



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Celebrating



YEARS
REFUGEE LAW PROJECT

Annual Report 2019

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	vii
Foreword	viii
Access to Justice Programme	2
Legal Representation	2
<i>Table 1 summary of cases received, concluded and on-going, 2019</i>	2
Alternative Dispute Resolution	3
<i>Table 2 showing a summary of cases mediated</i>	3
Refugee Status Determination	3
Women's Empowerment Training	3
Work with Support Groups	3
Training of State and Non-state Actors	4
<i>Table 3: Trainings with state and non-state actors</i>	4
English For Adults – the Speak Your Rights Curriculum	4
Online Education and Career Support for Forced Migrants	5
Information and Community Policing Sessions	5
Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing Programme	7
Treatment and care for people affected by physical, psychological and psychosocial challenges	7
Linking refugees to medical support	7
Counselling and psychotherapy	7
Promoting resilience and self-reliance	11
Strengthening community structures to create safer spaces for resilience building	11
Disrupting transgenerational trauma	11
Psycho education for mental health awareness and mental hygiene	14
Influencing policy and practice	14
Fundraising and mobilising resources	16
Networking	16
Funding	16
Staff welfare and self-care	16
Commemoration of the International Happiness Day, 20 March 2019	17

Gender & Sexuality Programme	18
<i>Figure 1: Information Session in progress at Palabek Refugee Settlement in Lamwo District</i>	19
<i>Figure 2: Table showing summary of the SRSD Model</i>	20
Screen-Refer-Support-Document Interventions 2019	20
<i>Figure 3: Support Group Session in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement</i>	22
Group Mentorship	24
Advocacy on Refugees and CRSV	24
Emerging Issues	25
Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance Programme	28
Promoting local and national healing	28
Facilitated Physical & Psychological Healing	28
Enhanced Social Healing through local Memory Dialogues	30
Community screenings of live, recorded and other TJ processes	30
<i>Table 4 Victim consultations in Adjumani, Kitgum and Amuru districts</i>	31
9 th Institute of African Transitional Justice	31
Strengthening the National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre	31
The National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre (NMPDC)	31
Action oriented research and Advocacy	33
The 8 th , 9 th and 10 th Justice Tafakari	33
Women and TJ: Women's Leadership Camp	34
Young people and TJ: Peace Film Festivals, Talent Shows and TJ in Schools	34
Field Research on emerging TJ and Women/children issues	34
Advocacy on legal and policy frameworks - Monitoring Trials	34
Influencing Discourse in Local and National Platforms	35
Regional and International Platforms	36
Media for Social Change	38
Amplifying the Voices of Forced Migrants	38
Social media and audio training	38
Trainee production of videos	38
Basic Video Advocacy training	39
Wakimbizi Film Festival	39

Use of Traditional Media	40
Facilitated Film Screenings - Sauti Yetu	40
Creative use of media to engage and influence stakeholders re forced migration	41
Technological Support to RLP Thematic Programmes and Forced Migrants	44
Development of IT hard and software	44
Audio, Photo & Video Documentation	45
Digitizing, Transcribing and Archiving	45
Contributing to Global Discourse on Media	47
Generating audio visual materials	47
Ensuring Programme Sustainability	48
Networking	48
Fundraising	48
Organising RLP@20 commemoration	49
Operations and Programme Support	50
Training Coordination	50
Feedback and recommendations on the trainings	56
Procurement and Logistics Management	58
Human Resources	58
Fleet Management	58
Assessment and Intake Unit - Kampala	58
Staffing	58

Abbreviations

A2J	– Access to Justice Programme
ACTV	– African Center for rehabilitation and Torture Victims
ASSOFRA	- Association of Refugee Women in Africa
CSO	– Civil Society Organisation
CTJG	– Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance Programme
DGF	– Democratic Governance Facility
EFA	– English For Adults
G&S	– Gender and Sexuality Programme
IATJ	– Institute for African Transitional Justice
ICC	– International Criminal Court
ICD	– International Crimes Division
KCCA	– Kampala Capital City Authority
M4SC	– Media for Social Change Programme
MHPWB	– Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing Programme
NMPDC	– National Memory and Peace Documentation Centre
NTJP	– Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Platform
OPM	– Office of the Prime Minister
RWC	– Refugee Welfare Council
SRHR – EP	– <i>Securing Refugee Host Relations in Northern Uganda through Enhanced Protection</i>
SSI	– South-South Institute on Sexual Violence against Men and Boys
TJ	– Transitional Justice
UCA	– Uganda Counselling Association
UCC	– Uganda Communications Commission
UNHCR	– United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Foreword

Dear Friends of Refugee Law Project

I am pleased to share with you our Annual Report for last year, 2019. Every year is different, each year has its own story, each year of institutional growth – and sometimes just of survival – is an achievement. Nonetheless, for Refugee Law Project 2019 was a special year in that we marked our 20th Anniversary. Our celebrations reflected twenty years of development in which we have not changed our vision or mission, but in which we have expanded on how we seek to achieve these, from a specific focus on legal aid to our current five broad themes. Twenty years in which we have occasionally been glad simply to survive, but frequently and generally have been able to thrive.

The following pages give a relatively detailed and quantitative picture of our efforts across those five thematic areas, as well as of our programme support functions that enable us to keep going. You will see that our original goal of enabling **Access to Justice** through providing legal aid, as established in 1999, has continued to grow and grow. We still remain the primary provider of *pro bono* legal representation in court for refugees even after twenty years, but our understanding of what it takes to promote access to justice has both deepened and broadened, with increasing numbers of lawyers able to represent our clients directly in court, as well as increasing numbers of refugees able to speak for themselves thanks to our extensive English for Adults courses being available across multiple settlements and across five levels. The fact that in the course of the year we transferred English language skills to 6,000 refugees (double the numbers of 2018) is an important indicator of this appetite for independence amongst our clients.

Equally, our understanding of **Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing** continued to expand such that we include but also go beyond mainstream counselling and group therapies to also include work with peer support groups, as well as supporting the psychosocial benefits that come from enabling access to education (an innovative collaboration with Edinburgh University and American university in Beirut) supported by Mastercard Foundation), and simply enabling people to speak for themselves. As part of our development of what we term ‘multi-survivor programming’ we also took clear steps towards ‘Disrupting transgenerational trauma’ through more tightly structured work with parents and children.

In the field of **Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance**, alongside monitoring of formal prosecution processes of both the International Criminal Court in the Hague and the International Crimes Division of the High Court in Uganda, the team continued to push forward innovative methodologies for local truth-telling (3,000 people participated in 9 such memory dialogues) and memorialisation, as well as completely revamping the displays at the increasingly popular National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre in Kitgum. The ninth Institute for African Transitional Justice began a process of reflection on whether today’s environmental degradation will and should become the topic of future transitional justice processes. Peace Film Festivals targeting young people and their thoughts on conflict and peace engaged several thousand students in a range of formerly conflict-affected areas. All this progressed, even as long-standing advocacy efforts at national level produced Uganda’s first National Transitional Justice Policy, more than a decade after the need for such a policy was first tabled.

With regard to our **Gender and Sexuality** programming, 2019 was a year of intensive screening, referral, support and documentation of war-related harms, a process that continues to highlight the immense gaps in access to care that refugees with such injuries continue to experience. We were proud to bring the 4th South-South Institute on Sexual Violence against Men back to Kampala, where the first one was held in 2013, and to see a much expanded range of stakeholders participating compared to seven years ago. Our Symposium on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, co-convened

with the School of Global Studies at University of Gothenburg, marked the end of a fruitful five-year research collaboration on the forms, logics, contexts and impacts of conflict-related sexual violence. 2019 was also the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, an event celebrated in New York at which Refugee Law Project and Men of Hope, a survivor support group, were proud to be invited to speak.

Our fifth and youngest thematic programme area, **Media for Social Change**, as well as working to broaden Refugee Law Project's audience through sustained and strategic use of social media, continued to make great strides in the dissemination of basic video advocacy skills to both refugee and host youth in otherwise marginalised communities. This yielded tremendous fruit in our first ever *Wakimbizi Film Festival*, an event that is set to become the flagship event of the programme in years to come.

In addition to new grants, new donors, new offices, new project partnerships and new staff, 2019 was an important moment in RLP's structural growth, with the appointment of our first ever Head of Programmes, Ms Devota Nuwe. This appointment marked the establishment of a Senior Management Team to oversee the Programme Management Team, which in turn has line management responsibility for Field Office Coordinators. The clarification of these new levels of responsibility and leadership also creates new opportunities for individual development and growth of staff members.

As you peruse the pages of this report, we therefore invite you to join in reflecting on RLP's twenty year journey, and in celebrating the achievements documented here. Taken singly, they are already significant; taken together, they reflect a concerted and sustained effort to work across disciplines, across skills-sets and across cultures to provide cutting edge services combined with critical thinking and advocacy.



Access to Justice Programme

The Access to Justice Programme seeks to ensure that Forced Migrants access appropriate forms of justice and live dignified lives. The Programme brings legal aid services closer to forced migrants, builds the capacities of state and non-state actors on issues of forced migration, advocates for reform in law, policy and practice, and empowers forced migrants to better demand and defend their rights.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

The Programme successfully organized the 3rd Regional Conference on Forced Migration under the theme “Refugee Futures: Establishing Frameworks for Analysis Within the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.” The conference explored local integration practices within the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region and how they have enabled refugees to settle in host countries. It focused on the initial reception of refugees, employment, education, self-reliance, citizenship, language training and long-term integration. The conference attracted 117 (47f, 70m) participants from a range of institutions including forced migration practitioners, scholars, academics, researchers, students, policy makers, humanitarian workers from within shaping the discourse on forced migration within the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. Government duty bearers were drawn Office of the Prime Minister, the Justice Law and Order Sector, Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, Immigration Authority), Kampala City Council Authority.

The discussions focused on refugee reception and local integration as important protection and assistance issues, which have captured attention through the Global Compacts and the Sustainable Development Goals. It was agreed that the participation and inclusion of refugees in social and economic engagements is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16, which seeks to “Ensure public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.” Further, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

The conference strengthened relations between RLP and stakeholders, including local governments from refugee-hosting districts. Stakeholders agreed to continue advocating for local integration of refugees at all levels.

Legal Representation

Legal representation was provided in 1,380 cases benefiting 1,531 (1,415M & 116F) individuals. 1,435 were refugees, 96 were from host communities. Cases were identified through detention monitoring, visits to Police stations, direct walk-in and referrals from partner organisations. Legal representation secured convictions in 114 cases, 174 cases were dismissed for want of prosecution, 23 cases were acquitted, 30 were cautioned, 104 cases reconciled/mediated at court and 50 cases were dismissed pending arrest. Through legal representation and advice, forced migrants in detention were released from prison and helped integrate within their communities.

Cases Received	Cases concluded	Cases On-going
1380	495	885
49 clients obtained bail and 17 cases were resolved through plea-bargaining.		

Table 1 summary of cases received, concluded and on-going, 2019

The Programme conducted a criminal session in Kiryandongo where legal aid was provided in 40 cases benefitting 49 (5f, 44m) individuals. Through the provision of legal representation, 7 cases were acquitted, 14 were dismissed for want of prosecution, 19 led to convictions. The categories of cases were murder (6), Aggravated Defilement (15), Attempted Murder (5), Rape (4), Aggravated

Robbery (6), Possession of stolen property (1) and manslaughter (3). In summary, 45% of the accused persons represented by RLP were discharged from prison, reducing the case backlog at Masindi High Court and reducing congestion in Masindi Government Prison.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

528 cases were resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution specifically through mediations benefitting 1,982 individuals (808F, 1162M, 12 Children). These included; domestic violence, theft, witchcraft, family disputes, breach of contract, debt recovery. Mediations led to quick disposal of cases and strengthened relations between families especially for cases involving domestic violence

Mediation summary

Cases Received	Successful Cases	Unsuccessful Cases	On-going cases
528	469	27	32

Table 2 showing a summary of cases mediated

During this period, legal aid was extended to refugees and hosts through police follow-ups. 737 police follow-ups were made benefitting 1,350 (1,131M, 219F) individuals of whom 107 were from the host communities. 369 physical police visits were made, 273 phone calls and 95 letters written to police. The cases followed-up at police included theft (280 cases), assault (149 cases), domestic violence (121 cases), and defilement (104 cases). Police follow-ups led to release on police bond for individuals (47), paved the way for quick investigation of cases reported, and strengthened relations between RLP and the Police through increased referral of cases

Refugee Status Determination

70 asylum seekers were supported through the Refugee Status Determination process during this reporting period, benefiting 28 females, 40 males and 2 Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) clients. Among these; 24 were supported with review before Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC), 22 helped to appeal before Refugee Appeals Board, 24 were helped in the judicial review process and 5 were helped in the initial RSD processes.

Women's Empowerment Training

During this period, the leadership skills and positive coping mechanisms for South Sudanese refugees and host community women were promoted. In Bidibidi, Uganda's largest refugee settlement, for example; 66% (40/61) of the trained women subsequently acquired at least one role in the various refugee community structures; 30 attained Refugee Welfare Council leadership positions during the elections, 5 were selected as community interpreters, 2 acquired positions as Village Health Teams, 1 food monitor, 1 advisor, 1 child care giver facilitator. Because of that, women's participation in public speaking and public life was enhanced. Through increased advocacy and engagement of OPM, UNHCR and other partners, 5 positions were gazetted for women out of the 11 positions in the RWC structure in the 2019 elections in Yumbe. This 45% representation is a huge improvement on the 10% baseline. The positions were gazetted at all levels; RWC 1, RWC II, and RWC III. The positions gazetted included Vice Chairperson, Secretary for Education, Secretary for Finance, Secretary for Health, Sanitation and Nutrition, Secretary for Women Affairs.

Work with Support Groups

The support group model has built resilience among refugees and host communities in the refugee settlement. The groups have strengthened meaningful relationships which has led to peaceful co-existence between refugees and the host communities; as well as between diverse refugee communities. Through these groups, refugees have gained confidence and are beginning to

impact their community by sensitizing them on different gender issues; the groups are engaging the community on current gender issues affecting their communities such as leadership, gender equality, teenage pregnancy, peaceful co-existence, education thus building resilience and survivor-led advocacy on gender injustices. 3 survivors of Sexual Violence among the support group picked courage to go on radio to speak of their experiences and advocate for change by calling upon parents to end early marriages through supporting their girl children.

Training of State and Non-state Actors

The capacity of state and non-state actors to deliver justice was enhanced through trainings. State actors included judicial officers, police, prison and UPDF officers, while non-state actors included cultural and religious leaders, paralegals, community interpreters and Refugee Welfare Councillors. The use of paralegals and community interpreters led to identification and referral of cases to RLP for legal aid. Following the trainings, the paralegals are mediating minor cases such as minor fights within the communities and non-payment of debts. Criminal cases are referred to RLP and police. They also do follow-up on successfully concluded cases. During this period, the paralegals mediated 87 cases.

State Actors	Description	Non-State Actors	Description
Prison Officers	4 trainings benefiting 82 (34F & 48M)	Cultural leaders and religious leaders	1 training with 75 (11F, 64M) participants on gender equality & protection of women's rights
Judicial Officers	3 trainings in Mbarara, Gulu and Arua benefiting 60 (18 F, 42M)	Local leaders	4 trainings benefiting 821 (395F, 426M) participants in Refugee Rights and Protection
Police Officers	5 Trainings benefiting 92 (36F, 56M) & Mentored 16 (4F, 12M) in Kyangwali as well as 6M in Isingiro, Kamwenge, Bushenyi, Fort Portal & Kasese	Paralegals	5 trainings with 75 beneficiaries (26F, 49M) in Refugee Rights and Protection
UPDF	2 Trainings benefiting 101 (16 F, 85M)	Community interpreters	3 trainings benefitting 32 (24F, 8M) in Yumbe, Adjumani & Kiryandongo
		RWCs	9 trainings benefitting 217 (76F, 141M) participants in Refugee Rights and Protection
		Support groups	3 trainings for 61 refugee and host women in Leadership, Radio presentation skills, public speaking and debates.
			3 trainings for women support groups with 21 participants in Leadership and Advocacy
			1 training in business skills benefitting 17 (13F, 4M)
			1 training on business management skills and peer support, benefitting 9F.

Table 3: Trainings with state and non-state actors

English For Adults – the Speak Your Rights Curriculum

Refugees and host communities were empowered with knowledge and skills to demand and defend

their rights through English for Adults courses.

EFA classes are based on the “Speak Your Rights” curriculum, which focuses on the English language skills of speaking, listening, writing, reading and numeracy. It operates in seven districts; Kampala, Isingiro, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Adjumani and Yumbe with 15 learning centers. In 2019 EFA enrolled 5,959 (2,618m, 3,330f and 11SGNC), double the 2,746 learners enrolled in 2018. There was improved performance where 2,528 were promoted to different classes. For the first time ever, 4 of the 6 learning centers opened in 2018 were able to graduate 338 (213m, 125f,) learners in December 2019. Many learners were able to acquire jobs and earn an income to sustain themselves. EFA learners contributed to RLP’s initiatives for environmental sustainability by planting over 15,000 trees which they are monitoring.

Online Education and Career Support for Forced Migrants

2019 saw Refugee Law Project, in partnership with American University in Beirut, University of Edinburgh and Makerere University, begin developing a “blended learning” programme under which, with funding support from Mastercard Foundation. 40 learners from Kampala and Kiryandongo learning centers will benefit in 2020 from a programme that combines online learning with face-to-face psychosocial support and mentorship.



