Ministry of Foreign Affairs

REFUGEE LAW PROJECT

Annual Narrative Report to the Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands

SECURING REFUGEE-HOST RELATIONS IN NORTHERN UGANDA THROUGH ENHANCED PROTECTION- (SRHR-EP PHASE III)

Contract Number: 4000006658

Reporting Period: 6 June 2023 to 31st May 2024

Date of Submission: 31st July 2024



Donor visit in Mungula 1 refugee settlement - Adjumani district

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution
CBOW Children born of war
CRRF Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CRSV Conflict Related Sexual Violence
EFA English For Adults
IASC Inter Agency Standing Committee
IASFM International Association for the study of Forced Migration
IATJ Institute for African Transitional Justice
IRC International Rescue Committee
JLOS Justice and Law Order Sector
LWF Lutheran World Federation
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MHPSS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
ODPP Office of the Director of Public Prosecution
OPM Office of the Prime Minister
PTSD Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
ReHope Refugee and Host Population Empowerment
RDC Resident District Commissioner
RLP Refugee Law Project
SRHR Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
SSI South South Institute
TJ Transitional Justice
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VSLA Village Savings and Loans Association
WRH War Related Harms

Executive Summary

Securing Refugee-Host Relations in northern Uganda through enhanced Protection-Phase III (SRHR-EP III) continues to remain active and relevant within the operating environments of Kiryandongo, Lamwo and Adjumani. Overall, the programme is doing well at output levels. Currently implementation progress and challenges do provide credible evidence base for relevant pivots in programming. The programme made progress against its objectives in a number of ways:

a) SRHR-EP III is achieving key milestones within the budget while challenges and obstacles continue to be addressed during implementation in year 1 and in the subsequent years of implementation.
b) Conflict sensitivity and community participation continue to inform implementation planning, partners' engagement and advocacy, and programmatic responses to community needs while infrastructure for peace is operationalised in order to help address the conflict dynamics and local divides in targeted areas.
c) The project sustained support from national and local actors, reinforcing their efforts to mobilise and advocate for peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities;
d) SRHR-EP team have focused their learning on the concept of peaceful coexistence and social interdependency as they work with conflicting communities to concentrate on points of common interest, rather than points of divergence, and more broadly how programme interventions can strengthen conflict-mitigation and intervene in a conflict-sensitive way.
e) SRHR-EP III continues to demonstrate more impact at the community levels in order to live up to expectations as a community social cohesion and protection programme.
f) The poultry budget for the remaining four years of the project implementation can implement poultry activity and also allow diversification of other livelihood components like agricultural interventions for the period of the remaining project years once budget realignment is undertaken and approved.

Summary of recommendations for the second year of project implementation

a) Baseline for outcome level indicators to be finalised within the first quarter of the second year of project implementation. In addition, some of the milestone targets are overly ambitious and will be revised to realistic levels.
b) Budget to be realigned to reflect new reset ambitions and embed learning of Year I in view of the Sudanese refugees in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement and in Greater Kampala.
c) As the elections processes build up in Uganda for 2026 and in South Sudan in 2024 and ongoing armed conflict in Sudan does not show signs of reducing, SRHR-EP III to biannually update and use risk matrix as a basis for discussions, risk management and decision making to reflect the evolving political, security and operational environment.
d) SRHR-EP III project to continue to offer value for money not only in terms of economy but more importantly efficiency and effectiveness.
e) Review the livelihoods components to include diversification of the livelihood components like agricultural interventions for the period of the remaining project years.

Key lessons learnt since last review

a) Deepen understanding of the operating context in view of the complexity and volatility of the political situations in parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Sudan. Going forward, SRHR-EP III will continue to undertake more regular, robust and holistic political economy analysis of the evolving contexts from the neighbouring countries of origin of refugees in order to inform programme pivots and implementation.

b) Contingency plans to be regularly assessed with local authorities and the Office of the Prime Minister on a need basis, to ensure project interventions remain adaptable and relevant, and appropriate to respond to a range of different evolving scenarios.

c) Sustaining meaningful beneficiary involvement is critical in ensuring the inclusion of a variety of tribal groups and sub-groups, as well as different interest groups and elements of society, including displaced people, religious groups, as well as central and local government officials.

d) Gender sensitivity can easily be neglected and the programme will continue to give priority attention to gender considerations through development and regular review of a gender strategy from Year II of project implementation.

e) Programme will continue to carefully assess the vulnerability of assets in areas of locations and ensure robust measures are in place to avoid losses/theft.

Conclusions

a) Pending Outcome baselines to be finalised within the first quarter of Year II of implementation.

b) For Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement integrate Sudanese refugees across all results areas

c) The work plan submitted to be updated and aligned with the revised results matrix and revised budget that will be submitted for approval once the Annual Report is submitted.

d) Submission to be made to the donor regarding response to Sudanese refugees in Greater Kampala given that they are a big proportion of urban refugees.

c) The revised work plan to be reviewed for gender sensitivity within the first quarter of project implementation and relevant changes made for approval by the donor in Year II

d) Review project results matrix to ensure that they are fit for purpose in light of Year II implementation and lessons learnt and that they include Sudanese refugees.

a) Undertake a comprehensive review of budget in light of Year I for potential realignment to ensure that project outcomes are achieved in year II.

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Performance of the Programme Against Set Objectives

Contextual Updates

During the programme implementation, the following contextual situations played out:

a) Intercommunal tensions and conflicts were registered: In Lamwo district, Palabek settlement, there was an intra-ethnic conflict between the Pangag and Bull clans of the Nuer Ethnic group on the 27th of March 2024. The reason given was that one faction did not want a girl from the Nuer tribal group to be in a relationship with a boy from the Nuer tribal group resulting into intercommunal fights and also due to long standing feuds between the two clans which unfortunately resulted into the death of three males. In addition, the project registered some ongoing land conflicts in Apaa region involving the Acholi, the Madi & government institutions that has impacted relations between the local communities as huts were burnt, farmlands destroyed and innocent people arrested causing fear and displacement. Furthermore, hosts & refugees' tensions continue over agricultural lands as the hosts who hire out the land harvest the crops of the refugees when crops are ready for harvest while frequently the same land is hired out to more than two renters leading to unhealthy local tensions.

b) Displacement: The impact of the influx of Sudanese refugees as a result of ongoing war in the Sudan has put pressure on services leading to increase in crime and tensions that are adversely affecting intercommunal relationships between the South Sudanese, Sudanese, and host communities. This has further instigated land fragmentations amongst the existing refugees to accommodate the new-comers. This is particularly the case of Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement that has been officially designated to receive Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

c) Geopolitical events in the region with particular reference to Sudan, the recently concluded elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the upcoming elections in South Sudan elections have affected attendance of some of the EFA learners as some South Sudanese refugees have had to temporarily return back to South Sudan.

d) Weather: There was a high heat wave and dry spell during the period January to April 2024, which affected farming activities for the local communities especially in Adjumani and Lamwo project implementation sites.

e) Culture and norms: Negative cultural norms and practices impeded update of some project activities.

F) Food Ration reduction: There is a systematic and drastic reduction in humanitarian aid especially the reduction in food ration which has forced refugees to desperate situations leading many to turn to their local and trans-national social networks for support. High rates of mental health conditions have been noticeable; in 2023, there were 123 attempted suicide cases in refugee settlements with 24 cases resulting in death, these not considering suicidal ideations, which can be equally disabling (https://www.voaafrica.com/a/uganda-reports-increased-refugee-suicide-rates-/7148409.html).

