitude towards refugees, referring to them as “criminals and terrorists”. As a result of this gap, A2J now tailors their trainings to include those areas of focus to change their perception.

Overall, 2017 was a great year and we look forward to an even better 2018. As our mission states, we strive to empower forced migrants and host communities to enjoy their human rights and lead dignified lives.
Gender & Sexuality Programme

Gender and Sexuality issues are often both a root cause and consequences of forced migration of individuals, households and communities. A quarter of the refugee and asylum seekers who seek services at Refugee Law Project are directed to the Gender & Sexuality Programme after rigorous assessment and intake processes. Our experiences show that a significant number of clients have experienced one or multiple incidents of conflict-related sexual violence directed at them as individuals, members of a household or a community. Currently, two out of three survivors of conflict-related sexual violence presenting to RLP are women, one in three is a man. Systematic screening and documentation of these experiences remains a herculean task at national and international level. The resultant gaps in evidenced-based data and information perpetuate skewed, incomplete and unhelpful narratives about who the victims of gender-based violence are and what kinds of support they require to recover functionality and lead dignified lives.
A high proportion of refugees and asylum seekers arrive with profound unreported and undocumented traumatic experiences of sexual violence that require timely and professional physical, psychological, psychosocial, and legal support to the individuals, their partners, and households, if they are to recover self-reliance while in protracted displacements. Yet not only are services for women victims of sexual violence inadequate and for male victims virtually non-existent, they are more focused on preventing episodes of sexual violence in the asylum setting than on responding to sexual violence that already happened in the country of origin.

The objectives of the G&S programme are to;

• Provide inclusive medical and psychosocial support to refugee survivors SGBVP
• Provide legal support and protection to SGBV survivors
• Build the capacity of service providers including clinical practitioners, UPDF and prison officers to work with all SGBV survivors in an inclusive, non-stigmatizing manner
• Strengthen existing and new refugee survivor-led associations and peer support groups
• Conduct evidence research and advocacy on key SGBV issues
• Document best practices on SGBVP prevention and response, and;
• Raise funds to support work on SGBV prevention and response

During 2017, the G&S programme in Kampala served 544 forced migrants from Uganda’s neighbouring countries of Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan. Out of the 544 clients served, 337 were referred for specialised medical interventions in privately owned and government hospitals and institutions including but ACTV, AIC, Friends Medical Centre, KCCA Clinics (Kisenyi, Kawala, & Central), St. Mary’s Hospital Lacor, Mulago National Referral Hospital, Most At Risk Population Initiative (MARPI), InterAid, CORSU, and Ntinda Family Doctors.

The G&S team also takes in and collaboratively handles resettlement cases with its partner institutions, and thus benefits refugees who require further medical, psychosocial and protection needs. Cases that have been handled include male survivors of sexual violence, Sexual and Gender Non-conforming clients (SGNC) clients, women and girls at risks and with severe challenges resulting from experiences of sexual violence. During the course of the year, the G&S team identified 120 cases for resettlement, collected 92 testimonies, prepared and submitted 46 cases for consideration for resettlement.

Besides client interventions, the programme proactively engaged a number of stakeholders from grass-roots through to national and international levels in response to and prevention of
conflict-related sexual violence. Initiatives include but are not limited to training of uniformed personnel (Uganda Police, Uganda Prisons, Uganda People’s Defence Force, and Directorate of Immigrations and Citizenship Control), refugee serving organisations, refugee leaders and their communities, survivor-led support groups, legal, medical and psychological students from major learning institutions, and practitioners from the legal and medical fraternity in and around Kampala on systematic documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict and guided by the International Protocol on Investigations and Documentation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

While a lot has been achieved by the programme, 2018 and the years to come present with enormous opportunities and avenues to advance debate on inclusivity and holistic SGBVP programming; we strongly believe much more can be achieved in terms of directly intervening and changing the lives of refugee SGBVP survivors be they males, females, or sexual and gender non-conforming. Whilst there are enormous challenges that lie ahead, we will strategically collaborate with key partners to strengthen our interventions. Once again, we thank all those that supported our work and we look forwarded to progressive and continued partnership in the years to come.
Operations & Programme Support (OPS)

OPS has 4 units i.e. Grants, Finance, Human Resource/training, Assessment, Intake and Community Interpretation which give RLP the much needed logistical and personnel support to enable the RLP serve its clients effectively.

Grants

The grants unit under the leadership of a Grants, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer continues to write proposals for funding as well as supporting the efforts of presently running grants. During the year, the Refugee Law Project scooped 3rd Prize in the Ockenden international prize award for project “Consolidation of Legal Aid Services to Forced Migrants in Mbarara, Hoima, Masindi, and Kiryandongo districts”. In September 2017 Refugee Law Project secured a grant of Euros 2.34 Million to fund the “Securing Refugee-Host Relations in Northern Uganda through Enhanced Protection” project which targets South Sudanese refugees, their leadership (Refugee Welfare Councils), Ugandan host populations and their leadership (Local Councillors), Ugandan Duty Bearers (Uganda Police Force, Immigration, Prisons, Judiciary). Refugee Law Project is actively diversifying its funding base to attract more core funding.

RLP Funders, 2017

- UNVFVT
- Democratic Governance Facility
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Global Disaster Preparedness Centre
- Fund for Global Human Rights

Ockenden Prize
Finance

<table>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount in US$</th>
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<td>Total Income</td>
<td>2,233,305</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount in US$</th>
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<td>Access to Justice</td>
<td>246,856</td>
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<td>Gender &amp; Sexuality</td>
<td>301,580</td>
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<td>Conflict, Transitional Justice &amp; Governance</td>
<td>554,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Psychological Wellbeing</td>
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<td>Media for Social Change</td>
<td>76,502</td>
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<td>Operations &amp; Programme Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>1,764,960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Human Resources

RLP continued to be an attractive employer. We saw 3,990 applications for 55 vacancies, of which 52 were filled in 2017. This brought our total staff complement to 145 staff on payroll by the close of the year with one quarter of our staff coming from the refugee community.

Adjustments undertaken to respond to the emerging individual and organisational needs and circumstances included 1 reassignment, 17 promotions, 10 resignations and 2 disciplinary terminations. RLP continues to give a competitive salary and benefits.

Our study leave policy, which is designed to encourage all staff members to pursue further study at any level has continued to reap benefits both for the organisation and for individual staff members; we were particularly pleased when one of our driver-logisticians completed ‘A’ levels having returned to secondary school as an adult learner alongside his full-time responsibilities in 2014. We were also delighted that in September 2017 our Programme Manager, Gender & Sexuality, resumed duties following a one-year study-leave to allow him to complete a fully-funded Masters programme in the Anthropology of Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. We were also pleased that one of our English For Adults Facilitators won a scholarship to complete a Masters programme at the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague, following in the footsteps of two other RLP staff who successfully completed Masters courses there in 2016 and 2015 respectively.

In 2017 we hosted 22 (10F, 12M – 7 - international, 15 – National) interns, 2 research associates, and 2 volunteers.

In 2018, the human resource team will continue to facilitate learning, training and development to meet future organisational needs through professionalizing internal trainings and strengthen human resource management practices, tools and capacity through sensitization of staff about existing policies.
Refugee Law Project End of Year 2017 in Pictures

[Images of people enjoying outdoor activities and gatherings]