English for Adults Graduation Ceremony, Kampala 2019

In partnership with World University Service Canada, we mobilized, supported in application but also marked French and English language tests for over 100 shortlisted learners. 4 of our clients were selected for the final oral interview slated for January 2020. Our Kampala EFA Unit also coordinated access to online courses, with 30 (9f, 21m) students enrolled for Business Administration and Office Management course and 21 (4f, 17m) enrolled for Organizational Culture and Human Resource Management courses.

Information and Community Policing Sessions

Refugees and host communities were also empowered through information and community policing sessions. 40 information sessions benefitted 15,786 (9,360f, 6,426m) individuals and focused on a range of topics, including criminal responsibility of children, gender equality and women’s rights, civic education and the contribution of women leaders in the community, conflict-related sexual violence, peaceful coexistence, and conflict resolution. Information sessions supported peaceful

refugee-host co-existence; better understanding of Ugandan laws and policies; better service delivery and knowledge sharing among other benefits.

32 community-policing sessions benefited 6,517 (3,459F, 3058M), including 1,188 Ugandans. Major topics of discussion included; the difference between criminal and civil cases and who handles each; refugee rights and laws; criminal responsibility of children; how to curb crime in the community; the role of police; criminal trial process, and many others. Community policing led to better relations between police and communities as well as reduced crime rates and an improvement in reporting cases/crimes to police and local leaders.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing Programme

Forced migration exposes the internally displaced, asylum seekers, deportees and refugees to physical, psychological and social harms that can affect their mental wellbeing and reduce their ability to cope with day-to-day demands of life. Once compromised, poor mental health undermines the ability of individuals, households, families and communities to take advantage of available opportunities for integration, self-reliance and sustainable growth, which leads to cycles of vulnerability for both forced migrants and their hosts.

The Programme aims to promote the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of forced migrants and their hosts through use of a range of therapeutic approaches that focus on individuals, couples, households and groups. Traditional therapeutic approaches include; counselling and psychotherapy; linking clients to medical services. Complementary approaches include; building social support structures through mentoring survivor-led support groups to promote peer to peer support, healing and survivor voice. These are strengthened by psychoeducation to promote mental hygiene and reduce further harm, as well as capacity building for stakeholders to understand the mental and psychosocial challenges of forced migrants in order to serve them better.

Treatment and care for people affected by physical, psychological and psychosocial challenges

Linking refugees to medical support

The analogy of a healthy mind in a healthy body comes to reality in this context. More than 50% of the clients we receive present with some form of physical pain they believe needs medical attention. The majority of physical pains and medical conditions are linked to torture, sexual violence and other harms experienced before, during and after flight. The majority cannot afford medical costs, and medical support is almost always the primary psychosocial need presented by clients seeking psychosocial support. Some physical complaints result directly from experiences of violence, others are psychosomatic symptoms that require psychotherapy to address traumatic experiences trapped in the body. The Programme in Kampala was able to link and refer 199 clients for medical support. Through our established working relationships with existing hospitals we refer and link clients to medical services. Clients were referred to the following service providers; ACTV, KCCA-Kisenyi Health Centre, Mulago, Naguru- China Friendship Hospital and Butabika. 49% received service, 40% still waiting for feedback and 11% never got the service.

Counselling and psychotherapy

Clients present with varied psychosocial and mental health challenges that require support to think through, deal with the related emotional baggage and cope with the demands of life in exile. Most clients present with a combination of social and psychological needs that affect their mental wellbeing.



Community Members attending an Information Session

Medical and physical complaints, livelihood and insecurity were at the top of the psychosocial needs presented by refugees we supported in 2019. 27% of the clients attended to presented with physical complaints requiring medical intervention. Unfortunately, 50% of the clients referred to government

hospitals do not get the treatment they seek due to lack of medicine. Many clients are tested and given prescriptions to go and buy medicine from the pharmacy, but lack the money to buy the medicine, which affects their recovery and health. Lack of income for basic needs is a further stressor that compounds the psychosocial needs of clients.

In terms of mental health, most clients present with emotional distress often caused by lack of basic needs and the continuous anxiety about their future. One of the questions almost 80% of clients we serve ask is; “For how long am I going to be a refugee? Living in lack”. This is one of the main causes of anxiety and distress. Tables 1 and 2 below shows clients’ psychosocial and mental health needs presented. PTSD, depression, anxiety, complex grief and suicidal ideation are among the most common mental health issues clients present with. All clients present with more than one symptom, with one often reinforcing the other.

Counsellors use a combination therapeutic approaches to support the clients including Narrative Exposure Therapy combined with grounding, trauma focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, solution focused therapy, family therapy, experiential therapies, Interpersonal Therapy for Groups (IPT-G) and client-centred approaches.

Table 1: The psychosocial needs presented by the clients

Psychosocial Issues	Number	Percentage
Medical/ Physical health	281	27.1
Livelihood/Income	240	23.2
Insecurity	98	9.4
Housing	83	8
Education	63	6
Food	59	5.7
Social Isolation	57	5.5
Resettlement	53	5.1
Parenting	49	4.7
Relationship	29	2.8
Conflict	22	2.1
Total	1,034	100

Table 2: Showing the mental health issues presented by clients

Mental Health Issues	Number	Percentage
Distress	209	29.1
PTSD	146	20.3
Depression	144	20.1
Anxiety	93	12.9
Grief	68	9.4
Suicidal ideation	24	3.3
Sexual dysfunction	19	2.6
Psychosomatic symptoms	7	.9
Psychosis	4	.5
Drug and Alcohol abuse	2	.2
Total	716	100

Individual counselling

In Kampala we offered individual counselling to 558 clients (142m, 415f and 1GNC), including 509 were individual sessions, 41 family sessions and 8 couple sessions.

These sessions help victims to recognise signs of poor mental health and relate their symptoms to their past experiences. This brings relief to majority of those who usually find their emotional reactions unusual and threatening.

Some of the mental health outcomes recorded include; improved relationships, reduced depressive symptoms, reduced emotional distress, reduced nightmares as a result of dealing with the painful past, improved self-care, improved sense of safety, ability to carry out daily tasks, ability of clients to recognize signs of poor mental health and seek help, reduction in insomnia complaints.

Group therapy

Through the use of ITP-G and CBT four therapy groups were conducted for 12 sessions each benefiting 40 clients. Therapy groups promote therapeutic understanding and peer support for clients and tends to be helpful for clients presenting with depressive symptoms and are unwilling to talk about their past. Being in a group often encourages disclosure.

Outcomes; 80% of clients had their depressive symptoms reduce to minimum levels (0-4) on the PHQ adapted assessment tool.

Other qualitative outcomes include; Clients regaining trust in themselves and others, PTSD and depressive symptoms reduced shown by reduced emotional breakdown during sessions, improved sleep patterns and personal care.

General improvement in the person's functionality shown by client's ability to think rationally, smile, share experiences, encourage others in session, reduced psychosomatic symptoms like shaking, sweating, crying while talking about their experiences, and reduced sense of hopelessness.

Improved interpersonal relationships as clients deal with their anger, general distrust, leads to building friendships among members. This strengthens their social networks and reduces the likelihood of relapses.

Household, family and couple counselling

46 families & households received family counselling to help family members reprocess, cope with shared trauma and restore more functional family patterns, mend relationships, resolve conflicts and improve communication among family members. 22 couples received counselling to work through their relationship challenges.

Some of the outcomes we have seen include; parents and caretakers understanding the emotional reactions of their children to traumatic experiences and making it easier to respond to times when children seem to act out their pain, improvement in caretakers' awareness of how their pain of the traumatic experiences affects their emotions and interaction with their children. We have seen more caretakers taking more intentional steps to manage their emotions so that they are able to respond to their children more appropriately instead of reacting. For many caretakers when they begin counselling they are aware of their emotional outbursts to their children and they feel a lot of guilt about it. This awareness brings more relief as they continually understand their emotional reaction and take more control.

Psycho-medical and legal aid clinic

377 refugees, asylum seekers and hosts benefited from the clinic; 256 medical, 69 psychosocial, and legal advice 52. The psycho-medical and legal aid clinic was carried out on 21st June 2019 at



Old Kampala Primary School to provide forced migrants and their hosts with medical, legal and psychosocial support, particularly for survivors and victims of torture. This was the third such clinic organised by RLP in collaboration with the Coalition Against Torture in Uganda. It brought together in one space different service providers (legal, medical and psychosocial) that the most vulnerable may not otherwise access from mainstream systems, and linked them to service providers for future support.



On the left a medical worker from Naguru China Hospital makes a referral for a child and shares her contacts with the mother to find her at the hospital for further intervention (linking clients to service providers for future support)

Promoting resilience and self-reliance

Strengthening community structures to create safer spaces for resilience building

The physical, psychological, social, economic and political violations that forced migrants go through leave many with shattered lives. People's sense of identity and social belonging is bruised, their social support systems are badly weakened or totally destroyed, their sense of trust is wounded, leaving a sense of brokenness, isolation, hopelessness and vulnerability.

Through support groups we are able to facilitate the rebuilding of the social support systems for many refugees through mentoring survivor-led groups that provide members peer to peer support to each other, offer the opportunity to build meaningful relationships, create spaces in and through which people can carefully and progressively re-enter public life. As such they offer a shoulder to lean on but also present opportunities for personal development and new skills such as business skills that transform into social and livelihood activities that contribute to meeting psycho-social needs and regaining a sense of value and self-esteem.

Key achievements for support groups

Through their weekly savings, a group of 30 ASSOFRA women were able to meet and save up to 25,000/= each. These are single mothers struggling to take care of their children single-handedly. The support group allows peer support, access to small credits and opportunities to engage in small businesses. Group members were able to contribute and visit Sanyu Babies Home in Namirembe-Kampala, where they offered the children 50kg of sugar.



The Association of Refugees with Disabilities (ARD) was able to formally register their Association and secured a capacity building grant of 10,000\$ from the Disability Rights Fund to strengthen their association. This will make them stronger and enable them to reach many other persons with disabilities hidden within their communities.

Disrupting transgenerational trauma

In 2019 we intensified our work with children. This stemmed from a growing awareness that that children are severely affected by the traumatic experiences of forced migration (before, during and after flight), but their needs are rarely seen or heard, let alone adequately addressed. Through the multi-survivor approach that Refugee Law Project has adopted, which emphasises the fact that violence not only affects the direct or primary victim but everyone within their circle, including

children, we were able with funding support from the Fund for Global Human Rights to expand and deepen our interventions responding to the mental and psychosocial needs of children, including;

The children's corner, a child friendly space that was established in 2018 to provide space for children that come to RLP mostly escorting their caretakers where they can play and interact with each other, making their visit to the organisation meaningful. The corner has play materials that children use to play and express themselves.

This year, the corner hosted 179 children (98M, 99F).



The curious minds of children at play in the children's corner as they participate in making their own play materials with the help of RLP staff

Four other child friendly spaces were organised within refugee hosting communities in Kampala, benefiting 55 children ages 1-5.

Below is one of the child friendly spaces organised during information sessions with refugee hosting communities in Kampala on children rights to keep children safe and meaningfully engaged.



Providing children with space to process their emotions, building their confidence and nurture their curious minds. Children communicate and deal with difficult emotions through play. Providing play space is therapeutic.



One of the child friendly spaces organised alongside an information session to provide a safer space for children to have meaningful participation. Caretakers can be seen having meaningful interactions with their children

Through safe play, children reprocess their traumas, and communicate in a way that psychologists, counsellors and social workers can identify their psychosocial needs in a less intrusive way.

Four information sessions were carried out within the refugee hosting communities of Kisenyi, Katwe, Nakulabye and Masajja . These reached 429 adults (235f, 194m) and 148 children (82f, 66m), both refugees and hosts. The sessions sensitised caretakers and general community about children's rights in order to reduce the abuse of children thus enhancing contributing to building safer spaces for children within their families and homes, thus promoting their wellbeing and development. 80% (173) of Ugandans appreciated the fact that refugees and refugee children have the same rights as Ugandan children and are governed by the same laws. 80% (256) of refugees appreciated the fact that refugee children too have rights and it is the number one responsibility of a caretaker and community to protect them. They also reported that they had previously not been aware of the different child protection structures within the community. The majority of participants appreciated these sessions for involving both refugees and hosts to discuss issues related to children because it gave a space for both to talk, something local council leaders acknowledged was very important yet often missing.



52 staff (22f, 30m) were trained in child protection and safeguarding, and 25 staff (13f, 12m) on working with children. The two trainings aimed at strengthening the capacity of staff to deliver quality mental health and psychosocial services to refugee children. The child protection and safeguarding

training equipped staff with knowledge and skills needed to plan and incorporate child safe activities in all activities in order to avoid potential abuse and make RLP a child safe space. The training on working with children involved specifically equipping staff with knowledge and skills of working without causing additional harm to children of different ages who have gone through trauma.

We carried out a vulnerability assessment for children which involved caretakers profiling their children. The purpose was to ascertain the mental health and psychosocial needs of children through caretakers. Through this process, which started in August 2019, 39 caretakers were interviewed and 95 children profiled. Key mental health needs identified included; Need for counselling and psychosocial support in form of access to safer spaces. 82% of caretakers interviewed (N=39) expressed worry that their children are going through a lot of distress and have no access to counselling services. They also expressed a concern that their children lack safer spaces where they can interact and play to relieve stress.

45% of children were reported to have experienced violence directly and/or to have witnessed violence against a caretaker or family member, leading to emotional distress characterized by withdrawal, persistent sadness, anger outbursts, depressive symptoms characterized by extreme sadness, fear and anxiety, nightmares, regression, aggressive behavior, and lack of concentration both in school and at home.

Over the course of 2019 we also developed the ***RLP Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy*** that is being used to guide our programming in general and particular interventions that involve children.

Psycho education for mental health awareness and mental hygiene

12 psychoeducation sessions were carried out in Kampala to sensitise refugees on mental health and psychosocial issues including; suicide, the role of counselling and what to expect, torture, parenting. These sessions reached 356 refugees and asylum seekers.



On the left is a much bigger session involving many refugees talking about torture, conflict related violence and its psychological and social effects and on the right a smaller sessions on more tailored issues like parenting.

Influencing policy and practice

Blog on disability

RLP continued to show its commitment to addressing the mental health and psychosocial needs of forced migrants and their hosts throughout the year by collaborating with stakeholders that work on mental health and psychosocial challenges in order to highlight and advocate for mental health among forced migrants and ensure continuous learning for staff.

Our presence in the Uganda Counselling Association (UCA) conferences and fellowships was more evident and productive in 2019. 13 staff including psychosocial counsellors and

social workers, and the Human Resources Officer participated in the 15th Annual Counsellors Conference that took place at Silver Springs Bugoloobi 27-29 March 2019. The Programme Manager made a presentation with the title; **‘A counsellor in the world of forced migration’**. This continued engagement led to a productive discussion with UCA that has translated into RLP partnering with UCA to organise the 16th Annual Counsellors Conference the theme; **“Attaining a healthy mind in a healthy body: Focus on Forced Migration, Mental Health and Gender”**.



The programme manager-MHPW programme making a presentation during the 15th Annual Counsellors' Conference



Psychosocial counsellor-Suubi Akula making a presentation on 'how mental health impacts family functionality; effects of PTSD among forced migrants' during the regional Uganda Counsellors' Association conference that took place in Mbarara

RLP facilitated a fellowship session on complex trauma among forced migrants for UCA members at the UCA offices in Ntinda. These sessions are meant

for continuous development for members to keep abreast with the current issues, and new developments, experiences and methodologies through continuous learning.

Mary Kampogo, Programme Manager Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing, facilitating a session during the fellowship on 27th September 2019



The Programme made a presentation on conflict related sexual violence and its effects at a Symposium on sexual violence organised by Refugee Law Project from 15-16th May 2019, as well as giving a radio talk show on Mama FM on the theme 'Disability is not inability'. The latter added another media platform to our work for future media engagement.

Fundraising and mobilising resources

Networking

On behalf of RLP the MHPW Programme participates in a range of national working groups, including;

- ☐ The National Child Protection Working Group hosted by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- ☐ The Persons of Concern working group hosted by the UNHCR
- ☐ The National Mental Health Working Group

Funding

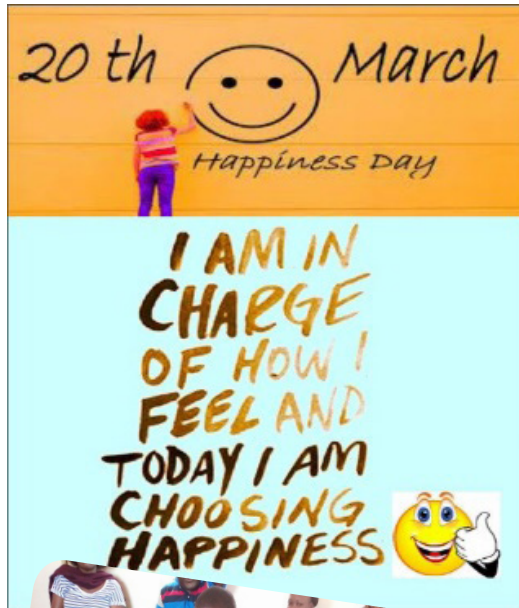
We received three grants during the year;

1. UNVFVT United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
2. Fund for Global Human Rights with a focus on working with children
3. Received a grant on behalf of the Association of Refugees living with disabilities, a group that we mentor

Staff welfare and self-care

Given that our staff interface with clients who have gone through traumatic experiences and that their chances of vicarious trauma are correspondingly high, staff welfare, care for the caregiver, and self-care are priorities. The MHPW programme worked with Operations and Programme Support (OPS) to implement tailored activities for staff welfare and development as follows;

Commemoration of the International Happiness Day, 20 March 2019



The day was a fun and relaxing blend of activities, tea, and cutting a cake for March babies. The day was commemorated to give staff time to get off work, laugh and bond outside work but also to raise their awareness of the need for self-care as they do their work.