Assessment of Implementation Progress against set targets for Year I

Overall Programme impact	**Refugees and host in Northern Uganda co-exist harmoniously, enjoy their full rights and contribute to national development**					
Intervention 1:	**Building, mentoring and supporting Rule of Law Stakeholders: Immigration, Prisons, UPDF, magistrates and local leaders to ensure that they have both the technical and social knowledge and skills required to interact effectively with complex refugee communities and to mediate between hosts and refugees**					
Outcome 1: Improved capacity of Uganda's rule of law stakeholders to effectively interact with complex refugee communities and hosts	**Outcome Indicators**			**Target at end of program**		**Progress**
	Outcome Indicator 1.1: Percentage of the targeted refugees and hosts that report co-existing harmoniously			**75%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome Indicator 1.2: Percentage of the targeted Uganda's rule of law actors responding effectively to the Justice needs refugees and hosts			**60%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome Indicator 1.3: Percentage of the targeted refugees and hosts that report utilizing services of rule of law stakeholders			**95%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
Output level	**Output indicator**	**Annual Target**	**Deliverables**	**Progress towards Annual target in percentages**	**Variance in numbers**	**Comments on variance**
Output 1.1: Copies of Revised Training Handbook on Refugee Rights designed, printed, and disseminated.	Output Indicator 1.1: Number of copies of refugee rights and protection training manual disseminated	3,000 Copies (new) of revised training handbook designed, printed and disseminated	0	0%	-3000	Review was done and submitted for further review before final printing that will be done in Year II of project implementation.
Output 1.2: Refugees and hosts reached through community dialogues sessions.	Output Indicator 1.2: Number of refugees and hosts reached through community	3,600 (2052f,1548m) Refugees 2,340 (1334f,1006m)	2,192 (1297f, 895m) individuals; 1460 (931f, 529m) refugees and	**79%**	-1408	There were delays in implementation start up due to staff recruitment processes.

	dialogues sessions	Hosts 1,260 (718f,542m)	734 (393f, 341m) hosts.			Community members usually go out in the mornings to meet their livelihood needs before coming for project activities so ended up missing these dialogues usually conducted in the mornings. Strategies have been devised to conduct the activities in the late afternoon when most refugees and hosts have returned from farm work and markets.
Output 1.3: Rule of law actors trained on refugee rights and protection, CRRF, ReHOPE, ADR & key psychosocial skills.	Output indicator 1.3: Number of rule of law actors trained on refugee rights and protection, CRRF, ReHOPE, ADR & key psychosocial skills:	Community Leaders: 135 (55f,80m) refugees DPPs 20(10f,10m) Prison Officers 75(19f&56m) hosts Judicial Officers 36(9f,27m)	Community Leaders: 132 (59f,73m) leaders Refugees 120 (64M, 56F), Hosts 12 (09M, 03F)**.** DPP 20(9F&11M) Prison Officers 70 (21f,49m) hosts Judicial officers 25(9f,16m)	**98%** **100%** **93%** **71%**	**-3** **On track** **5**	Some selected participants for these trainings were mobilised earlier and those who did not turn up had been assigned other duties prior to the training.

					-11	
Output 1.4: Rule of law actors participate in the round table workshops	Output indicator 1.4: Number of rule of law actors participating in the round table workshop	30(10f, 20m - all nationals) Immigration Officers, 15(8 females, 7males) Judicial officers	25(9f,16m)	**83%**	-5	Judicial Officers were engaged in court sessions and could not attend the round table dialogue as earlier mobilised
Output 1.5: Clients represented in court	Output Indicator 1.5: Number of clients represented in court	300(75f,225m) Refugees195 (49f,146m) Hosts 105(26f,79m)	763 (177f,586m) individuals; 306(81f,225m) refugees and 457(96f,361m) hosts in 297 cases	**254%**	463	This result is attributed to the good cooperation between RLP and state actors (ODPP and Prisons) which has resulted into the increase in plea bargain cases handled.
Output 1.6: Refugees and hosts directly represented during the mobile court	Output Indicator 1.6: Number of refugees and hosts directly represented during the mobile court	3 sessions to benefit 150 (71f,79m); refugees: 97(46f,51m); Hosts 53 (25f,28m)	03 mobile court sessions conducted benefitting 879(251f,628).	**100%**	On track	Case backlogs was reduced as a number of cases were handled and completed during the mobile court sessions.
Output 1.7: Refugees and hosts participate in mediations	Output Indicator 1.7: Number of refugees and hosts participating in mediations	1040 (520f,520m) Refugees 676 (338f,338m) Hosts 364 (182f,182m	1714 (796f,918m) individuals with 1072 (524f,548m) refugees and 642(272f,370m) hosts.	**165%**	674	This result is attributed to the good mobilisation by the Community Extension Workers, paralegals and good working

						relationships with the local leaders
Output 1.8: Refugees and hosts receive legal advice	Output Indicator 1.8: Number of refugees and hosts receiving legal advise	1040 (520f,520m) Refugees 676 (338f,338m) Hosts 364 (182f,182m)	1282 (707f,575m) individuals; 1056(554f,502m) refugees and 226(128f,98m) hosts.	**123%**	242	This is attributed to the Mobile legal clinics conducted and the good mobilisation of the paralegals and Extension workers and working relations with partners and leaders
Output 1.9: Regional conferences on forced migration and access to justice convened	Output Indicator 1.9: Number of Regional conferences on forced migration and access to justice convened	1 conference benefitting 40 (20f, 20m) Refugees 8(4f,4m) Hosts 32(16f,16m)	73(27f,46M) participants with 10(3f,7m) refugees, 63(24f,39m) hosts	**183%**	33	Interest in the theme, *The Silos of Human Trafficking in the Context of Forced Migration* which is a concern
Output 1.10: Research on access to justice conducted	Output Indicator 1.10: Number of access to justice studies conducted for refugees and hosts in and around refugee hosting districts of operation	1 Situational analysis conducted during the project life	0	**0%**	-1	This research will be conducted in Year II

Challenges encountered in the delivery of outputs were as follows:

a. Lack of juvenile homes in the project sites in the 3 districts and
b. High numbers of inmates on capital offences without justice administration
b) Cross border movements making follow up of cases difficult
c) Illegal entry and exit of refugees through the porous border points poses a security risks to the bordering districts.

Proposed Recommendations:

a) Project to consider making budgetary adjustments to support mobile courts and juvenile cases with transport
b) Project to consider budgetary adjustments to support monitoring of places of detention.

Lessons learned:

a) The role of paralegals in facilitating mediation is valuable
b) Mediation is important in fostering local peace.
c) Plea bargain and out of court settlement are the most effective mode of disposal of minor cases enabling speedy conclusion of criminal cases.

Opportunities:

a) New high court circuit in Moyo and Kitgum; Chief magistrate court in Adjumani and G1 in Lamwo to increase days for hearing criminal cases.

Intervention 2:	**Building the confidence and self-reliance capacity of south Sudanese refugees through addressing profound harms experienced in the country of origin and in flight to Uganda**					
Outcome 2: Improved access and uptake of professional and timely services for profound war-related, gendered harms, and SRHR needs of refugees and host	**Outcome Indicators**			**Target at end of program**		**Progress**
	Outcome Indicator 2.1: Percentage of household members that report improved recovery from war related gendered harms			**75%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome Indicator 2.2: Percentage of household members that report participation in livelihood activities after recovery from war related gendered harms			**80%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome indicator 2.3: Percentage of household members that report improved participation in social functions			**70%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome indicator 2.4: Girls and boys aged 15-24yr who know how to prevent pregnancy using modern contraceptives			**Baseline data collected**		Analysis on going
Result Area	**Output Indicator**	**Annual Target**	**Deliverables**	**Progress towards Annual target in percentages**	**Variance in numbers**	**Comments on variance**

Output 2.1: Refugees and Hosts screened for experiences of violence	Output indicator 2.1: Refugees and Hosts screened for experiences of violence	3000 (1,190f,1,181m) Refugees 2100 (833f,1267m) Hosts 900 (357f,543m)	1556 (938f,597m, 21D) Refugees 1211(729f,496m,13D) Hosts 342 (207f,127m,8D Asylum seekers 3(2f,1m)	**52%**	-1444	Delays in implementation due to staff recruitment processes Clients needed to visit the hospitals more than the initial agreed 3 visits. Cost of treatment per client has gone high. There is a screening exhaustion/ saturation in Maaji refugee settlement in Adjumani thus making realisation of targets difficult and plans are underway to move screening to Mungula 1 to help realise the target. Accelerated plan in place for Year II
Output 2.2: Refugees and Hosts Identified and referred for medical Rehabilitation (including treatment)	Output indicator 2.2: Number of Refugees and Hosts Identified and referred for medical Rehabilitation (including treatment)	900 (585f,325m) Refugees 630 (410f,220m) Hosts 270(176f,94m)	705 (437f,262m,6D) Refugees 524(321f,198m,5D) Hosts 178 (114f,63m1D) Asylum seekers 3(2f,1m)	**78%**	-195	Sequencing of activities means all activities are dependent on screening of survivors of violence This shortfall will be addressed in Year II
Output 2.3: Refugees and Hosts who received	Output indicator 2.3: Number of Refugees	900 (585f,325m) Refugees 630 (410f,220m)	834(508f,320m,5D) Refugees 676(410f,261m,5D)	**93%**	-66	Delayed implementation start-up due to staff recruitment which took some time