On the right leading by example; programme staff having a day out together



Gender & Sexuality Programme



We envision a conducive environment in which all people **understand, attain, recover** and **enjoy** their sexual and gendered being and rights regardless of legal status

Educate & Inform ALL people about CRSV



Figure 1: Information Session in progress at Palabek Refugee Settlement in Lamwo District

Activities 2019	Attendance
Trainings	1,199
Community Policing	3,273
Information session (refugee settlement)	5,916
International Days (tallied)	2,739
Debate on Sexual Violence	476
User Guide Launch	58
Psycho-Medical & Legal Clinic	464
South-South Institute	423
Symposium	35
AGDM Feedback Meetings	165
Dialogue on Burden women face	29
EFA Orientation with Gender component	192
UHRC Consultations	35
Association of Commonwealth University	55
Mind the Mind (Netherlands Embassy)	35
Institute of Social Studies Lecture	22
Wilton Park	45
Survivor-led Advocacy (MoH)	90
UNVFVT - Geneva, Open Plenary	65
UNVFVT – Geneva, Main Session	35
10 Anniversary of UNOSRSG-SVC	150
Regional Forced Migration Conference	125
Handover of RWCs	744
Total	16,370

**16,370
People
Reached**

With possibilities of chances of multiple attendance by same persons

Indirectly?
Incomputable reach via
Radios, TVs, and Online
Documents

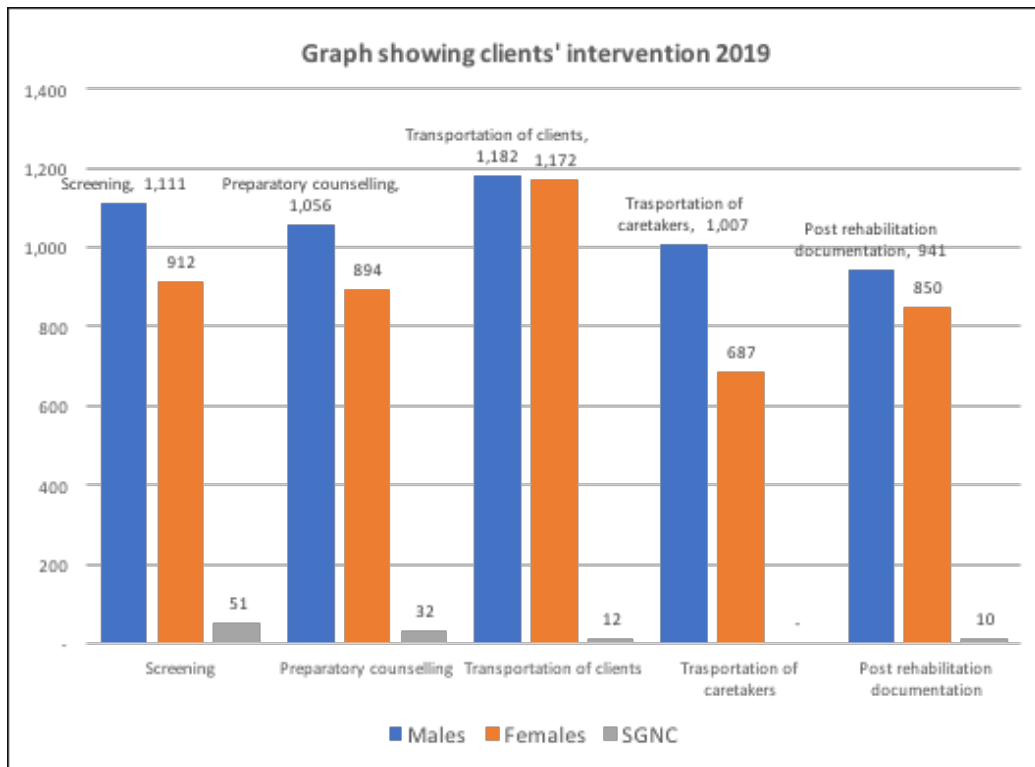
Direct Client Interventions



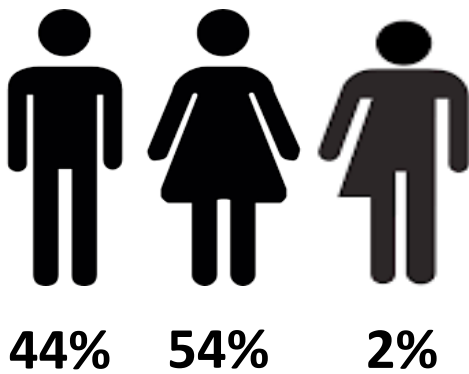
Screen-Refer-Support-Document Interventions 2019

Activity	Males	Females	SGNC	Total
Screened	1,111	912	51	2,074
Preparatory Counselling	1,056	894	32	1,982
Clients transported to appropriate medical facilities	1,182	1,172	32	2,366
Caretakers transported	1,007	687	0	1,694
Post Rehabilitation engagements	941	850	10	1,801

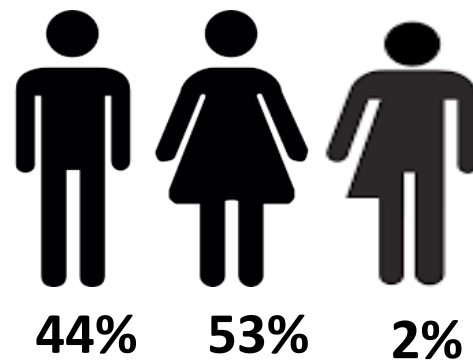
Figure 2: Table showing summary of the SRSD Model



Screened



Prepared





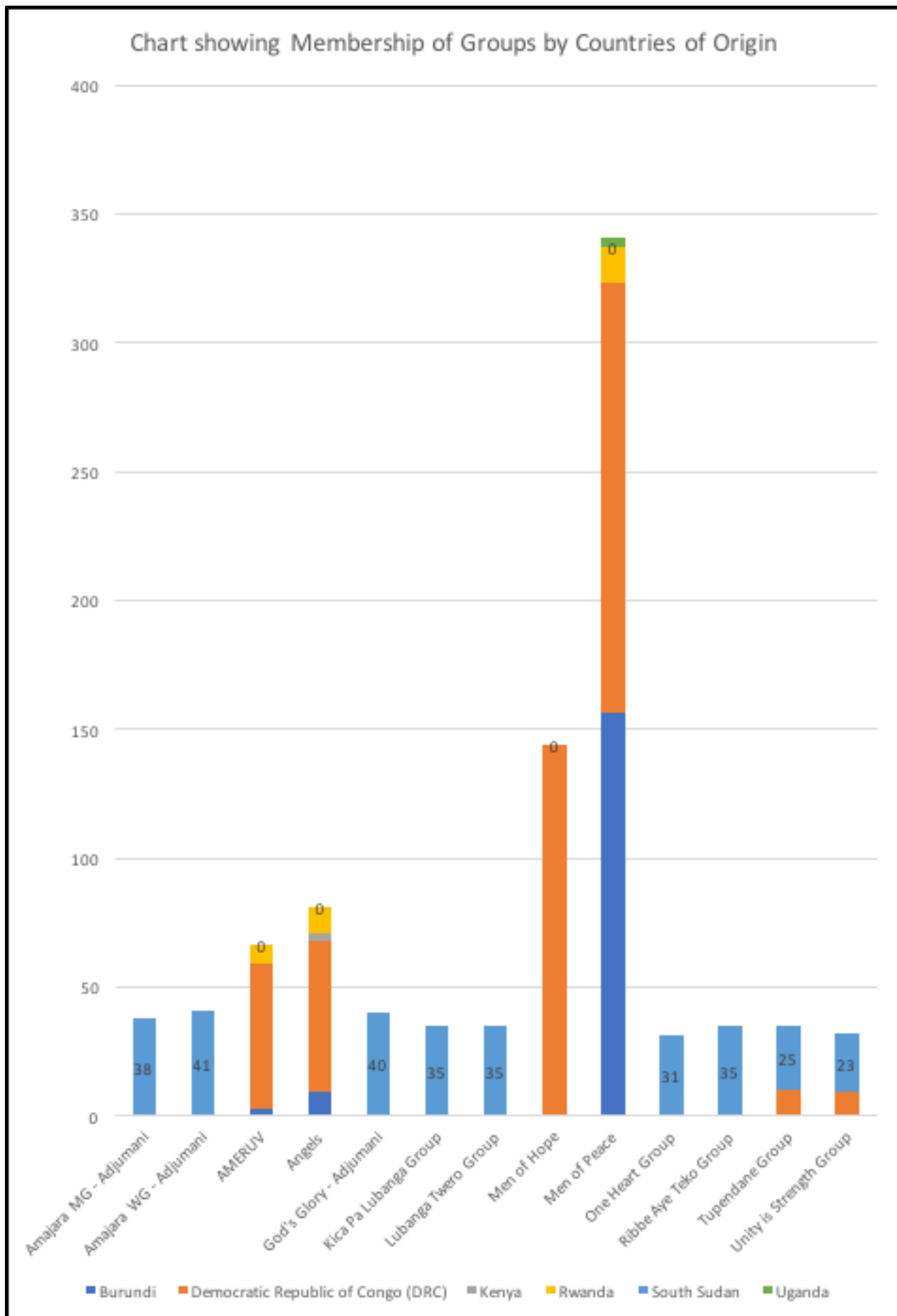
Group Support

Figure 3: Support Group Session in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

Name of Group * Gender Crosstabulation

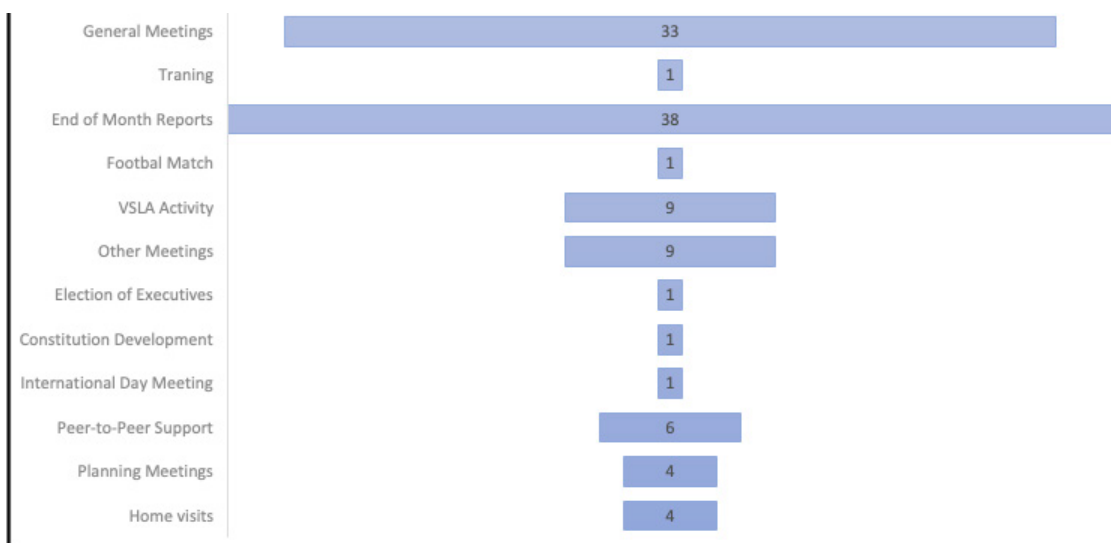
Count

		Gender			SGNC	Total
		Female	Male	Prefer not to disclose		
Name of Group	Amajara MG – Adjumani	0	38	0	0	38
	Amajara WG – Adjumani	41	0	0	0	41
	AMERUV	66	0	0	0	66
	Angels	33	44	0	4	81
	God's Glory – Adjumani	25	15	0	0	40
	Kica Pa Lubanga Group	21	14	0	0	35
	Lubanga Twero Group	21	14	0	0	35
	Men of Hope	0	144	0	0	144
	Men of Peace	0	341	0	0	341
	One Heart Group	31	0	0	0	31
	Ribbe Aye Teko Group	27	8	0	0	35
	Tupendane Group	34	0	1	0	35
	Unity is Strength Group	0	32	0	0	32
Total		299	650	1	4	954



Group Mentorship

131 Group Mentorship sessions held



Advocacy on Refugees and CRSV

Uganda continues to host millions of refugees from across the East and Horn of Africa and elsewhere. A study conducted by Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, and World Bank Group titled *“An Assessment of Uganda’s Progressive Approach to Refugee Management”* shows that Uganda’s refugee regime is commendable in its open door policy to all asylum seekers, granting relative freedom of movement, providing prima facie asylum to certain nationalities, and providing land to each refugee family for agriculture.

However, behind the figures, policies, frameworks, and pillars, the refugee regime grapples with a

CHAPTER 7: THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES IN UGANDA AND THE CONCERNS OF THE HOST COMMUNITIES

This chapter, highlights on the refugee situation Uganda, highlighting the plight of refugees in the settlement centres and the human rights issues of concern. It also outlines Government development interventions in regard to refugee issues.

Recommendations

- Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) should streamline the policy of land ownership and related benefits for the host communities before, during and after occupation by refugees.
- OPM should create its own biometric system of registration of refugees or attain control over the UNHCR system.
- Government should, through the Office of the Prime Minister, support the host communities who have already given out their land for refugee settlements and have nowhere to sustain their livelihoods.
- Office of the Prime Minister should conduct massive awareness raising among the host communities on the terms and conditions on which their land was donated to the government for settlement of refugees As well as on how to tap the benefits arising from refugee population such as utilizing them as labour and market for produce.)

Look at recommendations

1, 3, 4, 9 10

- system to lessen the problem of inadequate water.
- OPM should establish tertiary/vocational training institutions for the refugees and host communities to help the people, especially the youth, attain some skills.
- The Government should open up more police posts in the refugee settlements and deploy more police officers in these settlements.
- Government and other implementing partners should consider opening up some adult classes/ education for the adult refugees who are interested in it.

number of challenges – some of which require continuous advocacy. On 14 January 2019, Refugee Law Project was invited to participate at the 21st Annual Report Consultation Meeting of the Uganda Human Rights Commission at Fairway Hotel, Kampala, Uganda ([Read Report](#)). Refer to Chapter 7, Page 89-104).

Wilton Park discussion on Protection of IDPs

From 2 - 4 September 2019, RLP was invited to participate at a Wilton Park Conference on “Internal Displaced Persons: towards more effective international protection and durable solutions” held at Wilton Park, West Sussex, UK.

Represented by the Programme Manager Gender and Sexuality (Mr. Onen David Ongwech), the conference addressed issues related to prospects for IDPs, strategies to accelerate progress on protection of IDPs, national and regional protection mechanisms, social and economic impacts of internal displacements, peace and security impact of internal displacements, and forging durable solutions for international displacements.

Rehabilitation and Redress for Victims of SGB and Torture

From 3-4 April 2019, RLP was invited by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT) to participate at the 5th Annual Expert Workshop on “Rehabilitation and Redress for Victims of Sexual and Gender-based Torture” which took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the trip, RLP’s Gender & Sexuality Programme Manager, together with a refugee support group leader, Mr. Aimé Moninga, the President of Men of Hope Refugee Association (a refugee-led male survivor support group), participated at this event in the framework of the 49th session of the UNVFVT Board of Trustees.

On the first day of the event, Aimé presented the work of Men of Hope Refugee Association before the ‘Group of Friends’ of UNVFVT ([Watch Video](#)) and Mr Onen David presented on the second day on RLP’s experience in the identification of survivors of torture ([Read report](#)).



Emerging Issues

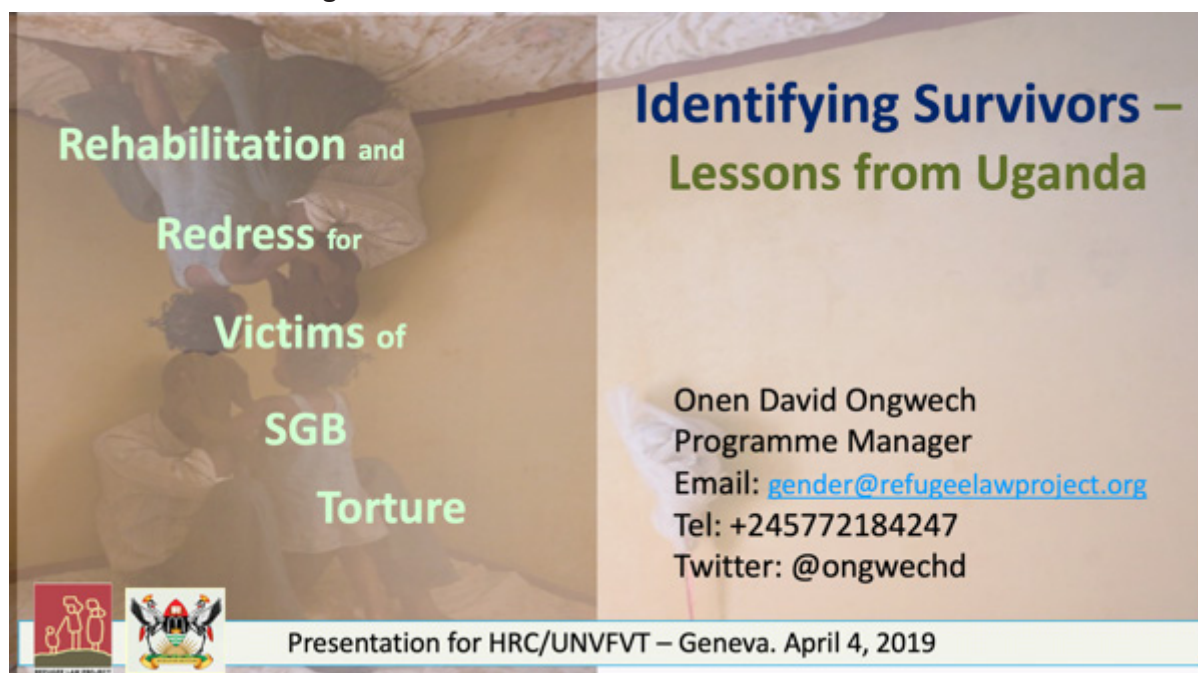
SRSD Model

- i. Clients who have received medical care and are showing signs of recovery are a living testimony in the settlement that injuries arising from war-related violence can be treated, and survivors can regain their functionality
- ii. Provision of counselling support is providing significant contributions towards fast-tracking recovery, adherence and peer support

- iii. Hepatitis B remains a threat and a challenge to clients especially those who do not know their status. This poses a lot of risk to new clients and their care takers, particularly during different gatherings and at the time of transportation to access medical rehabilitation.
- iv. Support groups continue to demand livelihood support alongside medical rehabilitation – services which largely falls outside RLP’s current programming and interventions
- v. Protracted medical rehabilitation processes require multiple medical reviews (sometimes 5 – 10 visits), with huge financial implications

Advocacy

- i. Hosts still feel their access to information is limited and that the 30:70 percent policy is ill affecting them since government services hardly reach the deepest villages. For instance, In Maaji, the police posts are located inside the refugee settlement. Hosts have to move long distances to access services and are often asked to pay for police forms and medical examination for cases of assaults and defilements, yet refugees largely obtain them for free.
- ii. A clash between refugees (Dinka) and host community (Madi) in Nyumanzi caused panic and tension in Adjumani town. This escalated up to Dzaipi centre and OPM had to call partners to close offices for the day as the situation was being monitored. This coincided with the EFA graduation which was on going in Maaji. The situation was later contained by the police and the army.
- iii. Postponement of international commemorations in the refugee hosting districts of operation by leadership of the settlement and district officials affects operations since commemorations are sometimes merged.



Operations

- iv. Cost of car hire and fuel continued to rise as more clients – many of whom were accompanied by their caretakers (caregivers) - made their journeys to hospitals and with several review sessions. The current 1 vehicle per office location has to juggle this with also supporting EFA activities, tree growing, advocacy, legal support, and other community events.
- v. Bad roads due to heavy rain which affected work as heavy vehicles get stuck along the road

and block other cars from moving. The bad roads also have severe impacts on the wear and tear of the cars, with tyres requiring replacement way earlier than is normally planned.

- vi. Limited number of community interpreters within the offices as many are stretched between court services, accompanying clients to health centres, and other community-related events. RLP continues to train more community interpreters to address this challenge.

Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance Programme

The Conflict, Transitional Justice & Governance Programme (CTJ&G) confronts the challenges of dealing with the legacies of past atrocities and human rights violations while pursuing justice, both locally and globally, promoting democratisation and good governance, and engaging in sustainable peacebuilding.

These goals are achieved through a combination of strategies, including ongoing direct support to victims and survivors, conflict analysis and early warning, thematic research, documentation, archiving and memorialisation, appropriate policy development and advocacy at the local, national and international level.

In 2019, the CTJG Programme continued with two main grants for different yet complementary projects. The funding from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) through **‘Supporting Justice through Formal, Informal & Transitional Justice Mechanisms’** continued to target the specific project districts of Gulu, Soroti, Amuru, Kitgum, Lamwo, Kasese and Nwoya while European Union’s project entitled **‘Promoting Sustainable Peace, Security & Justice in West Nile Sub-region’** focused on the districts of Arua, Adjumani and Zombo. The 2 projects while different on account of the areas of implementation, share a concern with post-conflict contexts. Both projects contributed to the following achievements in 2019:

Promoting local and national healing

Facilitated Physical & Psychological Healing

Victims and survivors of conflicts across the project specific as well as neighboring districts of Adjumani, Amuria, Gulu, Kasese, Zombo, Soroti, Lamwo, Arua, Nwoya, Omoro and Pader benefited from various interventions in particular information sessions, medical treatment and support, preparatory counselling, counselling clinics, group therapy, therapeutic camps, a counselling clinic, alongside psycho-education and psychosocial dialogues.

With RLP’s support, 329 (146f, 183m) clients were profiled and screened with a total of 259 (113f, 146m) referred for medical treatment for physical injuries sustained during or as a result of conflict. 189 completed treatment successfully, and 57 (25f, 32m) clients were still undergoing review by end of 2019. Treatment was provided by partner institutions that provided specialized surgery and medical treatment namely St. Mary’s Hospital Lacor in Gulu, and Kuluva Hospital in Arua. Physical ailments clients presented with included body swelling, unhealed gun wounds, retained bullets/ bomb fragments and dislodged bones alongside emotional distress caused by the conditions in which many had been living. Healing for RLP encompasses both the physical and psychological dimensions. In 2019 this healing has impacted positively not only on the individuals we worked with directly, but also their families, household and community members.

251 clients identified for medical support benefited from preparatory counselling sessions that reached a total of 1,020 family and households members of profiled clients prior to medical treatment¹; victims/survivors with psychological issues further benefited from psychosocial counselling through individual counselling sessions that benefited 12 (7f, 5m) clients who walked into RLP’s offices; 2 group therapies held in Odek Sub county in Omoro District reached 32 (16f, 16m) individuals presenting with trauma; a week-long individual counselling clinic in Odek Sub county, Omoro district reaching 245 (124m, 121f) individuals; psycho-education sessions in Pabbo Sub county, Amuru and Nwoya reaching 130 (76f, 54m) individuals; psychosocial dialogues held across 5 parishes of Nwoya reaching 147 (66m & 81f) participants

¹ This pre-referral counselling is a necessary step in preparing both direct beneficiary and those around her/him for the process of hospitalization, care during treatment, and post-treatment rehabilitation

2 Psycho-medical camps were convened in Odramacaku, Ayivuni Sub-County in Arua District with 192 (113f, 11m) participants and in Pagirinya sub-county in Adjumani reaching 155 (60f, 95m) participants. These were critical in bringing multi-faceted services to post-conflict community members who, long after the guns have fallen silent, remain with untreated war-related injuries in need of rehabilitation as well as psychosocial support.

Home visits allowing for follow up, client assessment, counselling and advice were also conducted as part of the rehabilitation process. These revealed that most of the victims/clients rehabilitated were experiencing positive changes to their lives as evident from their active engagement in livelihood activities, community events and occasions such as RLP supported consultations and memorials. Of the 117 client assessments conducted, 88 had regained physical functionality and mobility, and 108 clients reported an improved state of mind reflected in improved sleep patterns and family relationships.

2 service providers' capacity building sessions were conducted; 1 in Arua targeting Arua and Zombo participants, and another in Gulu with a total of 28 practitioners engaged. The sessions were aimed at building the capacity of medical practitioners and psychosocial workers to address war-related medical and psychosocial needs.



In photo: Family members welcome a client (in black at the centre) home as RLP staff looks on. The client has been receiving RLP support since 2016 and finally returned home in good health having received an artificial limb



In photo: RLP staff speaks to participants during a psycho-medical camp in Pagirinya, Adjumani district

Enhanced Social Healing through local Memory Dialogues

Memory Dialogues, a form of community-led and owned ‘truth telling’ sessions through which local communities explore their past and recent history, as well as share conflict experiences and memories, continues to be a great healing space. The programme held memory dialogue sessions in 9 post-conflict communities to document narratives as individuals remember them, as well as providing a space for communities to share experiences, seek services as appropriate, and advocate for their needs. In the course of 2019, memory dialogues involving a total of 2,298 community members were held in:

- Abok, Oyam district, 339 participants
- Namukur Village, Kotido District, 210 participants
- Central Village of Corner Kilak, Pader District, 150 (48f, 102m) participants
- Katagwe Parish in Luwero with 270 community members
- Mundhel village, Zeu Sub County, Zombo District, 278 (82f, 196m) participants
- Odramachaku, Arua District, 317 (181f, 191m) participants
- Eceku-Bondo, Arua District, 216 (90f, 126m) participants
- Ogolo-South, Adjumani District, 319 (189f, 128m) participants
- Pagirinya, Dzaipi Sub-County, Adjumani District, 199 (93f, 106m) participants

The dialogues provided a platform for the targeted communities to provide historical background to the area of focus, narratives about the conflict as they remember as well as enable victims/survivors and other members interested to share their experiences of the different conflicts as guided by Peace Commissioners. In 2019, 60 individuals were identified and trained to build their capacity in organizing, leading, documenting and chairing community level activities such as memory dialogues. From the 60 persons trained in Karamoja, Arua and Luwero, 15 went on to support the mentioned dialogues as Peace Commissioners. During all these sessions, victim communities received counselling support while others had their oral histories documented. In Corner Kilak particularly, the use of safe spaces was raised as a critical need if RLP is to get actual accounts from witnesses. The majority of community members reported that they continue to fear perpetrators who live within the community, and this affected the number of participants interested in sharing their experiences.

Community screenings of live, recorded and other TJ processes

A total of 5 community screenings of the ICC Trial of Dominic Ongwen were organised. Memorialization as a reparation and community perceptions on Kwoyelo’s trial alongside other documentaries related to RLP’s work were conducted; 2 in Olinga Trading Center, Olinga village, Kilak Hills in Amuru district; 2 in Central village and Kinyoo in Acholi Bur sub-county, Pader district, and 1 in Kitgum Matidi in Kitgum district. These reached a total of 465 participants across the 3 locations. These community screenings have become a point of reference for community members who identify challenges they are struggling with and advocate before their local leaders while noting what their needs are. It is also a platform for communities to ask questions enabling basic civic knowledge.

Victim consultations avail spaces for communities to engage on TJ mechanisms through information sharing and basic legal education. The Programme conducted 3 victim consultations in Adjumani, Kitgum and Amuru districts. The consultations were also an opportunity to create awareness of the National Transitional Justice Policy among community members and their leaders. People were not aware of the policy at community level, and, after learning of it, expressed concern about whether it would be implemented in their lifetimes.

District	Location	Number of Participants
Adjumani	Arinyapi	92 (76f, 15m, 1 undisclosed)
	Pagirinya	221 (111f, 108m, 2 undisclosed)
Kitgum	Pagen	168 (93f, 73m, 2 undisclosed)
	Mucwini	94 (48f, 46m)
	Dure	56 (24f, 32m)
Amuru	Olinga Village	120 (43f, 75m, 2 undisclosed)
	Olet Valley	55 (11f, 43m, 1 undisclosed)
	Otukere	36 (23f, 13m)
TOTAL number of Participants:		842 (429f, 405m, 8 undisclosed)

Table 4 Victim consultations in Adjumani, Kitgum and Amuru districts

9th Institute of African Transitional Justice

The 9th Institute for African Transitional Justice was convened in Gulu under the theme “**Environmental Destruction: The Transitional Justice Issue of the Future**”. This institute brought together 85 participants from academia, CSOs working on environmental and humanitarian issues, the police, military, legal fraternity, cultural institutions as well as government representatives. RLP’s work on environmental justice, as well as our findings on environmental destruction (notably indiscriminate logging going on in northern Uganda) was shared through video and presentations.

Discussions during the Institute pointed to gross laxity in implementation of various laws and policies that could, if properly adhered to, protect the environment. Other issues pointed out were the need for joint work around protection, a broader conversation on clean energy sources and use in refugee and forced migration context, as well as how to engage communities in protection and rehabilitation of the environment. Alongside the 9th Institute was 2019’s Annual Memorial lecture delivered by Prof Morris Ogenga Latigo at the Gulu District Council Hall.

Strengthening the National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre

The National Memory & Peace Documentation Centre (NMPDC) continues to gain recognition locally and internationally while influencing debates around Uganda’s multiple conflicts and transitional justice processes especially memorialisation. 19th September 2019 saw the launch of a completely new exhibition at the NMPDC in a colorful ceremony which attracted more than 200 guests from across and beyond Uganda. The new, dynamic and interactive display is premised on 4 themes namely; ‘**The Past**’, ‘**Harms of War**’, ‘**Transitional Justice Engagements**’ and ‘**Emerging Issues**’ displayed in 21 distinct panels comprising of hundreds of images, illustrations, infographics, briefs and details on conflict, transitional justice as well as emerging issues in the field. The panels on display speak to Uganda’s national and regional conflict timelines, South Sudan’s conflict timeline as well as a snapshot of RLP’s work on memory dialogues and the regional Institutes convened so far. The event was graced by the Acholi Paramount Chief who thanked RLP and funders for the great work around memorialization pointing out the importance of memory and memorialization for Uganda as a country that has been through various conflicts.

In the course of 2019, **74 artefacts were collected**. 10 conflict related and 42 cultural related artefacts were collected and documented from Central Uganda (Luwero, Nakasongola, Bombo and Nakaseke); 8 cultural artefacts from West Nile sub-region, 3 conflict related and 11 cultural artefacts from Rwenzori. Artifacts collected are acquired through donations and loaning of items to the NMPDC. Loaning of items is premised upon a need for temporary safety custody of the loaned items. Items collected are documented, have a description added to them and catalogued for online display as well as exhibition.

NMPDC Visitors: with a new exhibition, the Center hosted a total of 4,282 (1,291F & 2,991M) visitors from within and beyond Uganda. Visitors to the NMPDC access the establishment for various reasons namely library use, conference facilities and general visits to the Center to interact with the exhibition on display. 2019 saw a higher number of visitors interested in the newly launched exhibition followed by library users. The Center continues to facilitate access to historical narratives for many users. When a team of over 300 students from 5 schools in Kitgum visited they displayed a range of emotions while reading about conflicts in Uganda. One commented that “...while I was not in the war, I can now imagine what my mother went through...”

During the Women’s Leadership Camp, the exhibition at the NMPDC was part of the excursion planned for the participants and many of the women leaders from outside Kitgum were moved by the exhibition, with one requesting RLP to support such a project in Adjumani.

The Programme held 2 **Public Thematic Exhibitions:** An exhibition featuring conflict related sexual violence and its impact on men and women was conducted at the NMPDC to mark the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism in Kitgum which brought together district officials, CSOs representatives and justice actors for the commemoration of the 16 Days alongside a thematic exhibition.

Uganda’s history was also displayed as part of Court Open Day at the Court Grounds in a second thematic exhibition of 2019 with the aim of raising awareness on justice needs of victim communities as well as maintaining discussions of Transitional Justice as a core part of the justice discourse in Northern Uganda. This event was graced by the Chief Justice of Uganda, His Lordship, Justice Bert Katurebe.



In photo: community members engage with Traveling Exhibition at the Mayor’s Garden in Adjumani

NMPDC and aware that many individuals are unable to make the trip to the NMPDC, the Programme seeks to ensure that as many people as possible are able to engage with the exhibition to inform discussions. As a result, 3 **Traveling Testimony Exhibitions** were held to enable victim communities in Barlonyo in Lira District and Ombaci in Arua as well as community in Adjumani town council to engage with the exhibitions and the information at the Center. A National level travelling testimony exhibition was also held at the Uganda Museum to commemorate International Museums Day.

Memorial Prayers

Memorial Prayers are annual events that allow individuals, victims/survivors and victim communities to remember their departed loved ones, avail a platform to advocate for victim needs as well as remind the communities of the negative impact of war. The memorial prayers are a vital space for engagement with victims/survivors enabling documentation of survivor testimonies and narratives.

11 **Memorial Prayers** were supported in 2019 across Namukora, St. John Kasese in Kasese, Mucwini in Kitgum, Latanya and Achol Pii in Pader, Omot in Agago, Lukodi- Gulu, Ringili, Odramachaku, Ombaci in Arua, Dzaipi in Adjumani and Obalanga in Amuria. These attracted participants from local/victim

communities and specifically massacre survivors, partner institutions, students, researchers, district, religious, cultural and other opinion leaders.