individual & Household preparatory counselling & follow-up visits.	and Hosts who received individual & Household preparatory counselling & follow-up visits	Hosts 270 (176f,94m	Hosts 158 (98f,59m,1D) Asylum seekers 3 (2f,1m)			Finalizing MoUs with the health facilities ate into the implementation of activities for Year I. In addition, targets were overly ambitious and will be revised to realistic levels for Year II and the other years.
Output 2.4: Refugees and Host post rehabilitate, documented and profiled	Output indicator 2.4: Number of Refugees and Host post rehabilitated, documented and profiled	900 (585f,325m) Refugees 630 (410f,220m) Hosts 270 (176f,94m	616(366f,250m) Refugees 529 (296f,233m) Hosts 87(70f,17m)	**68%**	-284	Target was overly ambitious. Besides, activity implementation is dependent on the client first accessing medical care and how they effectively respond to the treatment provided. Target will be revised and shortfall addressed in Year II
Output 2.5: skilled medical doctors supported and placed in government hospitals	Output indicator 2.5: Number of skilled medical doctors supported and placed in government hospitals	9	9 (4f,5m) all hosts	**100%**	On track	Target fully achieved
Output 2.6: Additional copies of RLP's Screen-	Output indicator 2.6: Number of	1,500 copies of the SRSD model printed	0	**0%**	-1500	Copies of the SRSD to be printed in Year II

Refer-Support-Document model printed and disseminated	revised copies of the User-Guide designed and printed during project period	and disseminated				
Output 2.7: Annual symposium for refugee actors on war-related issues on enabling disclosure (East African Level) organised	Output indicator 2.7: Number of symposiums organised	1	0	**0%**	-1	This will be conducted in Year II as this could not be organised due to programmatic and leadership transition in Year I of project implementation. This will be conducted in Year II
Output 2.8: Annual public lectures on war-related harms in universities held	Output indicator 2.8: Number of public lectures conducted on war-related harms	1	0	**0%**	-1	This will be conducted in Year II as there were changes in RLP leadership management which affected realisation of this objective. This will be conducted in Year II
Output 2.9: Refugees and hosts received information & participated in awareness raising on SRHR	Output indicator 2.9: Number of refugees and hosts who received information & participated in awareness raising on SRHR	3 sessions benefitting 1800 (810f,612m) Refugees 1053 (719f,334m) Hosts 648 (370f,278m)	2407 (1562f,845m) Refugees 1404(930f, 474m) Hosts 1003 (632f,371m)	**134%**	607	Activity successfully implemented in both the refugee and host community. Mobilisation was well done attracting more people for the awareness sessions

Output 2.10: Copies of IEC materials on SRHR developed, translated and disseminated	Output indicator 2.10: Number of IEC and SRHR-specific resources including factsheets, referral pathways designed, printed, translated and disseminated in and around refugee settlements	15,000 IECs	21,000 copies printed in seven common languages and selected topics on teenage pregnancy, SRHR, GBV prevention, family planning	**140%**	6,000	IEC materials were developed, reviewed, approved and printed in the different common languages of English, Dinka, Nuer, Madi, Luo, Kiswahili and Juba Arabic
Output 2.11: Refugees and hosts participated in Strategic community dialogues on SRHR and prevention of violence against women and girls	Output indicator 2.11: Number of refugees and hosts who participated from community dialogues on SRHR issues and the prevention of violence against women and girls	3 sessions to benefit 480 (158f,322m) participants. Refugees 336 (111f,225m) Hosts 144(48f,96m)	400(210f, 190m) Refugees 300(174f,126m) Hosts 100(37f,63m)	**83%**	-80	Community members usually go out to meet their livelihood needs in the mornings before coming for community activities so end up missing these dialogues which were also conducted in the morning hours as per initial recommendations from consultations. Strategies put in place to ensure more people attend the dialogues through adjusting the time of the activities

Output 2.12: OPM and UNHCR partners participated in strategic reflection roundtable meetings on strengthening SRHR in and around refugee hosting area	Output indicator 2.12: Number of OPM and UNHCR partners participated in strategic reflection roundtable meetings on strengthening SRHR in and around refugee hosting areas	3 sessions per year benefiting 60 partners.	69 (31f, 38m) Refugees 9(4f,5m) Host 60 (27f,33m) partners benefitted from the meeting.	**115%**	9	Meetings successfully conducted
Output 2.13: A functional archive containing detailed but deducted testimonies of war-survivors established at the National Memory and Peace Documentation Centre established in Kitgum	output indicator 2.13: Number of functional archives containing detailed but deducted testimonies of war-survivors established	1	0	**0%**	-1	This will be done in Year II when clients who have accessed medical care are ready to share their testimonies

During implementation of this outcome, the following were noted:

Challenges:

a) Delays in staff recruitment was experienced at the start which affected the realisation of screening targets.

b) Incidences of intercommunal conflicts affected field work screening and the subsequent activities.

c) Health system gaps such as blood stocks in Lacor Hospital and inconsistent power supplies at Kiryandongo hospitals affected timely treatment of clients.

d) Three medical visits are inadequate for a full recovery from war related harms.

e) There is a screening exhaustion/saturation in Maaji refugee settlement in Adjumani following the many years of RLP screening in the settlement since Phase I of the Dutch funded project thus making realisation of targets difficult.

f) Some targets were overly ambitious and will be revised to align with what is realistically achievable in the operating environment of the settlements and capability of service providers.

g) Costly treatments and surgeries above the agreed upon threshold

Recommendations:

a) Project to continue strengthening partnerships with health service providers for survivors and victims of war-related harms
b) Revise targets and budget to match needs on the ground including increasing the number of medical visits for clients to 5 in order to support full recovery of clients
c) Project to explore further the possibility of a third health facility (hospital) partner while also continuing to advocate for and engage the relevant hospital authorities on the blood stock out incidents.

Lessons learned:

a) War injuries are curable and partnerships and advocacy remain valuable for fuller recovery support to clients
b) Clients disclose war harms after trust is built and confidentiality assured.

Opportunities:

a) Expand screening services with the arrival to include Sudanese refugees in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

Intervention 3	**Enhance mental health, livelihood and empowering refugees and hosts to speak for themselves and to be able to engage in basic dialogues and access services.**					
Outcome area 3: Enhanced Mental Health and Livelihood for refugees and host communities to reduce dependency on UNHCR and OPM relief items, broaden and diversity household incomes, reduce poverty-induced vulnerabilities, economic crimes, and mental illnesses, and enable refugees and host communities to contribute to national development.	**Outcome Indicator**			**Target at end of program**		**Progress**
	Outcome Indicator 3.1: Percentage of refugees and hosts that report reduced distress and improved coping skills			**75%**		Outcome data to be collected after completion of therapy
	Outcome Indicator 3.2: Percentage of refugees and hosts that report effective integration into their communities			**60%**		Outcome data to be collected after completion of therapy
	Outcome Indicator 3.3: Percentage of refugees and hosts able to amplify issues within their communities			**75%**		Outcome data to be collected after graduation of beneficiaries
Result Area	**Output Indicator**	**Annual Target**	**Deliverables**	**Progress towards Annual target in percentages**	**Variance in numbers**	**Comments on variance**
Output 3.1: Refugees and hosts provided with MHPSS services.	Output indicator 3.1: Number of refugees and hosts provided with MHPSS services	5460 (3233f,2227m) with 3822 (2293f,1529m) refugees, 1638 (983f,655m) Psycho-medical and legal aid clinics: 450(270f,180m) with 315 (189F, 126m m) refugees,	3644 (F2099, 1545M) R-2279 H-1365 **Psycho-medical results achieved:** 1947 (1264F, 683M) R-1105 (754f, 351m)	433%	-1816	Late implementation start-up and in-depth counselling related to suicide tendencies and depression, and PTSD taking more time than initially anticipated During the psycho-medical and legal clinic, health education information is given to refugees and hosts that