Massacre Site Scoping

Alongside memorial prayers and exhibitions that enable dialogues around particular events, dialogues at massacre sites were also organized. This activity, known as **Massacre Site Scoping**, involves documenting massacres that have often not been documented at all and are not generally known about outside the immediate vicinity in which a massacre occurred. A total of 16 Massacre sites were documented in Amiyatiko village, Otwal Sub County in Oyam District; Olero village, Aleo Parish, Ngetta Sub County and Nginyanginya Village, Ogur Sub County in Lira; Kabwele Village in Ariet, Kanyumu; Oduku village, Oladot in Mukingoro; Ogooma Village, Odiapai Parish, Ngero Sub County in Kumi District; Nwoya District- 1 in Parabong village where 12 people were killed, another in Patira village, Anaka Sub County, Pabit Parish with 7 dead, and a 3rd in Kal A, Koch Goma with 14 dead. A verification exercise was carried out in Nwoya with a team of 23 community members and selected local leaders and during this meeting, 6 other sites were identified for the scoping and documentation team. In Arua, the scoping took place in Odramacaku, Nunu Village, Anzu Parish in Ayivuni Sub-County as well as Rhino Camp Board along Alevia and Ndiova landing sites. All this documentation continues to inform RLP's database on Massacres in Uganda, contributing to shaping narratives of conflict in Uganda.



In photo: RLP staff takes measurements during Massacre Scoping in Dzaipi Center

Oral History Documentation

112 (44f, 68m) individuals had their oral histories documented in 2019. Accounts were drawn from individual victims/survivors across our areas of operation - both direct victims of the harms and indirect victims who may have witnessed in one way or another, cultural leaders, religious leaders as well as political leaders. Oral history documentation also plays a critical role in individual healing given the therapeutic nature that story narration avails for many of our clients.

Action oriented research and Advocacy

The 8th, 9th and 10th Justice Tafakari

The Programme convenes Justice Tafakari as a platform that brings together Transitional Justice actors to reflect on key emerging justice issues as part of advocacy. We convened the **8th Justice Tafakari** in Adjumani and Arua for discussions on victims' needs, challenges and to forge a way forward in engaging them. The discussion brought together a total of 32 (13F, 19M) participants in Adjumani and 36 (10F, 26M) participants in Arua. In both locations the Justice Tafakari was a first time engagement which offered a platform that had never existed before. Stakeholders present called for more frequent engagement on issues of victims and transitional justice. The **9th Justice Tafakari** held in Kitgum with the aim of discussing the 'Role of the Media in Reporting Justice' brought together 35 (16F, 19M) journalists from across Northern Uganda who engaged in a reflection on media reports following the passing of the National Transitional Justice Policy, experience sharing by media houses that have been engaged in peacebuilding and TJ advocacy as well as a discussion on challenges participants face in reporting and engaging on TJ; some of the challenges unanimously agreed on were; a lack of proper understanding among many about TJ, a perception that TJ as a conversation is complex as well as competing priorities within media houses on what makes news. The **10th Justice**

Tafakari held in Gulu was attended by 31 (4f & 27m) participants from District Local Governments and Civil Society and the key concern was to popularize and create awareness while looking at the role of the District Local Governments and soliciting actions around the recently passed NTJP.

The Justice Tafakari Platforms brought together like minded actors engaged in the various TJ mechanism to generate and map out issues pertaining to forging a way forward on the NTJP as a framework to guide stakeholders in addressing the plight victims in the different sub-regions grappling with the unaddressed effects of the armed conflicts and gross violations of human rights.

Women and TJ: Women's Leadership Camp

The Programme organized and hosted a Women's Leadership camp targeting Women in leadership in both the Local Government District structure as well as those from Cultural institutions from Lango, Acholi and part of West Nile sub regions. The 2-day Camp benefited a total of 28 women and was premised on an interactive yet insightful discussion on transitional justice, advocacy and leadership. A reflection on the legal framework for women's participation in leadership proved to be a highly informative session that allowed participants to reflect on some of their challenges and opportunities as leaders. Hosting both traditional and political leadership availed a platform for reflection both on opportunities for the 2 stakeholders and on support they could provide each other given the mandates they hold.

Young people and TJ: Peace Film Festivals, Talent Shows and TJ in Schools

11 peace film festivals were held at Kagando School of Nursing and Midwifery, St. John Seminary in Kiburua, Rwenzori College of Commerce in Kasese, Buzzibwera Senior Secondary School in Kasese, St. Alyosius Nyapea and Zeu SSS in Zombo, Paidha PTC, Arua PTC, Muni NTC, Kuluva School of Nursing and Uganda Christian University- Arua Campus reaching a total of 2,540 (1,107f, 1,433m) participants. Many of the participants expressed their gratitude for the festivals. They acknowledged that conversations on conflict are hard to start, and therefore request more such engagements not only with themselves but also with other young people outside formal institutions who would benefit from these engagements.

The Programme also reached out to secondary schools in Kitgum and Gulu through school clubs and their patrons. 5 schools were engaged benefiting over 500 students on conversations around conflict, transitional justice and peace building. The school engagements revealed a limited knowledge among many students especially those in lower secondary while a number of the students in upper secondary had either heard stories of conflicts in various regions of Uganda from history classes in school and family members.

2 talent shows were also held with young people in and out of school, reaching a total of 415 (182f, 233m). Talent shows continue to be reliable platforms to engage children and other young people in discussions about conflict, transitional justice and the importance of peace building using recreational and child friendly approaches using art.

Field Research on emerging TJ and Women/children issues

Two field studies were conducted in 2019; The first, a study of Children Born of War focusing on challenges and needs of these children and their caretakers in Adjumani, Arua and Zombo, details the impact of their identity as 'children born of war' on their daily lives. The second, a study into what works, best practices and challenges of re-integrating children born of war, is to focus on re-integration and the way forward. Both studies reflect the realities of specific groups impacted by conflict, as well as stakeholders' viewpoints.

Advocacy on legal and policy frameworks - Monitoring Trials

The programme continues to engage in monitoring trials at the International Crimes Division (Thomas Kwoyelo) and the International Criminal Court (Dominic Ongwen).

In Kwoyelo's case at the ICD (Uganda Vs. Thomas Kwoyelo, HCT-00-ICD-CR-SC-No-02 of 2010) he is charged with 93 counts including several charges based on international criminal law and domestic charges in the alternative. Proceedings opened in Gulu on 24th September but were adjourned to 5th and later 12th November 2018 where the Kwoyelo took plea. By the close of 2019 the trial had progressed somewhat, with 11 prosecution witnesses testifying and a bail application for Kwoyelo denied on account of progress made in the case. The programme provided seating areas for members of the public and victim communities interested in being part of the trial at the High Court in Gulu, as well as counseling support at the court premises, live streaming during the trial period, recorded screenings as well as technical support and documentation of the trial.

Similarly, the Programme continued monitoring the Dominic Ongwen Trial (Prosecutor v Dominic Ongwen, ICC-02/04-01/15) at the ICC. Charged with 70 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Northern Uganda, the ICC trial of the alleged former Sinia Brigade commander of the LRA began on 6 December 2016, before Trial Chamber IX in The Hague. The trial progressed through opening remarks and statements to presentation of Prosecution's 116 witnesses and Defence's 69 witnesses - a drop from the initial number of 72 witnesses indicated by defence.

2019 saw a focus on the defence witnesses including 2 mental health experts (Prosecution and Victim's Counsel were concluded) with defence closing presentation of evidence and a declaration on closure of submission of evidence in the trial by the Presiding Judge.

This contributed to victims' participation through provision of information on the court process and proceedings, availing them the opportunity to participate and follow the trial through updates, as well as screening of proceedings in some communities

Influencing Discourse in Local and National Platforms

Influencing discourse is vital for a dialogue to happen in a country with conflict legacies as extensive as those in Uganda. As a Programme we continued to maintain local and national spaces that brought together stakeholders engaging in post conflict and peacebuilding work. At the sub-regional level, 6 **sub-regional CSO platform meetings** were convened across 3 sub-regions. A convening in Gulu on 'Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers and children affected by conflict'; in Luwero on 'Time and Healing: Narratives from the Triangle' which brought together 25 (4F, 21M) participants; in Adjumani and Zombo 2 platforms discussing the 'Role of Women in TJ: Approaches to Community-led Reconciliation' with a total of 25 (5f, 20m) participants in Adjumani and 27 in Arua (15f, 12m) and another 2 focusing on land rights for women and children in post-conflict communities of West Nile sub-region were held (19 (2f, 17m) participants in Arua and 31 (10f, 21m) participants in Adjumani).

Joint CSO Advocacy Platforms were also convened around memorialization in Kasese (21 participants- 8f, 13m), Re-integration of former Child Soldiers in Soroti, and Sexual and Gender Based Violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism in Kitgum (30 participants – 13f, 17m). In Arua, a discussion on economic and livelihood challenges of women and children affected by conflict brought together 26 participants (8f, 18m). These platforms created spaces for likeminded institutions to share their work, emerging trends in the field, and learning for advocacy as well as actions for gaps identified during the various convening.

At the National level, 3 **National Level Transitional Justice Platforms** were held with a focus on war-related harms and '*Medical Rehabilitation as a Reparation*' with a look at confronting spheres of war-related harms in Uganda and a second convening on '*Land use and Ownership*' with a focus on the dilemma of women and children in West Nile. Both were held at the Parliament of Uganda with legislators, victim representatives and CSOs present. A convening in Kitgum focusing on '*Towards a National Framework for Memorialization*' brought together 22 (9F, 13M) participants from around

the country.

In addition, 4 **High Level Retreats** were held on a number of selected topics- a convening in Kampala brought together 35 (15f, 20m) representatives from CSOs following the passing and adoption of the National Transitional Justice Policy (NTJP) with the aim of strategizing for advocacy around implementation of the Policy; another on *Balancing the Scale of Justice* looked at formal and informal justice for war-related crimes and brought together 38 (22f, 16m) participants from traditional institutions, the formal justice structures as well as CSOs responding to justice needs of various post conflict communities. Another convening on Transitional Justice with the theme *Children in Transitional Justice: Exploring Harms, Needs and Justice Options* was held drawing on discussions from participants working with children affected by conflict. This meeting allowed for a presentation of RLP's finding from the Children Born of War study conducted in West Nile. A final convening was held at the International Crimes Division following a strategic meeting between the ICD and RLP on potential partnerships on prosecutorial justice. This had the theme '*Prosecutorial Justice: The Future of Prosecutions as a TJ mechanism in Uganda*' and went hand-in-hand with a launch of *Distant Justice*, a book on the ICC and the situation of Northern Uganda by Professor Phil Clark.



Another convening on Transitional Justice with the theme *Children in Transitional Justice: Exploring Harms, Needs and Justice Options* was held drawing on discussions from participants working with children affected by conflict. This meeting allowed for a presentation of RLP's finding from the Children Born of War study conducted in West Nile. A final convening was held at the International Crimes Division following a strategic meeting between the ICD and RLP on potential partnerships on prosecutorial justice. This had the theme '*Prosecutorial Justice: The Future of Prosecutions as a TJ mechanism in Uganda*' and went hand-in-hand with a launch of *Distant Justice*, a book on the ICC and the situation of Northern Uganda by Professor Phil Clark.



In Photo (L-R): RLP's Solomy, HW Registrar of the ICD, Lady Justice Jane Kiggundu, Rtd. Lady Justice Margaret Oguli, Rtd. Lord Justice, Dr. Chris Dolan, RLP's Jackson Odong and Philipa from the ICD outside the ICD

Regional and International Platforms

Internationally, RLP continues to be a reference point for actors on Transitional Justice in Uganda specifically as a voice for victims and their communities. In this position, we participated in a side event organized by Justice Rapid Response at The Hague in Netherlands during the 18th Assembly of States Parties. On this panel, we projected victim voices and some of the realities we observe across our work with victim communities related to the trial at the International Crimes Division (ICD).

At the regional level, RLP was part of the Conference on Transitional Justice and the Promotion of Peace in South Sudan meeting convened by the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and the African Union in Ethiopia. This contributed to showcasing the work around rehabilitation work that RLP conducts through RLP's Screen-Refer-Support-Document (SRSD) model, an approach that allows for comprehensive and effective support for victims of various war related harms. This meeting was also an opportunity to advocate for the screening of war related injuries as a vital aspect of humanitarian work which contributes greatly to shaping responses forced migrants urgently need.

Media for Social Change

One of the Refugee Law Project's five thematic programmes, the Media for Social Change Programme seeks to use traditional and social media to maximise dissemination of information and to enable informed forced migrant and host communities to contribute their own voices to critical debates, thereby influencing social and policy change.

Amplifying the Voices of Forced Migrants

Social media and audio training

A training on Social media and audio was carried out in four key sites namely Kampala, Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Lamwo. The training attracted 67 trainees. The training aimed at equipping trainees with skills in producing good audio products as well as being able to market the products that they produce through social media. This was done under the project **Securing Refugee-Host Relations through Enhanced Protection** supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participants were taken through how to produce audio products, how to edit them as well as different social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogs and how each of them operates. Below is a breakdown of trainees per location.

Key Performance Area 1

SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING WITH BVA TRAINEES		
Location	Beneficiaries (Disaggregated)	Total No
Kampala (Rendezvous Youth Group)	14 (5F, 9M) 14 refugees	14
Kiryandongo	5F, 13M 9 refugees, 9 hosts	18
Lamwo	4F, 11M 10 refugees, 5 hosts	15
Adjumani	6F, 14M 11 refugees, 9 hosts	20
Total No	20F, 47M (44 refugees, 23 hosts)	67

The training led to 7 (Seven) audio products, 53 twitter accounts, 13 Facebook accounts, 53 blog accounts.

Rendezvous Youth Group used the skills acquired to produce two audio songs titled **"Don't discriminate them again"** and **"Save the children"**. *"Don't discriminate them again"* was used as a soundtrack in the documentary **"Bringing up our Enemies' Child"** due to be finalised in 2020. The two songs were also performed at the Wakimbizi Film Festival.

The training has also increased social media engagements on Twitter, WhatsApp and Facebook by the trainees, with many producing individual audio-visual products that share online what is happening in their communities.

Trainee production of videos

Trainees produced 10 videos including music videos. These included:

For all you do, for who you are, 40 seconds of action, Women's Day 2019, Human Rights Day 2018 and Human Rights Day 2019, Was a former refugee Boy (Lamwo), Migration Changed My Life, Voice of Hope, The Environment, Voice of refugees on Peace (Kiryandongo)

As a result of the videos and the social media presence of the trainees, with many of them tagging relevant authorities on their posts and taking up spaces, they have been able to bring some changes in the communities they live in. For example, OPM moved to provide water in Kiryandongo settlement as a result of one of the films 'The Tap' and the constant reminders on social media about the need for water in the settlements.

https://youtu.be/lrhVjW9rS_g

<https://youtu.be/wLCPeHnev0M>

<https://youtu.be/1hq5QbKhQD8>

https://youtu.be/NZs1i_Gclbl

Basic Video Advocacy training


With support from UNWomen, the programme trained 16 Women – 11 South Sudanese refugees and 5 Ugandans on Basic Video Advocacy skills. Participants were drawn from the districts of Yumbe and Adjumani. The training was carried out under the Enhancing the Provision of Legal Aid to refugee women and their hosts, a project supported by UN Women Uganda and the Norwegian Embassy.

As a result of the training, the trainees were able to open 16 Twitter handles in their names, 16 Gmail accounts opened, 12 Facebook pages were created and 2 Video clips produced; **Rights Denied** and **Help Me**. As much as the skills were passed on, the challenge is that the 16 participants have no access to equipment especially those from Yumbe and this makes it difficult for the trainees to continuously practice and get comfortable with the skills acquired. Those in Adjumani are currently part of the mentorship programme that entails being given assignments by RLP's field office.

Wakimbizi Film Festival

This was a milestone on the part of the programme. For the very first time, the programme held a flagship event in the form of a film festival – Wakimbizi Film Festival on November 14 at the Art Gallery, School of Fine Art Makerere University. A total of **71** people attended (14 F, 57 M) the festival. Six films were screened at the festival; with two films per location.

Below are the films produced



OUT PUTS FILMS PRODUCED FOR THE FESTIVAL		
❖ 6 films produced and uploaded on RLP website		
Lamwo	Kiryandongo	Adjumani
Love in the settlement (First Runner Up)	The Network	Urata (Second Runner up)
Caged (Film with most unique issue)	Silent Victim (Best film)	Survival

The event was officiated by the Office of the Prime Minister and officials from the different Refugee hosting districts such as Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Lamwo. Four Awards were given to the trainees; these included Best Film, First Runner Up, Second Runner up and Film with Most Unique Issue.

During the event, the Office of the Prime Minister launched '**What We See**', a film that speaks about

the work that RLP does with the support of a four-year grant under the project *Securing Refugee-Host Relations through Enhanced Protection*.

The festival enhanced learners' ability to articulate/advocate issues using video, learner's ability to produce and edit videos was enhanced as they worked with the team on the post-production process.

As a result of one of the videos, **The Network**, OPM promised to have dialogue with Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and the telecom companies on the issue of poor mobile network coverage in Kiryandongo refugee settlement. The video showcased how mothers were losing lives and their babies because the network was so poor that they were unable to call for ambulance because the health center within the settlement had no network.

Stakeholders who attended the event were appreciative of the fact that young people in the settlements were using creative ways of presenting issues they faced on day to day basis in the settlements. District officials promised to look into the issue of torture/violence in the settlements.

Use of Traditional Media

A total of five TV Talk Shows were held during the commemorative days below:

- ☐ Women's Day 2019 – 8 March
- ☐ South-South Institute (Talk show and breakfast meet)
- ☐ World Refugee Day – 20 June
- ☐ International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict – 19 June
- ☐ International Day in support of Victims of Torture - 26 June

Through the use of traditional media, the programme continued to ensure the visibility of RLPs work at the community, national and international levels, as well as promote appreciation by stakeholders of key advocacy issues that RLP is passionate about. Such issues include sexual violence against men and boys in conflict and displacement, the need for medical care for people with war related harms,

Key Performance Area 5					
SAUTI YETU					
❖ Carried out 12 sessions of facilitated film screenings attended by 164 (87males 77 females) people in five different refugee communities around Kampala.					
Communities	Total	Youth		Adults	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Church Members of Bethel	31	7	9	6	9
Church members of BCD	27	12	14	0	0
Youth of Jesuit Refugees Services	30	10	8	7	5
Youth of Makasi Rescue Foundation	38	24	11	3	0
Members of EFA program of Refugee Law Project	38	14	19	4	1

as well as emerging issues such as the impact of migration on the environment

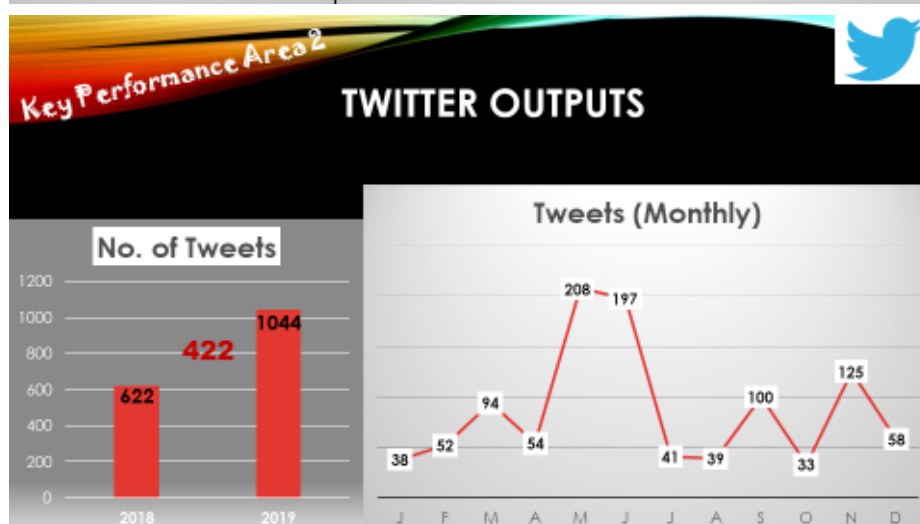
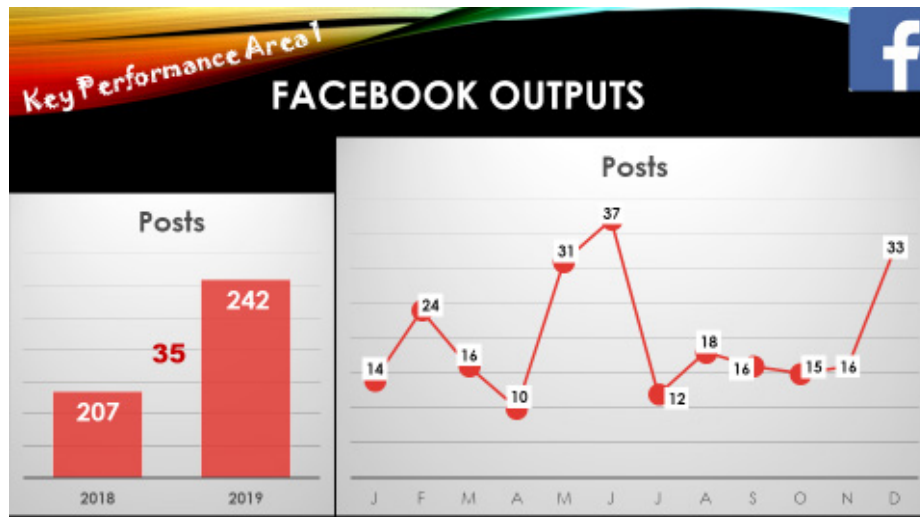
Facilitated Film Screenings - Sauti Yetu

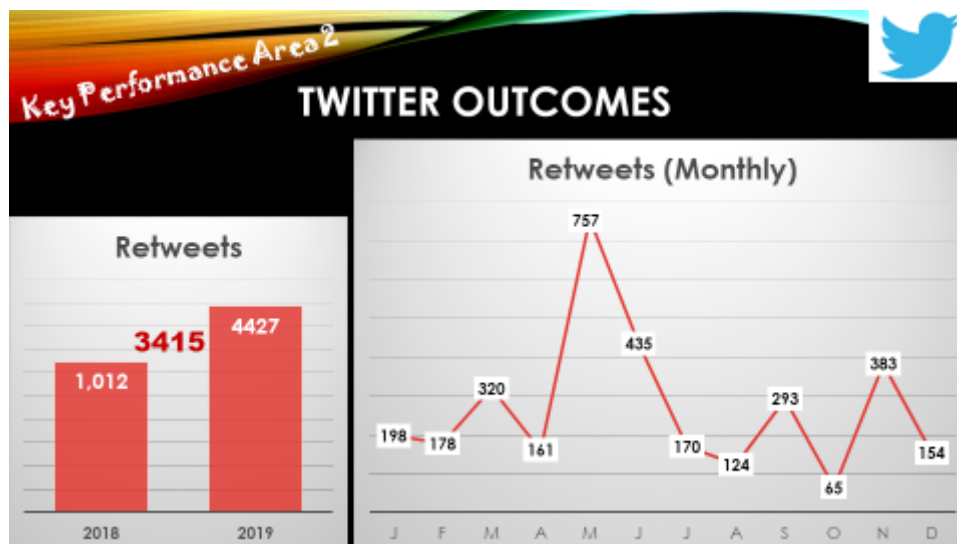
In partnership with Rendezvous Youth Group, the programme carried out 12 facilitated film screenings attended by 164 people (77f, 87m) in five different refugee communities around Kampala.

Through the Facilitated Film Screenings, The Rendezvous Youth group created awareness on key refugee issues among urban refugees, urban refugees in Kampala got a platform to express themselves on issues that were highlighted

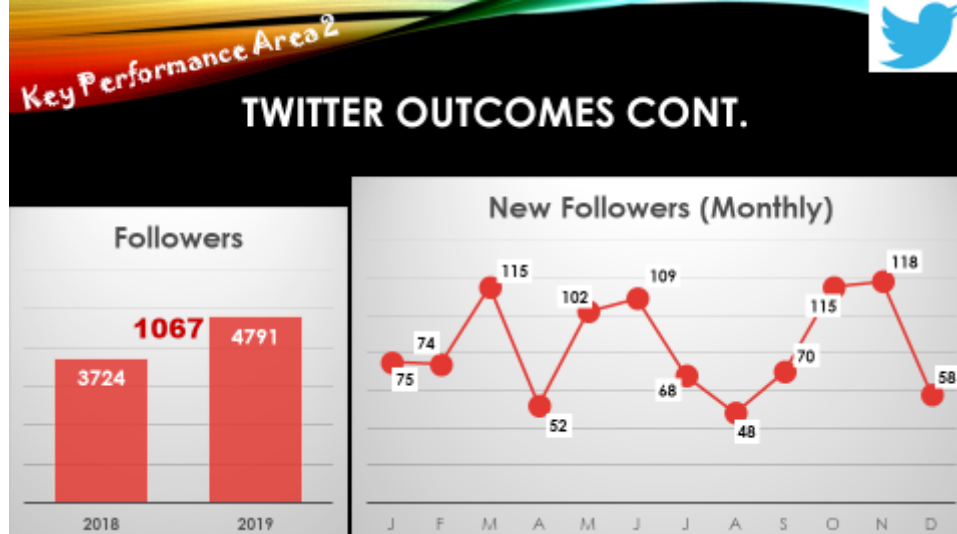
Participants were referred to key service provision points both internal and external such as RLP (MHPW), and *Reach A Hand*.

- Capacity of Rendezvous members to facilitate film screenings was built
- Presentation skills, confidence and self-esteem were built among Rendezvous members

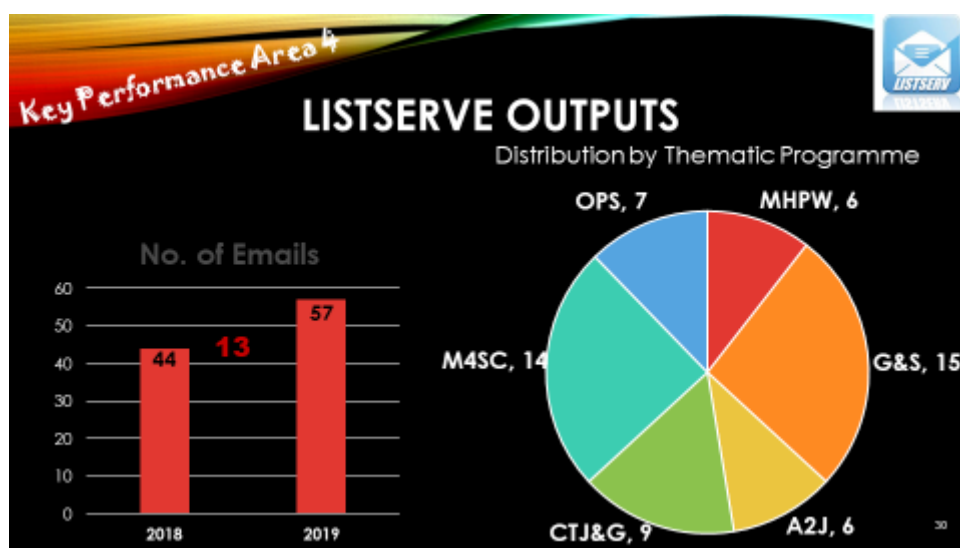
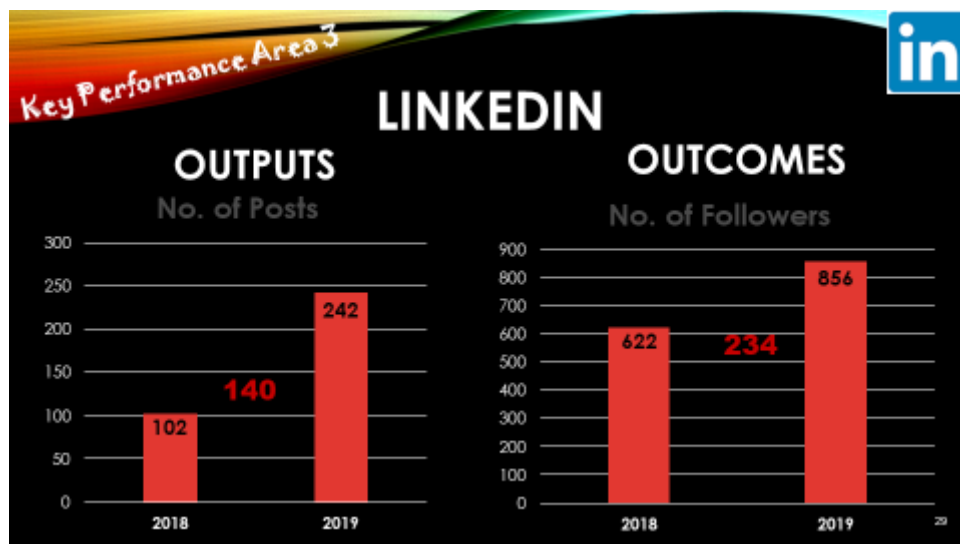




Under the Sauti Yetu component, the youth group also attended key events where they accessed



platforms to speak on issues affecting urban refugee youth. These platforms include The Third Regional Forced Migration Conference, The UN Day celebrations where they exhibited products and skills acquired, and the 8th High Level Dialogue on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons that took place in Munyonyo from the 2-6th December 2019.



Creative use of media to engage and influence stakeholders re forced migration



Key Performance Area 5

BLOGS, PRESS RELEASES, BRIEFING NOTES, ADVERTS OUTPUTS

A total of 10 blogs published

- CTJ&G 5
- OPS 2
- A2J 1
- G&S 1
- M4SC 0
- MHPW 1

A total of 7 Press releases published

- Ops 1
- G&S 6
- A2J 0
- M4SC 0
- MHPW 0
- CTJ&G 0

A total of 2 briefing notes published

- GS

A total of 3 Adverts published

- Ops (2)
- CTJ&G (1)

32

Key Performance Area 1

ICT SUPPORT CONT.

❖ **New equipment procured & software installed**

Equipment	No.
Computers (laptops & desktops)	11
Scanners	2
Tablets	5

33

Key outcomes on the use of social media

- Increased visibility of RLPs work among key stakeholders
- Stakeholders engaged on social media on key issues
- RLP fronted as a key resource on issues of forced migrants both nationally and internationally

Technological Support to RLP Thematic Programmes and Forced Migrants

Development of IT hard and software

- ✓ Finalized with RENU on hosting the mail server at their premises (Collocation).
- ✓ Changed Internet Service Provider for Gulu office from Zoom to RENU
- ✓ Installation of routers and improvement in internet connection in Adjumani, Lamwo and Kiryandongo (Feb – 2019)
- ✓ Installation of security cameras in the Kampala office
- ✓ Networked Plot 6 building for internet access
- ✓ Operating System installation and updates
- ✓ 28 official emails created (24 verified and 4 unverified)
- ✓ Day-to-day user support and troubleshooting both on site and through phone calls for field offices.
- ✓ Internet redistribution/rewiring at Kiryandongo and Mbarara
- ✓ Configuring mail server for RLP new mailing system
- ✓ Screening tool
 - files uploaded to make a total of 4890 files
 - Text version of the Screening Tool updated
- ✓ Developed new website



- ✓ Renewal of anti-virus license and installation on machines
- ✓ Repairs
 - Laptops (2 Yumbe, 2 Kampala, 1 Adjumani, 1 Arua)
 - Printers (1 Kiryandongo, 3 Adjumani, 1 Lamwo, 3 Gulu, 1 Arua, Kampala, Nakivale, Kitgum)
 - Photocopiers (Gulu, Mbarara and Kitgum).
- ✓ Uploads
 - 10 blogs to website
 - 13 videos uploaded to website and YouTube
 - 2 Briefing notes
 - User guide and manual uploaded
- ✓ Press releases – 7 articles published
- ✓ 2 Job adverts uploaded
- ✓ 1 advert for IATJ applications

Key Performance Area 4

DIGITIZING, TRANSCRIBING & ARCHIVING

Category	No. worked on
Digitized tapes	522
Relabeled tapes	522
Video clips edited, exported & placed on timeline	863
Video clips transcribed	723
Hours transcribed	522hrs 40minutes

Key Performance Area 4

TRANSCRIPTION

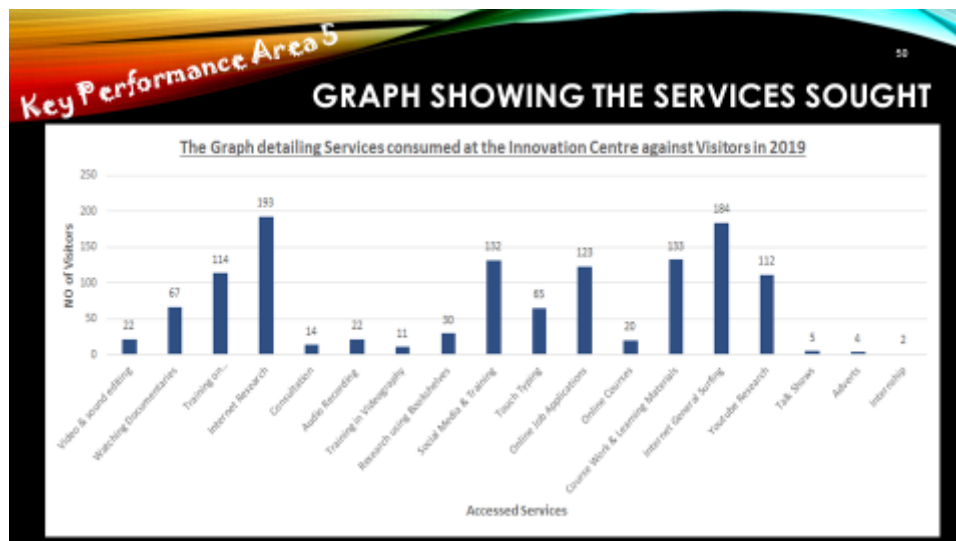
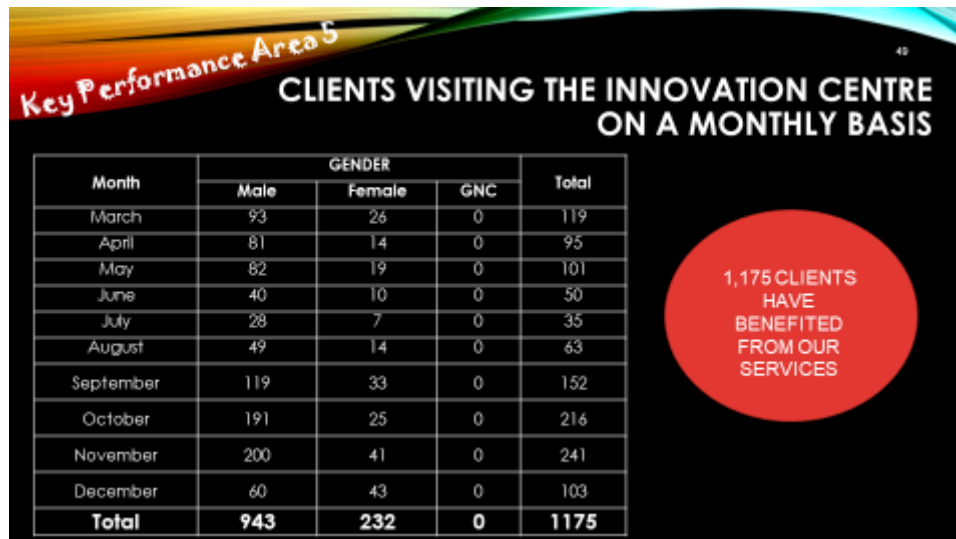
- Number of clips transcribed – **723** clips
- No of hours (English to English) – **424hrs 15mins 30secs**
- No of hours (Luo to English) – **98hrs 24mins 52secs**
- No of pages typed – **11,750** pages

Wide range of IEC materials designed & printed for RLP activities

These include Reports, working Papers, press statements, teardrops, posters, nametags, certificates, caps, T- Shirts, outdoor banners, pull-up banners, appreciation awards and signposts



Audio, Photo & Video Documentation



The team documented 58 RLP activities. These include international day commemorations, meetings, trainings, Interviews for videos/films, live streaming – Kwoyelo trial & RLP@20, regional conference on forced migration, Ododo Wa exhibition, IATJ Conference among others.