		135(81f,54m) hosts Psycho-education sessions: 900 630f,270 m) with 630 (441f,189m)	H-842 (559F, 283M) -Medical services conducted:191 (129F, 62M); R- 67 (43F, 24M) H-124 (86F, 38M) -Counselling services conducted:197(141F, 56M); R-150 (108F, 42M), H-47 (34F, 13M) -Psychiatric services conducted: 32 (28F, 4M); R-5 (4F, 1M), H-27 (24F, 3M) -Psychological assessment conducted: 41 (26F, 15M) R-27 (17F, 10M) H-14 (9F, 5M) -Legal aid services	142%	In progress 375 -60	enables them to access the different services Activity successfully conducted

		refugees, 270 (189f,81m) hosts. Psychosocial peer support groups and VSLA: 60 (36f,24m) with 42 (25f,17m m) refugees, 18(10f,8m) hosts Trauma-focused therapies: 450 (270f,180m) with 315(189f,126m) refugees, 135 (81f,54m) hosts Child friendly spaces: 455 (227f,228m) with 409(205f,204m) refugees, 41 (21f,20m) hosts	conducted: 66 (46F, 20M); R-34 (25F, 9M) H-32 (21F, 11M) -Health education conducted: 1420 (894F, 526M); R-822 (557F, 265M) H-598 (385F, 213M) 04 Psycho-education sessions conducted: 1275 beneficiaries R(546F&327M) H (214F&188M)	0% 94%	-28	Psychosocial Support Groups and VSLA were delayed by training in poultry management. Group mentorship in each of the locations planned. The poultry interventions reworked and remodelled and accelerated plan in place to make up for shortfall in Year II Trauma-focused interventions depend on assessment and referral from other interventions. Additionally, some clients required more than one session due to their psychosocial needs Three (3) child friendly spaces have been identified and are being equipped to fully host children in Year II

			Trauma focused therapy (MHPSS Counselling) conducted benefitting 422(289f,133m) R(206F&98M); H(83F&35M)			
Output 3.2: Refugees and hosts enrolled into EFA programme	Output indicator 3.2: Number of refugees and host communities enrolled into EFA programmes	1,050 (745f, 305m 945(671f,274m) refugees, 105(74f,31m) hosts	1,292(1077f, 215m) Refugees 1207(1019f,188m) Hosts 85(58f,27m)	123%	242	Influx of Sudanese and South Sudanese who are interested in learning the English language
Output 3.3: Refugees and hosts oriented and equipped	Output indicator 3.3:	1,050 (745f, 305m	1,292 (1077f, 215m)	123%	242	Influx of Sudanese and South Sudanese who are

with scholastic materials to start learning	Number of refugees and hosts oriented and equipped with scholastic materials to start learning	945(671f,274m) refugees, 105(74f,31m) hosts	Refugees 1207(1019f,188m) Hosts 85(58f,27m)			interested in learning the English language
Output 3.4: Refugee and hosts youths trained in video advocacy skills & livelihood	Output indicator 3.4: Number of youths trained in livelihood & advocacy skills	Video skills:45(14f,31m), 29 (9f,20m) refugees, 16(5f,11m) hosts Poultry management 107 (52f,55m) 42(18f,11m) refugees, 78(34f,44m) hosts	44 (13f,31m) 110 (52F, 31M) Refugees97 (47f,50m), Hosts 13(5f,8m)	98% 103%	On track 3	Implemented as planned but one participant did not turn up because the training coincided with the Refugee Got Talent auditions in one of the project sites
Output 3.5: Innovation Centre established & functional in Adjumani	Output indicator 3.5: Number of working Innovation Centres established in Adjumani	1 innovations centre established	0	0%	On track	Innovation centre to be established in Adjumani in Year II as planned
Output 3.6: Independent Media persons trained on refugee rights and protection	Output indicator 3.6: Number of	20 (9f,10m,1D) Refugees 4	20 (9f,11m) hosts	100%	On track	Training successfully implemented

	Independent Media persons trained on refugee rights and protection	(1f,2m,1D) Hosts 16 (8f,8m)				
Output 3.7: Refugees and hosts participated in community film screening	Output indicator 3.7: Number of people participating in community film screenings	1200 (860f,540m) Refugees 840 (462f378m) Hosts 360 (198f,162m)	0	0%	-1200	Refresher training for the video advocates who will lead the sessions had to be done in Year I before conducting the community film screenings. Outreached planned for Year II
Output 3.8: Videos of project objectives documented	Output indicator 3.8: Number of Videos of project objectives documented	1 video documented	0	0%	-1	Filming process planned for Year II to capture achievements of impacts in Year I

Under this outcome, the following challenges were noted:

a) Psycho-medical and psychoeducation required sequenced actions with partners whose pace RLP could not control but now there is better agreement on how to coordinate better in Year II and the other years.

b) Sequencing of livelihoods interventions were not adequately clarified in time during project implementation as the livelihoods officer could only join the project later in the year.

d) Unending incidence of violence in South Sudan often leads to intra-refugees' tensions and increased influx of Sudanese refugees has put pressure on the available resources and social services.

e) A large number of self-repatriated refugees as a result of reduced food ration impacted refugee participation in some project interventions such as Basic Video Advocacy training, for instance, and other follow-ups.

Recommendations:

a) Revise ambitious targets to realistic and achievable results.

b) RLP to put in place Programme Quality and Accountability Committee under leadership of the Grants and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. Project to revise and redesign and broaden livelihoods intervention for greater impact.

c) Strengthening partnerships and referral pathways to link beneficiaries to other livelihood options/opportunities beyond the scope of the project.

d) Strengthening survivor-led support group for both peer to peer support and strengthening livelihoods through effective participation in VSLA activities.

e) Independent media to be further linked up with key stakeholders in the settlement to get practical knowledge, connect with the issues refugees grapple with, and build networks of refugees, hosts and relevant stakeholders.

Intervention 4	Promote peaceful co-existence in and around refugee hosting areas					
Outcome 4: Peaceful co-existence promoted in and around refugee hosting areas by engaging youth on Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding	**Outcome Indicator**			**Target at end of program**		**Progress**
	Outcome Indicator 4.1: Percentage of actors that report reduced cross-border crime and conflict due to improved trust and working relations between refugees and hosts, and the rule of law actors			**65%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome Indicator 4.2: Evidence of reduced intergenerational conflicts and tensions			**Reduced intergenerational conflicts and tensions**		Outcome data to be collected in year 2
	Outcome Indicator 4.3: Percentage of refugees and hosts that report conflicts in schools and forging solutions to address them			**65%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
Result Area	**Output indicator**	**Annual Target**	**Deliverables**	**Progress towards Annual target in percentages**	**Variance in numbers**	**Comments on variance**
Output 4.1: Community members reached during community dialogues	Output Indicator 4.1: Number of community members reached during community dialogues	TOTAL: 150 (70f,80m) Refugees: 90 (41f,49m) Hosts: 60 (28f,32m)	300 (120F, 180M); people – 121 Hosts & 179 refugees	200%	150	Target met and interest in conversations on peaceful co-existence noted among the community members.
Output 4.2: Community members reached during	Output Indicator 4.2: Number of community members	TOTAL: 200(80f, 120m) Refugees: 100(40f,60m)	380(311m, 69F); through two events at Warigo and	190%	180	Target met with strong commitments from the leaders in sensitising their communities

sensitisation on peaceful co-existence	reached during sensitisation on peaceful co-existence	Nationals: 100(40f,60m)	Lela Border points All host			around the border areas on Peaceful co-existence
Output 4.3: Policy makers trained on sustainable peacebuilding and transitional Justice framework on peace and reconciliation	Output indicator 4.3: Number of policy makers in the project sites trained on Transitional Justice frameworks and guidelines	All Hosts: 90 (50m,40f)	27(6F, 21M); hosts through one training in Adjumani	30%	-63	Target was overly ambitious; it will be revised to realistic levels for the remaining years
Output 4.4: Youths and older persons reached during the inter-generations dialogue on post conflict emerging issues	Output indicator 4.4: Number of youth and older persons reached during the intergenerational dialogues on post conflict emerging issues	TOTAL: 120(80f,40m) Refugees: 60 (40f, 20m) Nationals: 60(40f, 20m)	319 (130M, 189F) through 3 dialogue sessions; 88(47M, 41F) hosts & 231(62M, 169F) refugees	266%	199	Target exceeded as many elders and youth exhibited great interest for Intergenerational dialogue conversation on post conflict emerging issues like intergenerational tension between the youth and elders
Output 4.5: Peace clubs established and supported in and around refugee holding areas	Output indicator 4.5: Number of peace clubs established and functional in refugee and host secondary schools	9 peace clubs	6 Peace Clubs were established; 2 in Lamwo (Ogili and Paluda SS); 2 in Adjumani (Ofua seed SS and Maajii SS) and another 2 clubs in	67%	-3	3 additional clubs will be established in Year II following engagements held with the school