Digitizing, Transcribing and Archiving

In a bid to have an online archive, the programme was able to do the following

During the year, we also spearheaded the launch of the Innovation Centre in Gulu. The launch was officiated by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Henk Jan Bakker. The occasion also doubled as the official launch of Phase 2 of the SRHR – EP project supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands Kingdom. The Innovation Centre enhances the capacity, innovation, capabilities and the creativity of forced migrants and the host community through the Think, Learn & Create approach.

Contributing to Global Discourse on Media

- ❖ Screening of Gender Against Men at a conference on SGBV in Italy by UNHCR – Italy
- ❖ Conjugal Slavery in War conference in Kigali, Rwanda
- ❖ Screened *What We See* and shared the organisations' experience and contribution to the management of refugees in Uganda at the 8th High Level Dialogue on Refugees,

Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons that took place in Munyonyo, 2-6 December 2019

Generating audio visual materials

The team was able to finalise 11 audio-visuals during the year. These include:

- ☐ Apocalyptic Fuel
- ☐ The Golden Tree
- ☐ The Golden Tree trailer
- ☐ Call It What It Is
- ☐ Journey to Overcoming Effects Sexualized Torture
- ☐ Can Police Understand Conflict Related Sexual Violence?
- ☐ When Law Students Meet Refugee Realities
- ☐ What We See
- ☐ IATJ Trailer
- ☐ IATJ 8
- ☐ RLP@20

Two climate change videos were launched in the presence of district officials in refugee hosting districts of Lamwo, Kiryandongo and Adjumani and Kikuube. Also invited were key partners and stakeholders like NEMA, NFA and WWF. The videos launched include **Apocalyptic Fuel** and **The Golden Tree**. These have since been shared widely on the organization Listserv, social media sites and the website.

Ensuring Programme Sustainability

Networking

Activity 1: The team worked with IRRI on a photo voice training of 9 (2F, 7M) refugee youth and hosts in Adjumani district. The group eventually participated in a photo voice competition/exhibition that was organized by IRRI at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala. As a result, trainees got skills in photography, got exposure to different audiences at the exhibition, and confidence and self-esteem of the trainees in presenting issues that affect them was built.

Activity 2: Worked with STEPs South Africa to build capacity of 16 (5F,11M) staff and 6 BVA trainees (3F, 3M) on FFS in preparation for the upcoming FFS in the settlements. As a result of the training, skills sets for staff in Facilitated Film Screening were enhanced

Activity 3: Trained Independent media in partnership with Media Challenge Initiative 17 journalists (8f, 9m) from 8 media houses based in Kampala attended the training on Refugee Rights and Responsibilities. As a result, Journalism fellows trained during the independent media training have been able to do a number of stories on refugees. Some of the links to the stories by the journalists are below:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c73ZLUq8G0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtXCXB6G3dk>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ab4T_x7xq08
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1XgF4KmPjU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc27JTNYI3U>

Activity 4: One of the team members participated in the Foundations For All (FFA) research in Lebanon under the MasterCard Foundation partnership. This was in preparation for the new FFA bridge program in partnership with American University in Beirut (AUB) and University of Edinburgh. The outcome of the research is a scoping tool that can be used by partners around the world to start a bridge programme for refugees. This engagement also built new partnerships with AUB, University of Edinburgh and the MasterCard fraternity. It also enhanced capacity of the staff to do

both qualitative and quantitative research on education among migrants and the team was exposed to new innovative ways of providing education to migrants in difficult settings that are resource constrained, a learning that is very vital for the Foundations for All project that is to be piloted at RLP beginning 2020.

Fundraising

- ❖ The team was able to put together OSIEA phase two grant (Aug 2019 – July 2021) worth \$100,000 which was successful.
- ❖ Organised a donor briefing for RLPs current and potential donors. Donors who attended include; DGF, EU, MasterCard Foundation, JICA, CORDAID, Terres de Hommes, Wellspring, DW Akademie.
- ❖ Wrote two concept notes to Minor Foundation, HIVOS
- ❖ Participated in the different grants meetings and contributed to writing of various grants

Organising RLP@20 commemoration

The programme was charged with organizing the RLP's 20th Anniversary. The activities ran throughout the year with the climax on 5 November 2019. Activities carried out included:

- Designing of the RLP@20 special logos. This logo was subsequently used as a signature for all emails, branding for the events all around the year
- RLP@20 Video, detailing the organisation's 20-year journey from 1999 till 2019
- Building RLPs climate change profile through video and networks
- RLP@20 Dinner at Skyz Hotel, Kampala, which was attended by 144 guests (64F, 80M). At the event, RLP was able to appreciate many of the long-term donors such as DGF, Wellspring, UN Women, OHCHR and the Dutch Embassy

Challenges

- Team continues to be spread thin with trainings and various events
- Limited access to equipment by trainees
- Inadequate supply of work to the transcribers during the month of November and December due to a breakdown of some equipment

Lessons learnt

- Distance from office to the source of equipment continues to be a big challenge for the BVA trainees in enhancing what they learnt and getting confident with their skills. As a result, we are hoping that the new offices will soon be finished and Lamwo and Adjumani can access equipment and grow their skills

Success Stories

- ❖ The launch of the Programme's flagship event, the Wakimbizi Film Festival
- ❖ A new website and archive await approval from the Management team

Operations and Programme Support

Training Coordination

RLP's trainings of stakeholders in 2019 were focused on equipping stakeholders with knowledge on i) the *International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict*, and ii) Refugee Rights and Protection. Trainings enable stakeholders to respond and provide credible documentation, investigations, prevention, best court practices, individual respect and social justice that apply to the persons within the communities they serve, notably in countries where Ugandan peacekeepers are deployed.

Carrying out trainings has called for the development of tools. In 2019, we launched the Training Manual and User Guides on 31st January 2019 at Skyz Hotel Kampala. The goal of the launch was to strengthen the capabilities of the stakeholders to be able to use the training manual and, through Training of Trainers, further mainstream and provide credible documentation, investigation, prevention, best court practices, individual respect and social justice for victims of sexual violence in conflict.

The launch attracted 58 participants, including UPDF officers, Police, Prisons officers, Commissioner of Refugee and Disaster Management (OPM), Camp Commandants from Adjumani, Lamwo and Kiryandongo Refugee Settlements. LC 5 Chairpersons of Gulu, Lamwo, Adjumani, Arua, RDCs, CAOs, UNHCR, District Medical/Health Officers, Drs. St Mary's Lacor Hospital – Gulu, Ntinda Family Doctors. CSOs and Donors Community: Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), UN Women, Netherlands Foreign Ministry (Dutch project), the British High Commissioner (FCO Project) District Community Development Officers, District Gender Officers and Civil Society Organizations such as FIDA (U), ACORD, School of Law, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Gulu University Medical School, and religious leaders.

600 Training Manuals and 3000 user guides were printed and disseminated to the following stakeholders:

1. UPDF Peace Support Operations Training Center, Singo
2. UPDF Headquarters in Bombo
3. UPDF Headquarters in Mbuya
4. Police Headquarters, Kampala, and National Training School at Kabalye-Masindi district. Instructors appreciated the training manuals and user guides
5. Senior Police Command College – Bwebajja are using the training manual for teaching the police officers - students pursuing MA in International Peace Studies, Governance and Security
6. Ministry of Internal Affairs - Immigration officers
7. RLP Staff in Kampala and Field offices of Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Adjumani, Hoima, Mbarara, Arua, Yumbe, Gulu and Kitgum district are using the training manual and user guides for training stakeholders: UPDF, Police, Judicial officers, Immigration officers, Prisons officers, RWCs, paralegals and counsellors
8. Uganda Prison Headquarters and Prison Staff College at Luzira
9. School of Law, Gulu University
10. School of Law, Makerere University
11. College of Science and Technology, Makerere University
12. Medical Students Library, Gulu University

Continuous learning and training for RLP staff in 2019

Cognizant of the evolving working environment and the dynamics of working with forced migrants RLP considers it very important for staff to continually learn and engage on different cross disciplinary topics that concern and inform our work with forced migrants. In 2019 the following internal trainings

and workshops were held to achieve this:

- a) Working with Support Groups, Hotel J-FRIGH Hotel, 8 - 9 January 2019
- b) Working with Children for Kampala and RLP field offices. Hotel J-FRIGH, 10-11 January 2019. 41 (22m & 19f) RLP staff benefit.
- c) EFA Workshop for RLP Kampala and field staff of Lamwo, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Kiryandongo and Adjumani, Hotel J-FRIGH, 14-15 Jan 2019. 33 (20m & 13f) RLP staff benefitted.
- d) 4 in-house trainings on Justice Rapid Response for RLP staff in Kampala, Lamwo, Adjumani and Kiryandongo, 14 Jan - 2Feb 2019. 88 (40m & 48f) RLP staff benefitted.
- e) MGLSD trained RLP Staff on Child Protection. The training took place in J-Frigh Hotel from 12-13 Sept 2019. A total of 25 (10m & 15f) RLP staff benefitted from the training.
- f) Working with Children. 26-27 September 2019, RLP Conference Room. 25 (10m & 15f) RLP staff benefited.
- g) Personality and Stress Management. 5 October 2019 at RLP Conference Room. 27 (12m & 15f) RLP Staff benefited.
- h) Suicide Prevention. 11 October 2019 at RLP Conference Room. 27 (12m & 15f) RLP Staff benefited
- i) Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children (Online short Course given by the University of Strathclyde via FutureLearn - one member of the Assessment & Intake Unit undertook it)
- j) Working Supportively with Refugees: Principles, Skills and Perspectives (online short course given by the University of Glasgow via FutureLearn - one member of the Assessment and Intake Unit undertook it)

Stakeholders trained

Trainings with funding support from the Netherlands MFA, FCO, UN Women and DGF covered topics of Refugee Rights and Protection and also the ***International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict***

Organizations	Total No Trained	Female	Male
UPDF officers trained	852	124	728
Police officers trained	460	76	384
Prison officers trained	30	3	27
Judicial officers trained	35	9	26
University Law Students trained	128	70	58
Media personnel trained	11	3	9
Total	1,737	400	1,337

Training of police officers in Arua, 11 - 13 Nov 2019





Training of Police Officers in Moyo district, 15 – 17 Nov 2019



Police Instructors Training - National Police Training School, Kabalye, 18 - 19 March 2019



Training for Makerere University Law Students, 15 - 18 April 2019



The Programme Manager Access to Justice addresses Judicial Officers training in Arua, 30 April 2019



UPDF Legal Officers training, Jinja, 18 - 20 November 2019



Training with Refugee Welfare Councillors on SGBV in Maaji Refugee Settlement



Police Officers training in Moyo



Training impact

Training has built internal capacity of RLP staff and clients in all RLP thematic programmes: Mental Health and Psychological Wellbeing, Access to Justice, Gender and Sexuality, Conflict and TJ Governance and Media for Social Change. With good coordination, training encouraged partnership, helped to strengthen and build good working relationships. As a result, there has been easy communication and cooperation between RLP and stakeholders including good working team spirit and facilitating trainings. As a result, our training programmes have been welcomed and supported by the top leadership of the UPDF, Prisons, Uganda Police Force, Judiciary and the Law Schools. RLP has received permission from Uganda Police Force to train Police Officers in Kabalye and different

regions in Uganda, and there is a high demand for such trainings. For example, the Commandant, Kabalye National Police Training School, requested RLP to train 255 police personnel on refugee rights and protection.

During the Judicial training in Arua, the Resident Judge was very happy about the training. Also, he appreciated RLP for training the law students in Uganda, as they will graduate and be able to articulate refugee issues.

The paralegals and RWCs trained in Moyo and Adjumani acquired knowledge on the roles of a paralegal, Alternative Dispute Resolution, court system, difference between civil and criminal law in Uganda, bail and bond, rights and obligations of a refugee, torture, SGBV, common offences in the settlements and referral pathways.

The RWCs and paralegal training was encouraged by the District Police Commander – Moyo. He stated that the training was a useful resource, especially on the topic of torture, and that the Inspector General of Police had been encouraging them to amass more knowledge of the same.

The pre-training test administered to participants enables facilitators to determine the level of knowledge and understanding of the modules by the participants. It revealed participants' lack of knowledge of the issues to be covered in the module. At the end of the training, the post-training assessment showed participants' understanding and increased knowledge of the modules and enthusiasm for further learning. Participants were eager to use the same knowledge to help their communities. Currently all the 16 trained paralegals in both Adjumani and Moyo Districts are helping in identification of cases, as well as mediating on domestic violence in the community.

Feedback and recommendations on the trainings

Across the board there is general appreciation of trainings the Refugee Law Project provides and the methodologies of screening video documentaries, engaging survivor facilitators as part of the training and participatory engagement that allows for brain storming, role plays and group discussions & plenary.

During the UPDF training in Singo and Police in Kabalye, Arua and Moyo, most participants could not believe that men can be raped. In response to watching the documentary *"Capitaine Abigail"*, a UPDF soldier at the rank of Major said, *"Until-today, I did not know that rape of men is a reality. If it was not for this training, I would not have appreciated the fact that men and boys too can be raped."* There was acknowledgement of realities of what happens during deployment and the participants also expressed desire to understand what it means to handle refugee male survivors of sexual violence who come to them.

The trainings also provide a valuable space for recommendations from the participants who also interact with forced migrants at different points of the Ugandan Refugee Protection Regime. During the training of Judicial Officers in Arua, the Resident Judge shared some challenges judicial officers face in West Nile region; given the distance from the refugee settlements to court, getting witnesses in refugee cases is quite cumbersome, and getting surety for bail for refugees is a challenge. The judge also proposed that RLP should consider starting up a legal aid clinic in Arua to handle refugee cases in the West Nile sub region.

UPDF and Police participants recommended that their Directors and Superiors should be trained on the ***International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict*** and Refugee Rights and Protection, because it is difficult for the lower ranks to advise their bosses even when they are knowledgeable. At the training of Senior UPDF Officers in PSO-TC Singo, participants recommended the training of UPDF Medical teams deployed to Somalia. As part of the evaluation the key topics recommended by UPDF officers, UPDF instructors and UGABAG Commanders were:

- Protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda
- Rights and obligations of refugees
- Torture in context of Forced Migration
- Natural Resource ownership, access and usage both in and outside refugee settlement
- Understanding conflict related sexual violence in conflict
- International, regional and national framework addressing sexual violence in Conflict and forced migration
- Understanding trauma and PTSD
- Understanding self-care and care for care- givers

There continue to be higher numbers of participants than expected turning up for training. This makes it difficult to deliver the training effectively, and affects the number of copies of the protocols and handouts that can be shared at a given time e.g. we expected to train 128 police personnel in Kabalye but 141 officers turned up. In Singo, we expected to train 200 UPDF Senior Officers, but 265 officers turned up. We have had conversations with the commandants to plan better but have also noted the demand for the trainings.

Procurement and Logistics Management

In 2019, we secured a second building for office space in Kampala located at Plot 6, Coronation Road. This created ease in terms of office space during counseling session and maintenance of privacy and confidentiality as a key guideline in our work. We also secured bigger office spaces in Kiryandongo and Mbarara respectively.

Human Resources

At the end of 2019, RLP had 210 full-time employees on payroll and entitled to; medical insurance, travel insurance, 10% National Social Security Fund, Group Personal Accident and Workman's Compensation insurance, and 24 days of annual leave. This compared to 190 by the end of 2018. This increment in human resources was attributed to the 4-year grant secured from Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN Women – GBV project, ProVictimis, prompted further recruitment.