			Kiryandongo (Panyadoli SS and Kiryandongo High school)			
Output 4.6: Participants active in peace clubs in secondary schools	Output indicator 4.6: Number of participants active in peace clubs in secondary schools	TOTAL: 450(226f,224m) Refugees: 225 (113f, 112m) Nationals: 225 (113f, 112m)	Total: 111(52f,59m) These numbers are from two schools (Paluda SS and Ofua SS)	25%	-339	Peace clubs' to be established in Year II as advised by the school administrations. Project start up in Year I did not align neatly with school calendars and commitments in place
Output 4.7: School going children engaged in school debates	Output indicator 4.7: Number of school-going children engaged in school debates	2 debates 300 (150f,150m) Refugees 150 (75F, 75M) Hosts 150 (75F, 75M)	1 Peace club debate was held in Ofua Seed SS attended by 205 students comprising of 27 (9F, 18M) refugees and 178 (70F, 108M) hosts	50%	-1 club -95 children	School timetable Vs project deliverable time meant 2 debates could not be concluded. Accelerated plan in place to realise target in Year ll
Output 4.8: Transitional Justice working groups established in Northern Uganda and West Nile established	Output indicator 4.8: Number of established and functional Transitional Justice working groups in West Nile	2 Transitional Justice working groups established in Northern Uganda and West Nile	3 Transitional Justice working groups have been established in Lamwo, Adjumani and Kiryandongo	150%	1	Transitional Justice working groups established in Northern Uganda and West Nile
Output 4.10: Active members of the TJ working groups	Output indicator 4.10: Number of active members of the	60(24f,36m) - All Nationals - Active	28 (9f,19m) All Nationals - Active	47%	-32	The accelerated work plan for Year II will compensate for shortfall in Year I

	Transitional Justice working group	members of TJ working groups	members of TJ working groups			
Output 4.11: Relevant Transitional Justice (TJ) stakeholders provided views on national reconciliation including implementation of TJ policies	Output indicator 4.11: Number of relevant Transitional Justice stakeholders providing their views on national reconciliation and the implementation of TJ policies	32(14f,18m) Stakeholders reached on national reconciliation - All Nationals	Beneficiaries reached; 255 (75f, 180m). See Annex for key takeaways from the Symposium. RLP organised, in collaboration with International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF) and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Justice and Law Order Sector (JLOS) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a two-day National Symposium on transitional Justice policy	703%	223	Interest in TJ with participants including victims, survivors, community representatives, religious leaders, civil society organisation, duty bearers, rule of law and security stakeholders provided views on the implementation of the TJ in Uganda during the National Symposium held from February 20th to 21st 2024 in Kampala

			held from February 20th to 21st 2024 in Kampala attended by 255 participants			
Output 4.12: Community members reached during the peace film festivals	Output indicator 4.12: Number of community members reached during peace film festivals	TOTAL: 150(70f,80m) Refugees: 75 (35f, 40m) Nationals: 75 (35f, 40m)	0	0%	-150	Peace Film festival to be implemented in Year II
Output 4.13: Biennial Institute for African Transitional Justice (IATJ) organised	Output indicator 4.13: Number of Institute for African Transitional Justice (IATJ) organised every two years (biennial events)	1 Biennial IATJ event	0	0%	On track	The Institute of African Transitional Justice planned for Year II
Output 4.14: Refugees and host engaged at the Biennial IATJ events	Output indicator 4.14: Number of refugees and hosts engaged at the biennial IATJ events	Refugees: 14 (7f, 7m) Nationals: 36 (18f, 18m) International: 22 (11f, 11m)	0	0%	On track	This will be executed in Year II of the project

Noted challenges

a) Establishing contacts with South Sudanese authorities to support engagement on the South Sudan side poses a hurdle for cross border dialogues and sensitisation efforts.
b) High tension and insecurity along the porous border between Uganda and South Sudan delayedcross-border activity implementation.
c) Project Implementation start up after mid-2023, when many schools around refugee hosting areas had already filled calendars caused delays in school engagements for debates and peace clubs' activities.
d) Intergenerational tensions between the young people and elders remain an ongoing reality and present risk to local level social harmony and order.
e) Initial inadequate human resources to support the Transitional Justice component of the project

Lessons Learned for Year II implementation:

a) High interest in peaceful coexistence dialogues indicates strong community support. As a result, future initiatives will expand and ensure inclusivity in community activities.
b) The project to continue and expand intergenerational dialogues across all refugee zones.
c) Project to enhance coordination with schedules and calendars of schools for Year II and the outer years.
d) Frequency of training sessions for policymakers to be increased in Year II to compensate for shortfall in Year I.
e) Project to strengthen peace clubs' interventions in schools.
f) Strengthen partnerships and work closely with security agencies for cross-border activities.
g) Project to consider adjustments of staff time allocations for transitional justice implementation.
h) Project to sustain and expand media engagement (Radio talk shows) to reach a broader audience.

Recommendations:

a) The Refugee Law Project to engage with partners like LWF and other Local partners with presence in South Sudan to strengthen collaboration on cross border engagements.
b) There is need to coordinate closely with the security agencies and district leadership (RDC Office/Governor) of both Uganda and South Sudan to ensure safety and effectiveness of cross-border engagements
c) Project's relevant activities with the school calendars to be aligned and coordinated more closely for greater impact and synergies.
d) Peace education among young people to address intergenerational tensions along tribal lines and nationalities to continue
e) Project to consider additional staff time allocations to support activity implementation under TJ components.
f) RLP to continue advocacy for implementation of transitional justice in Uganda,
g) Improve coordination through the Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group and the Transitional Justice Group on Children Born Of War (CBOW to support engagements with victims of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIAs) and TJ practicing Institutions.

Opportunities

The refugee hosting areas present opportunities for implementing transitional justice and peacebuilding initiatives. These regions face many challenges due to the large influx of refugees and the resulting pressures on social services, local communities and resources. Facilitating conversations between refugees and host communities can help address grievances and build mutual understanding through regular community dialogues, storytelling sessions, and cultural exchanges, promoting empathy and solidarity. Fostering a culture of peace and mutual respect among young people with peace education curricula, joint sports and cultural activities, and youth leadership programs focused on conflict resolution and community service is critical.

Addressing past injustices and promoting local level accountability through supporting restorative justice practices, community-based restorative justice panels, and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are effective steps towards reconciliation.

Strengthening community resource committees, and promoting sustainable TJ practices can effectively mitigate against evolving resource-based conflicts.

Intervention 5	**Conducting regional and international advocacy on refugee issues in Uganda**					
Outcome area 5: Increased influence in refugee-related policies by regional & international stakeholders Outcome Indicators	**Outcome Indicator**			**Target at end of program**		**Progress**
	Outcome Indicator 5.1: Percentage of refugees and hosts seeking services following information obtained			**85%**		Outcome data collected and analysis on going
	Outcome Indicator 5.2: Evidence of increased influence in refugee-related policies			**Evidence of an increase regional and international stakeholders influencing policies**		Outcome data to be collected in Year II
	Outcome Indicator 5.3: Evidence of research networks established and strengthened through participation in the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration			**Evidence of new research collaborations initiated, the expansion of existing networks, or the level of engagement in joint research projects within the framework of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration**		Outcome data to be collected in Year II
	Outcome indicator 5.4: Percentage of staff addressing issues of men and boys			**20% Staff addressing issues of men and boys**		Outcome data to be collected in Year II
Result Area	**Output Indicator**	**Annual Target**	**Deliverables**	**Progress towards Annual target in percentages**	**Variance in numbers**	**Comments on variance**
Output 5.1: Refugees and hosts reached during commemorative events	Output indicator 5.1: Number of refugees and hosts reached during the commemorative events	900(500f,400m) Refugees 585(322f,263m) Hosts 315(178f,137m)	2723(1626f,1097m) Refugees 1788(1010f,778m) Hosts 935(616f,319m)	303%	1823	Commemorative events well attended by both refugees and hosts as well as partners due to the massive mobilisation conducted in the communities (road drives)

Output 5.2: Refugees and hosts reached with IEC materials	Output indicator 5.2: Number of refugees and hosts reached with IEC materials	1500(750f,750 m) Refugees 975(488f,487m) Hosts 525(262f,263m)	1,900 T-Shirts with messages of refugee rights and protection printed and distributed to create awareness. Banners with protection messages used in marches to create awareness.	136%	400	All the T-Shirts were distributed to the refugees and hosts as planned and the banners were used for public marches to create awareness
Output 5.3**:** Media engagement on refugee issues conducted	Output indicator 5.3: Number of media engagements on refugee issues conducted	19(3 TV talk shows,4 newspaper supplements,12 radio talk shows	11 radio talk shows conducted with key stakeholders and partners on issues of refugee rights and protection as a means of creating awareness -3 TV shows included 1 live coverage of the TJ Symposium. -4 newspaper supplements on the TJ symposium	100%	On track	All planned media engagements successfully conducted
Output 5.4: District leaders attended annual round table discussions	Output indicator 5.4: Number of district leaders attending annual round table discussions	20(12f,8m) all hosts	26(10f,16m) hosts	130%	6	Activity successfully conducted

Output 5.5: Cultural and faith-based leaders benefited from the regional dialogue	Output indicator 5.5: Number of cultural and faith based leaders participating in regional dialogues.	20 (5f,15m)	20m Refugees 10m Hosts 10m	100%	On track	Female participants who had been mobilised for the training did not turn up for the dialogue due to other assignments. Intentional mobilisation for women only will be conducted in Year II
Output 5.6: Medical Practitioners participated in Annual National Conference of Coalition of Refugee-Hosts Health Services	Output indicator 5.6: Number of medical practitioners participating in Annual national conference of coalition of refugee-hosts health services	25(10f,15m)	0	0%	-25	Planned for in Year II
Output 5.7: Staff participated in the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration	Output indicator 5.7: Number of staff participating in the international Association for the study of Forced Migration	1 staff	0	0%	-1	This normally happens in summer which coincided with project start up activities. Planned for Year II
Output 5.8: Staff capacity to address issues of men and boys enhanced in the 6th, 7th, and 8th South-South Institute	Output indicator 5.8: Number of staff whose capacity to address issues of men and boys is enhanced in the 6th and 7th Souh South Institute	1 session for 4 staff	0	0%	On track	Plan for 6th, 7th and 8th South-South Institute to be developed in Year II in consultations with the Secretariat

RLP staff participated in the Global Refugee forum in December 2023 together with the UN special rapporteur on Human rights to share in the findings of the concluded research on trafficking. It was noted that refugees can be victims of trafficking for exploited labour, education and externalisation. It was also observed that there is need for more advocacy on refugee issues by OPM and the noted challenge was that some terms in trafficking cannot be translated.

During implementation of this outcome 5, the following challenges were noted.

a) Participation of female leaders among faith and cultural leaders remains low as the space has been male dominated

b) Pending activities like staff participation in IASFM and South-South Institute will be completed in Year II.

Recommendations: Further engagement is required with the South-South Institute secretariat in order to articulate the focus clearly in terms of sexual related violence encountered in conflict by men and boys. RLP to engage IASFM Secretariat for RLP participation in subsequent IASFM Conference during the project duration.

Interventions towards creating an enabling environment

In order to build and strengthen an enabling environment, RLP also implemented the following activities:

a) After screening for experiences of violence and identifying the persons who needed support, clients were prepared and transported to the different approved district health facilities for medical care and their medical expenses and feeding were supported under the project.
b) Training of medical workers to respond and attend to war injuries of the clients. This enabled the medical workers to understand and appreciate the complex injuries sustained by the refugees when in transit from the countries of origin to the host country.
c) Training of medical students from the public universities of Makerere and Gulu to enhance their capacities to be able to respond to war-related harms sustained by the patients they will be attending to during their training practice and thereafter.
d) Training stakeholders and partners on addressing harms needs using the Screen Refer Support and Document model (SRSD) to enable them appreciate the process of supporting refugees and hosts who present with war injuries and also create a buy in and strengthen networks for referrals.

Description of main strategies, linked to results areas and outcome indicators

Outcome 1: Improved capacity of Rule of Law Stakeholders to effectively interact with complex refugee communities and hosts

In order to enable Rule of Law actors to respond to complex justice issues affecting both refugees and hosts, RLP engages with established grass root structures that are usually the first point of contact for refugees and hosts. We work closely with the Refugee Welfare Councils and Local councils in solving minor disputes within the communities. The Refugee Welfare Council leaders are recognised and selected by the refugees within the settlements and are in charge of providing leadership and guidance as well as handling disputes that occur in the communities. For the host communities, we engage with the Local Councils that are in charge of local dispute resolution. Through these established structures, we have been able to settle disputes informally through mediations.

Additionally, we work closely with paralegals who are instrumental in ensuring that refugees and hosts access justice while in the settlement. The paralegals are selected from the different refugee communities and are usually in regular contact with the communities. They live and speak similar languages with their communities. They identify and refer cases to the legal team of RLP for further support and management. The use of paralegal as strategy has proved cost effective and one of the fastest ways of solving disputes that arise within the communities.

The use of legal students has proved effective in addressing complex matters affecting refugees and hosts. Legal students are identified from Makerere and Gulu Universities were placed in the refugee settlements to provide legal aid to the refugees and hosts. This intervention made possible support to be extended to the most indigent to access justice.

Guided by the established training manual and Handbook on Refugee Rights and Protection, we enhanced the capacity of state actors, specifically the Directorate of Public prosecutions and the prison officers through training. The training is guided by the pre-tests that are administered to understand the knowledge level of the officers before the training. Post tests administered after the training have enabled us to understand whether the training has been impactful to the officers. After the training, we monitor the trained actors to establish whether the knowledge acquired is being put to practical use in their daily work. This has enabled the state actors to effectively respond to the complex justice issues affecting refugees and hosts.

Through partnership and coordination with other Legal Aid service providers as well as JLOS actors, we successfully held mobile court sessions within the refugee settlements that enabled refugees and hosts to effectively access justice and reduced the backlog.

Outcome 2: Improved access and uptake of professional and timely services for profound war-related, gendered harms, and SRHR needs of refugees and hosts.

Gender and sexuality issues are frequently a root cause and effect of individual instances of displacements. Close to half of the refugees who interact with our partners (OPM & UNHCR) in the project sites are directed to the Refugee Law Project's Gender & sexuality programme. The majority are victims of gendered related harms including sexual violence & torture with two out of three being women, one in three men. Proactive and systematic documentation of these experiences globally remains a major challenge and the resultant gaps in data and information perpetuates a skewed incomplete and unhelpful narrative about who the victims of gendered war related violence are.

In all the project sites a high proportion of refugees are still grappling with the impact of traumatic episodes of sexual violence and torture that require medical, psychological and legal support to the individual and family, followed by livelihood support to individuals and groups if they are to recover and be self-reliant in exile. Not only are services for women victims of sexual violence inadequate but often non-existent for male victims. These are regularly more focused on preventing episodes of sexual violence in the asylum setting than responding to sexual violence that has already happened in the refugee country of origin.

It is ironic that even where providers are willing to provide services, they lack the appropriate technical training and preparedness to intervene and help the victims and survivors of sexual violence in conflict. Stigmatisation and exclusion within refugee communities create and/or exacerbate the already existing obstacles, as do attitudinal and technical skills gaps amongst

medical and legal practitioners and key rule of law duty bearers such as magistrates, police and prisons officers in handling the refugees and asylum seekers.

To deliver on the Outcome area 2 and address the overarching dilemmas of experiences of conflict related sexual violence which are oftentimes unspoken off and unreported, RLP adopted the main strategy of enrolling its **Screen-Refer-Support –Document model** (SRSD) which is a proactive and practical measure of addressing legacies of gendered war related war harms sustained by the refugees and asylum seekers residing in the three project sites.

The **SRSD Model** is pivotal in enhancing survivors of CRSV to disclose experiences and uptake services that would help rehabilitate them both physically and psychologically while in exile.

SCREEN: An interview-based process established by RLP to identify survivors of gendered war related harms from within their environment by asking research, piloted and tested sets of questions to ascertain the magnitude of harms sustained and the resultant needs being required including SRHR issues.

REFER: This relates to the complex but rather insightful processes of referring survivors of war-related harms (WRH) to seek and take up professional medical and psychological services, and above all, regain physical and psychological functionality.

SUPPORT: This denotes the processes of ***"Walking - the - journey"*** of recovery with survivors. This, among others, includes physical, economic, psychological, logistical, and practical support to enable survivors to recover.

DOCUMENT: This relates to the process of collecting and archiving detailed narratives and complex experiences of surviving war–related harms. This, among others, includes recording and archiving detailed testimonies and recovery stories of the rehabilitated victims.

As such the overall SRSD strategy involves: - Mobilization of the refugee and host community through information and awareness raising session about RLP services; Conducting the Interview/proactive community based screening for experiences of violence; Identifying core data from the screening that depicts experiences of WRH; Organising preparatory counselling; Arranging for transportation of the prepared clients to hospital for treatment; While at the hospital, offer professional treatment before, during and after receiving services; Upon discharge, clients are offered post rehabilitation/post treatment follow up to ascertain recovery status and once full recovery is achieved. Case documentation is carried out through success stories and photo essays. Change stories and testimonies are archived in the National Memory and Peace Documentation Centre of the Refugee Law Project.

Outcome area 3. Enhanced Mental Health and Livelihood for refugees and host communities to reduce dependency on UNHCR and OPM relief items, broaden and diversity household incomes, reduce poverty-induced vulnerabilities, economic crimes, and mental illnesses, and enable refugees and host communities to contribute to national development**.**

Mental health and psychosocial needs are central in turning around the lives and wellbeing of refugees, forced migrants and their hosts. These people often struggle with diverse conflict-related mental health and psychosocial challenges, as well as those being supported to psychologically adjust positively to forced migration shocks and current socio-economic challenges in and around refugee settlement that compromises their functionality, productivity and quest for self-sufficiency.

In order to provide MHPSS services to refugees and hosts and build resilience of individuals, groups, families and communities, RLP benchmarked the guidelines on MHPSS in emergency setting developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The model guides MHPSS interventions through a pyramidal hierarchy of responses to mental health and psychosocial needs. At the bottom are interventions that aim at ensuring beneficiaries have access to basic needs and are safe, followed by rebuilding community and family support, next are interventions that focus on non-specialized support and at the top are specialised services. Using this framework, RLP implemented numerous interventions at different levels that supported psychological recovery and trauma healing among individuals, families, groups and communities in and around the three refugee settlements in Northern Uganda.

To support beneficiaries' access to basic needs and safety, we strengthen referral pathways and link clients to partners that offer basic and social support, through the different components of the project. Internal referrals are made to ensure beneficiaries with unaddressed physical harms are treated. To build family and community support, reduce stigma towards people with mental health needs, RLP conducted psychoeducation sessions that educated beneficiaries about psychosocial and mental health issues to enable families and communities acquire knowledge and psychosocial skills to cope with conflict and daily stresses of life, support others, and build social connections for strengthened social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. We also provided on-spot and in-depth counselling and strengthened peer support groups as well as child friendly spaces that provide children safer spaces to reprocess their emotional difficulties, learn social skills and build their esteem. Child friendly spaces also provide caretakers with an opportunity to learn about the role of child play which eventually have a ripple effect on mitigating transgenerational trauma.

RLP conducts trauma-informed therapy using standardised and non-standardized therapies for beneficiaries grappling with extreme distress and mental health conditions like PTSD and depression among others. These therapies include; trauma informed cognitive behavioural therapy, interpersonal therapy for groups, and solution focused therapy. For beneficiaries presenting with mental health conditions that require psychiatric interventions like psychotic symptoms, RLP works with different mental health units at health centres and some partner organisations such as Medical Team International (MTI) and Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) to provide the services. We are happy that besides offering therapy to clients, RLP MHPSS teams offered credible referrals that were handled diligently by partners since we have invested consistently in nurturing and strengthening mutual working relations with MHPSS partners with whom we offer cross referral support.

Under this project (SRHR-EP III), RLP has championed a pivotal role in strengthening the integration of mental health and psychosocial domain into livelihood, English for Adults (EFA), medical rehabilitation of survivors living with untreated profound physical war harms and reproductive health rights awareness and transitional justice efforts. The integration has so far achieved significant take-off with catalysing documented gains such as; restored physical and psychological well-being, livelihood, restoration of hope, active participation in meaningful engagements, learning and treatment processes, regaining the sense of worth and meaning in the lives of refugees and their hosts with key interplay of mental health and psychosocial support and empowerment.

Outcome area 4: Peaceful co-existence promoted in and around refugee hosting areas by engaging youth on transitional justice and peace building initiatives.

There are often deep emotional and psychological scars left by conflict and human rights violations including of refugees and hosts. In order for healing, reconciliation, and sustainable peace building to take place, transitional justice and peace building intervention under this project provided avenues and platforms for acknowledging and addressing the suffering of victims and survivors.

In order to provide interventions aimed at fostering peaceful coexistence, the project took into account transitional justice and peacebuilding needs within refugee hosting areas. Local context, dynamics, and vulnerabilities were discussed with refugees, host communities, and local leaders. This led to the identification of key challenges, priorities, and interventions.

Afterward, the project conducted cross-border dialogue processes involving security personnel, community leaders, religious leaders, and cultural figures in order to foster trust and mutual understanding among refugees, host communities, and different ethnic, religious, and social groups regarding contentious issues and unresolved grievances. As a result of the dialogues, individuals and communities were able to communicate openly and constructively, allowing them to seek accountability and work towards collective healing and reconciliation.

Amidst high tribal and nationality tensions in and around the refugee hosting areas, particularly among youth and elders, the project facilitated exchanges and dialogues across community divides including between the youth and the elders. Peace club debates for peace were also organised to foster a culture of tolerance of diversity and plurality and respect for peaceful coexistence.

In all these, the project collaborated with local and international stakeholders such as the Lutheran World Federation and cultural institutions, local government leadership, line ministries, policy makers, security organs among others for forging broad ownership of local community peace and stability.
Through the stated interventions, the Refugee Law Project also sought to especially empower youth as catalysts for peace, reconciliation, and positive change within their communities.

Outcome area 5: Increased influence in refugee-related policies by regional & international stakeholders.

In the outcome area 5, RLP engaged with the district leaders from refugee hosting areas to update them and share progress and reviews of the policies regarding refugee operations. Working with the cultural and religious leaders proved particularly helpful since the community hold them in high regard.

During the commemoration of the different international events, RLP worked closely with stakeholders, partners, refugees and hosts to create awareness on the different issues for the refugees to understand the importance of these days and why RLP commemorates them. For example, RLP highlighted at these events the challenges of refugees who are survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, the plight of insufficient subsistence for refugees, and the increased need for providing inclusive and professional services to refugees and forced migrants.

Engagement with the different stakeholders not only provided RLP with opportunities to learn and relearn the new trends in migration issues, it also enabled RLP to expand and strengthen its networks with relevant actors.

The Refugee Law Project hosted the seventh Regional conference on Forced Migration under the theme *The Silos of Human Trafficking in the Context of Forced migration*. The two-day conference that brought diverse stakeholders including IGAD, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Local Government leaders, civil society organisations, and the Academia, deliberated on joint efforts to address the crime of human trafficking. It was noted that the identification, documentation and prevention of trafficking in persons among forcibly displaced populations remains an ongoing challenge in African countries. The conference recognized that states in Africa have limited capacity and governance infrastructure to effectively manage migration and this increases the risk of exploitation of vulnerable populations including refugees through trafficking. The conference highlighted the changing tactics and patterns traffickers use to advance their trade in human trafficking for exploitation and abuse. During the conference, stakeholders highlighted the need to build strong evidence base through research in order to be able to effectively tackle the scourge of human trafficking especially within the context of forced migration. Statistics are central to effective advocacy, influencing and engagements of opinion leaders, vulnerable communities and authorities at local levels.

Project M&E and research

The monitoring and evaluation process of this project commenced with a staff induction workshop in July 2023. The workshop aimed at strengthening results-based reporting and improving the quality of project implementation. During the staff induction workshop, project staff were trained on the project's theory of change and the relevant interventions as pathways to the desired high-level outcomes. RLP Grants and M&E Officer concluded the revision of the project's results framework at the beginning of March 2024. The major revisions on the project's results framework included aligning assumptions to relevant outcome areas, linking outputs to outcomes, and linking project indicators to MFA indicators on SRHR, Migration, Security and Rule of Law. With the approval of the revised results framework and completion of staff recruitment, the Grants M&E Officer is currently preparing to conduct a baseline survey targeting new activities on SRHR, livelihood skilling and transitional justice to inform outcome baseline values as well as evidence-based implementation going forward. In February, a team from the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala visited the project site in Adjumani district and were able to interact with the different beneficiaries of RLP's thematic programmes, they also held a discussion with the different district stakeholders and partners to assess the work and level of engagement of RLP's programmes, with a visit to the hospital were clients with war injuries are being treated. In March 2024, the senior management team including Director and the Deputy Director Programmes conducted a monitoring visit to the three project sites and one of the key recommendations was the need to revise or design new M&E tools to adequately capture data on both old and newly incorporated activities. Consequently, a staff retreat was organised and attended by staff with supervisory roles which will lead to strengthened activity implementation and impact reporting.

Partnerships

Refugee Law Project (RLP) continues to coordinate and engage with the different stakeholders and partners in the different districts of operation for project implementation. We work closely with other Legal aid service providers within the Settlements including the Lutheran World Federation, IRC and the Legal aid project of Uganda Law Society that support with court representation. We work closely with JLOs actors including the judiciary, immigration, and prison to ensure that they effectively respond to the needs of refugees and hosts as they usually get in contact with them. We engage with the Office of the Prime Minister and the District Local Governments where we have running MOUs that stipulate our obligations as well as those of OPM and the District authorities.

RLP has nurtured a team of proactive MHPSS practitioners who are working with MHPSS partners in three project locations to conduct support and clinical supervision for MHPSS staff to mitigate burnout, empathy drain/compassionate fatigue and vicarious trauma, and improve the quality of MHPSS services at impact and outcome levels. Consequently, the reports are being analysed to produce a briefing paper entitled, “Trauma & the healer-occupational plights of psychosocial helpers in Northern Uganda”. This paper will catalyse debates on care for care-givers in inclusive mental health programming and send signals for intentional planning for safe spaces and initiatives that enhance good mental health of the practitioners implementing trauma focused therapy and other therapeutic engagements within and around refugee settlements in Northern Uganda.

Communication

The SRHR-EP Phase III project, implemented by the Refugee Law Project (RLP), continues to give hope while transforming the lives of the targeted communities who are mainly South Sudanese refugees and their hosts in the districts of Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Lamwo. However, going forward, the project will integrate Sudanese refugees in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement as it became officially designated for reception of Sudanese refugees in Uganda. In line with our mission to advocate for the rights of refugees and provide them with essential support, RLP is keen to address the multifaceted challenges faced by refugees and their hosts in the project area. Central to the project’s efficacy is a robust engagement, communication and visibility plan that guides the engagements during the project implementation. Not only does the approach focus on disseminating information but highlights the remarkable successes achieved along the way. RLP uses various facets to communicate project implementation progress and to celebrate its accomplishments.

Comprehensive Reporting: The cornerstone of communicating the project’s implementation has been the use of comprehensive reporting mechanisms. RLP ensures transparency and accountability by regularly publishing project highlights and reports. These reports outline the project’s objectives, activities undertaken, challenges encountered, and milestones achieved. By disseminating relevant information to stakeholders and actors, RLP maintains open lines of communication and fosters trust in its operations.

Engaging Multimedia: In the current digital age, multimedia channels play a pivotal role in capturing the attention of diverse audiences. In recognition of this fact, the project leverages engaging multimedia content to communicate its message effectively. This includes use of captivating videos, compelling infographics, and powerful testimonials from beneficiaries. By harnessing the emotive power of visual and auditory mediums, RLP brings the stories of resilience and empowerment to life that can resonate with audiences on a deeper level.

Stakeholder Engagement: RLP facilitates dialogue and collaboration through regular stakeholder meetings, workshops, and community forums. These platforms provide an opportunity for stakeholders, actors and targeted communities to share feedback, voice concerns, and contribute to decision-making processes. By fostering a sense of ownership and inclusivity, RLP ensures that the project remains responsive and adaptive to the needs of its beneficiaries and adaptable to changing circumstances.

Change/Success Stories and Impact Assessments: At the heart of the project’s communication strategy are the stories of impact and transformation. RLP meticulously documents success stories that showcased the tangible interventions’ benefits experienced by

the refugees and host communities. These narratives serve as powerful testimonials to the project's effectiveness and inspire hope for the future, and value for money. Moreover, rigorous interventions' assessments are conducted to assess the positive difference that the project brings about. This also helps sustain and reinforce project's credibility and implementation initiatives.

Value for money

Part of the value for money of this project is its investment in conflict prevention among refugee communities and between refugees and host communities. This always remains lower than the comparative costs of humanitarian response as evidenced by much higher costs always of humanitarian responses.

Sharing of programme learning with partners and stakeholders in targeted areas including programming tools, systems and processes have ensured effective operational delivery from day one.
The project has also benefited from RLP's lasting relationships with key stakeholders in areas of interventions, built over the last few years. These relationships were leveraged to help deliver on value for money through increased buy-in to programme activities. RLP staff are committed to building long term sustainable relationships with key partners and stakeholders.

The effectiveness of the project has also been further realised through the results achieved in Year I of implementation. For year one, the project was able to achieve most of the set targets based on the allocated funds. However, there is a need to review the budget in order to assess scope for supporting detention monitoring visits for refugees in detention. With the establishment of a high court in Kitgum and Moyo, the project also further needs to explore ways of supporting the legal team including facilitating renewal of practising certificates for advocates in handling the high court cases in the established locations so that capital cases are quickly disposed of. There is a need to allocate funds for renewal of practising certificates for advocates who represent clients in court.

The project particularly benefited clients who have been supported to access medical care. The client's medical bills and supplementary support have improved functionality which is enabling them to engage in productive work to support their families. There have been cases of improved family relations, conjugal responsibilities and healings from the war injuries as well as former clients making referrals of injured persons to be supported. Information provided on sexual reproductive health rights has enabled the refugees and hosts to seek services and make decisions regarding their reproductive lives. We have also noted the need to increase the number of visits to the hospital per client for proper healing and recovery. The increased costs associated with treating war-related harms require that the ambitious targets need to be revised.

With the influx of Sudanese refugees into the country and their subsequent settlement in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement and in Kampala, RLP will extend its support to them through the current grant from year II. This extension will enable the provision of services that will help to empower the Sudanese refugees as they will now access the different services but for this to happen, additional personnel are need to be brought on board especially persons who can speak classic Arabic.

Programme Principles

Within RLP as an organisation, all our humanitarian actions and responses lie within the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. These principles are rooted in international humanitarian law and have been embraced as the core principles that underpins the Programme. It should be noted that throughout the program implementation, RLP

endeavoured to ensure transparency and accountability for all the resources (materials/equipment, funds, and medical care services etc.) to limit wastage and has the best result/impacts to the targeted communities.

As an organisation, we adopt conflict sensitivity approaches so that interventions do no harm to our beneficiaries physically, psychologically and in all other dimensions. We also employ multi survivor programming to ensure family support during recovery and minimise the inadvertent harm by creating beneficiaries' feedback systems where they often provide valuable after service feedback based on their experiences of interacting with the project. The aspects of participatory planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the program also helps to enhance inclusivity and joint ownership of the program thus minimising the adverse effects of the project intervention on the intended stakeholders.

MHPSS and Livelihood: Documentation, advocacy, partnership and collaboration, do-no-harm and safeguarding, continuous professional development and self-care for staff, and direct service provision continue to underpin the implementation of mental health and psychosocial support and livelihood interventions in this project. RLP is showcasing and advocating for trauma-informed care and integration of mental health across the project components, strengthening partnership and collaboration with other state and non-state actors to promote ownership and efficient referral processes. Continuous professional development, support/clinical supervision and self-care strategies for staff that are designed to mitigate burnout and vicarious trauma for staff, which in return will ensure provision of quality services. Interventions also particular attention to youth, children, and persons with disabilities.