RLP's employee turnover in 2019 stood at 10%. Reasons included voluntary (Resignations 6) and involuntary exits (End of contract 1), promotions (5), and reassignments (3). The resultant human resources gaps had to be addressed through a combination of new external recruitments and internal promotions among existing staff through suitability assessments. Vacant positions were advertised on organisational social media platforms for internal suitability, and for external sourcing, through national media houses like Monitor and New Vision. A total number of 3,673 applicants expressed interest in joining Refugee Law Project throughout the year. Basing on organisational policy on shortlisting, a total of 114 applications were shortlisted from which various assessments were conducted and we managed to bring on board 19 employees (6 refugees, 13 nationals) in 2019 who occupied positions like Legal Officers, Project officers, Legal Assistants, Project Assistant, Driver/Logisticians, Community EFA Facilitators and Community Interpreters. We also successfully recruited the Head of Programmes for the first time in the history of RLP. This will help streamline the engagements and work relations at a senior management level and programme management level where the Head of Programmes coordinate between the Director and the Programme Managers while the Head of Operations streamline engagements between the Director and the Unit Managers thus strategic organisational management. For a range of reasons 30 vacancies remained unfilled.

The overall Gender Ratio in 2019 was 124 males (59%) to 86 females (41%), an improvement on 2018 when we had 119 males (63%) and 71 females (37%). We have also seen an increase in women in management positions, with 4 out of 5 thematic programmes headed by women in 2019.

Fleet Management

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

By the end of 2019, RLP fleet comprised of 13 motor vehicles and 28 motorcycles distributed across all 13 offices of RLP.

All the vehicles and motorcycles are regularly maintained and comprehensively insured and are operated by trained and qualified drivers and riders with valid permits.

Assessment and Intake Unit - Kampala

The Assessment and Intake Unit of the Refugee Law Project (RLP) in Kampala operates under Operations and Programme Support (OPS). It handles all internal clients that walk into the RLP. It is at this level that cases for SGBV, legal and psychosocial support are identified and preliminary data is input in the Client Management System (CMS) and the client consequently referred to an appropriate programme area. The Unit also manages clients' expectations, re-emphasizes RLP mandate and for cases that fall outside the RLP mandate, makes external referrals to partner organizations.

Staffing

The Assessment and Intake Unit started the year with two members, Mboode Willy and Lydia Namazzi. Andrew Habarugira (the Unit Ag Coordinator) supported the Unit with assessment and intake until 23rd April 2019 when James Namago and Shakirah Namawanda were brought on board as trainees to support the unit activities. The year 2019 ended with four members (Mboode Willy, Lydia Namazzi, James Namago and Shakirah Namawanda).

Activities

ACTIVITIES	NUMBERS
General Assessment	1676
New files opened/intake	804
Internal Referrals	782
External Referrals	810
Files Updated	84
Screenings	200

Summary of activities carried out

General Assessment

Assessment of clients is usually done from Monday to Thursday. It is intended to interview clients with the aim of identifying their pressing issues at a given time. Each officer on average attended to 5 clients per day. The table below shows the number of clients (1676) assessed throughout 2019 by gender and country of origin.

	DRC	BUR	RWA	SOM	SSU	ERI	YEM	SUD	EGY	SYR	ETH	TOTAL
Female	371	145	74	54	14	19	1	10	1	2	13	704
Male	507	69	71	223	49	25	0	6	0	0	10	960
SGNC	7	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTAL	885	216	145	278	64	45	1	16	1	2	23	1676

Number of clients assessed throughout 2019 disaggregated by gender and country of origin

Issues presented by clients

Clients present a number of issues as we will see in the tables below. They range from medical to resettlement, basic needs, legal advice/representation, distress, insecurity, file opening, SGBV, file update, marriage affidavit, education, torture, RSD, family tracing and camp relocation.

	DRC	SOM	BUR	SUD	RWA	ETH	SYR	ERI	SSD	TOTAL	%
Medical	322	35	85	1	34	0	0	5	11	493	29.41
Resettlement	103	55	23	2	27	1	1	1	3	216	12.88
Basic needs	93	67	21	1	11	2	0	4	4	203	12.11
Legal Advice or Representation	110	12	25	3	10	6	2	24	4	196	11.69
Distress	109	24	17	0	18	2	0	0	4	174	10.38
Insecurity	59	17	16	0	15	1	0	6	3	117	6.98
File Opening	54	11	7	0	5	1	0	0	0	78	4.65

SGBV	19	2	8	0	7	0	0	0	4	40	2.38
File Update	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	1.67
Marriage Affidavit	22	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	1.61
Education	6	10	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	23	1.37
Torture	13	5	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	22	1.31
RSD	9	0	1	0	4	1	0	6	1	22	1.31
Family Tracing	9	3	3	0	6	0	0	0	1	22	1.31
Settlement Relocation	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.89
TOTAL	961	251	213	7	142	14	3	48	37	1676	100

Summary of dominant issues presented by clients in 2019

New Files Opened/ Intake

The intake process involves file opening in the CMS for new clients who don't have files yet. The aim of file opening is to enable better clients' case management and to keep clients' documents. It is at this stage that the officer creates hard files for clients.

The table below shows the number of new files opened (804) throughout year 2019 by gender and country of origin.

	DRC	BUR	RWA	YEM	SSU	SOM	ERI	SYR	ETH	EGY	SUD	TOTAL
Male	163	81	30	1	10	45	17	2	10	1	6	366
Female	226	45	30	0	17	84	23	0	3	0	1	429
SGNC	5	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	9
TOTAL	394	127	60	1	28	130	41	2	13	1	7	804

New files opened throughout 2019 by gender and country of origin

Comparison of 2019 to previous years regarding assessment and intake

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
General assessment	1676	1195	1063	1118	1194
Intake	804	586	334	219	522

Comparison over the years for assessment and intake

Reasons for higher numbers in 2019:

- ☐ Psycho-medical camp organized by MHPW in June 2019 attracted many new clients
- ☐ Visibility of RLP through outreach activities
- ☐ Increase of Assessment and Intake staff
- ☐ Recruitment of Juba Arabic and Tigrinya Community Interpreters
- ☐ Referrals for medical interventions by Gender & Sexuality Programme

Internal referrals

After assessment and intake, the client is referred to one of the three programmes for case

management: Access to Justice, Gender and Sexuality or Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing for issues that fall under the RLP mandate.

Those referred to A2J usually present issues that are legal in nature like insecurity, tenancy, land dispute, employment, court cases, RSD, etc. Clients referred to G&S programme present issues related to SGBV like rape, domestic violence, defilement, sexual violence and torture among others. Clients referred to MHPW programme present issues that are psychological and psychosocial in nature like PTSD, counseling, etc.

	G&S	MHPW	A2J	DIR OFFICE	TOTAL
DRC	158	160	124	3	445
BUR	50	26	42	2	120
RWA	17	30	22	0	70
SOM	6	36	8	0	50
ETH	0	4	14	0	17
SUD	0	4	7	0	11
SSU	13	15	7	0	35
ERI	1	3	28	0	32
YEM	0	0	1	0	1
EGY	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	245	278	254	5	782

Number of clients referred internally in 2019

External referrals

External referrals are made for clients whose issues are outside RLP's mandate. Our partner organizations include; Police, UNHCR, InterAid, OPM, JRS, Windle International Uganda, ACTV, URSB, health centres like Mulago Hospital, Naguru Hospital, KCC Health Centres, etc.

AGENCY	Number of Clients Referred
UNHCR	70
POLICE	38
URSB	3
INTERAID	433
OPM	9
JRS	69
WINDLE INTL UGANDA	22
HOSPITAL	151
ACTV	11
RED CROSS	4
TOTAL	810

The number of clients referred externally to partner institutions and organizations in year 2019.

File update

File updating is aimed at management of clients' hard data (police reports, rejection letters, tenancy agreements, etc.). 84 files were updated in 2019.

Screenings

In 2018 a digitized screening tool titled "RLP Experiences of Violence Screening Tool" was introduced to the Assessment and Intake team as a working tool for all clients who, during assessment, present issues to do with violence. After screening, the client is referred to G&S Programme for follow up.

	DRC	BUR	SOM	RWA	SSU	TOTAL
Male	60	36	0	10	3	109
Female	39	15	2	11	24	91
SGNC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	99	51	2	21	27	200

Number of clients screened by Assessment & Intake for experiences of war by gender and country throughout year 2019

File Management/Documentation

The work done in this regard consists of maintaining and safeguarding confidential records of clients, entering all clients' information into the database, having all statistics for all services provided recorded, updating the list of external service providers, keeping the hard and soft copies of files for clients among others.

The Assessment and Intake team did a commendable job in scanning and filing all clients' service agreement forms and all documents received from clients.

Resettlement

Since the closure of operations of HIAS (RLP's referral partner for resettlement cases) in January 2018, resettlement referrals have been on hold. However, the identification of cases that meet the criteria for resettlement has not stopped within the different programmes while RLP searches for a solution to this challenge.

Milestones

Assessment and Intake has registered some milestones; the following are the most remarkable:

- ☐ The number of our clients has raised this year compared to preceding years
- ☐ Backlog of clients cleared by Assessment and Intake (more staff)
- ☐ Gender balance in the Unit (two female members have joined the Unit).

Lessons Learned

One of the main lessons learnt by members is that professional development needs personal initiatives. Some members are undertaking online short courses on working supportively with refugees, working with children, etc.

Challenges

- ☐ Clients who come seeking for services but don't want to go through the established processes
- ☐ Much-needed refresher trainings were not conducted, thus affecting efficiency in performance
- ☐ Limitations of the Client Management System in data analysis and reporting
- ☐ Data analysis and reporting are still largely manual, hence compromising accuracy of statistics produced
- ☐ Logistical challenges for clients' follow-ups and file management (manila and suspension)

files, landline phone)

- The closure of HIAS that put on hold the resettlement process has been another setback to our work because it has affected our clients psychologically.

Director's Office International Advocacy

In 2019, the Director's Office led by Dr Chris Dolan, continued to provide leadership to RLP by curating spaces such as the South South Institute IV, the roundtable on human trafficking, participating in international discourse by attending the Mind the Mind Conference, contributing to the Call It What It Is campaign, participating in the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the UN OSRSGSVC, the International Conference on Global Risk, Security and Ethnicity and the Wilton Park dialogue on Digital Dignity. Below are the details of the engagements.

The Nexus between Sexual Violence and Mental Health

From 7-8 October 2019, RLP was represented by the Programme Manager Gender and Sexuality (Mr. Onen David Ongwech) and the Director (Dr Chris Dolan) at the International Conference on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Crisis Situations held in Amsterdam.

The conference was organised by The Kingdom of the Netherlands and a demonstration of the Netherlands' commitment to improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for people affected by conflict, displacement and natural disasters.

Under the leadership of Sigrid A.M. Kaag, Minister for Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the high-level conference *aimed* at; mobilising commitments to scale up sustainable and high-quality MHPSS, present proven and evidence-based approaches on MHPSS, and to increase countries' and partners' commitment to sustainable financial support for MHPSS in crisis situation.

Uganda delegation was represented by the Ministry of Health and Civil Society representatives from the *Refugee Law Project*, *Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO)*, and *War Child Holland* among others.



Uganda Delegation at the Mind the Mind Conference

The conference came at a time when RLP was in relentless advocacy that whereas Uganda recognises MHPSS as an essential element of the basic health care package and has made commendable strides in mainstreaming health service provision for refugees and hosts into national services, the *Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan launched* in January 2019 has very little to say about MHPSS and is actually silent on provision of psychosocial support services to refugees and hosts.

During the conference, RLP presented its work in a break-out session titled *'Just and Inclusive Society: supporting societal shifts, addressing stigma and discrimination'*. During the session, RLP made a presentation titled "Justice in Practice; Perspectives from Refugee Law Project's work with Survivors of Conflict-Related Harms". During the discussions, RLP provided insights on situations where 'justice' processes may exacerbate mental health challenges.

At national (Uganda context), RLP discussed issues related to overstay on remand, distant justice (where communities only attend through organized televised support by CSOs), and absence of mental health support systems for complainants. On international focus, RLP discussed issues related to fragmented justice – situations where communities feel international criminal system largely singles out leaders, is considered one sided and creates a sense of double-jeopardy (notably the dynamics around grant of Amnesty to Thomas Kwoyelo).



Transforming Conference Declaration into Reality

As part of the post conference actions, a debrief meeting was organised at the Netherlands Embassy in Uganda from which executable actions were proposed in fulfilment of the Declaration from conference.



Group photo at the Embassy of Netherlands after the debrief

Specifically, the following were agreed [extracted from the minutes circulated by the Embassy];

1. MHPSS is a cross-cutting issue, needs to be treated as such. Avoiding separation of MHPSS from other sectors. For example, challenges with livelihoods may be a major source of psychological stress. The resultant mental health issues cannot be tackled through mental health response alone, nor can they be solved through a livelihoods intervention alone.
2. Improved coordination is necessary, including between the Line Ministries, humanitarian partners and development partners. For example, the relationship/connection between different working groups such as those convened by UNHCR and by Ministry of Health respectively, needs to be crystallized.
3. Recognizing that mental health issues cannot always be solved with short-term responses.
4. Recognizing that where mental health issues are not addressed, this may become an obstacle to any successful transition from humanitarian responses to longer-term recovery and development interventions.
5. Focus on sustainable solutions for MHPSS. Realizing the nexus by improved coordination between humanitarian and development partners, but also inclusion of MHPSS in the NDP III.
6. Availability of data is important; more research needs to be conducted on MHPSS in Uganda, and it must be recognised that, given Uganda's own histories of crisis, such research must consider refugees and host communities alike.
7. More focus on the psychological needs of children and targeted/specialized MHPSS for children.
8. Important to provide input as Uganda on the development of a MHPSS service package by WHO.
9. In particular, the need to think through and develop MHPSS models that i) respond to the mental health issues that arise specifically as a result of violent conflict and ii) are culturally and socially appropriate in conflict and humanitarian settings

Call it What it is Campaign

in recognition of the several years of work on conflict-related sexual violence especially relentless advocacy on sexual violence against men and boys, the Women's Initiative for Gender Justice (WIGJ) contacted RLP to contribute to the development of a *Civil Society Declaration on Sexual Violence*.

Our contribution was twofold. Firstly, a video input by the Director, and secondly, to organise and host consultations in Uganda bringing together refugees from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Burundi. These took place in Kampala, Kiryandongo, Lamwo, and Adjumani districts. The logistics for the consultation were coordinated and supported by Refugee Law Project with modest funding support from WIGJ. A total of 43 refugees participated (11 Kiryandongo, 10 Adjumani, 10 Kampala, and 12 Kiryandongo), supported by 14 staff of Refugee Law Project (5 Lamwo, 4 Adjumani, 2 Kampala, and 4 Kiryandongo).

Participants purposely selected for the consultation had all previously received physical and psychosocial support from RLP's Scree-Refer-Support-Document model of intervention. All were members of male-survivor led support groups.

The declaration is unique in that it re-tables somewhat contentious debates on the long-held

understanding of “Rape as a weapon of war”, and expands the understanding of sexual violence by demonstrating, from survivors’ own perspectives and with examples, the broad contexts, manifestations, and forms that sexual violence takes, including but not restricted to rape.

Furthermore, the declaration highlights a new array of work for actors keen to address sexual violence including sexual violence in conflict and other war-related harms.



RLP, WIGJ and ICC Chief Prosecutor The Hague

Guest Lecture on Sexual Violence

Subsequent to the publication of the Declaration, RLP and the Women’s Initiative for Gender Justice in partnership with Institute for Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University, organised a seminar in The Hague to discuss key findings. The seminar titled “Call it what it is: When should we talk about conflict-related sexual violence?” brought together students, and representatives of international institutions, including the International Criminal Court.



Civil Society Declaration
on Sexual Violence



4th South-South Institute on Sexual Violence Against and Boys

The South-South Institute (SSI), established in 2013 as a collaboration between Refugee Law Project (*RLP - Uganda*), the Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Trust (*MSSAT - New Zealand*), and *First Step Cambodia*, emerged from the three partners' diverse histories of work with male survivors of sexual abuse and violation, some directly conflict-related, some arising in post-conflict and post-colonial settings. Since its establishment, the SSI created a new space in which the previously little-discussed issue of conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys could be surfaced in countries either directly or indirectly impacted by conflict and sexual violence.

Guided by the theme '*Bridging the Sexual Violence – Torture Divide*', a topic that has had too little attention historically especially on the extent to which wider discourses have been gendered to include some forms of sexual violence and exclude others, the 4th South-South Institute hosted Ms Yasmin Sooka as our keynote speaker, and brought together practitioners, academics, donors and activists with a wealth of knowledge on sexual violence, to explore a range of issues clustered into catalytic questions [extracted from concept note];

- How, why and when do survivors themselves categorize their experiences as 'sexual violence' or 'torture' or both?
- Are existing legal and policy frameworks adequate for capturing the sexual nature of some forms of torture?
- Are existing responders equipped to deal with experiences of sexual violence, including those that are at times referred to as torture?
- Is there a need to bring such forms under the umbrella term "conflict-related sexual violence"?
- How would such a change in categorization impact on the field of conflict-related sexual violence more broadly?



Screen shot of a TV talk show on the first day of the SSI, Ms Yasim Sooka (R) and Dr Chris Dolan (L)

10-year anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the UN OSRSG-SVC, 31 October 2019

In October 2019, the United Nations marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the mandate and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in

Conflict through the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009).

RLP was invited to this commemoration which took place on 30 October 2019 at the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was co-hosted by Office of the UN OSRSG-SVC and the Government of the Republic of South Africa which was president of the UN Security Council for the month of October 2019

During this event, RLP's work with support groups on issues of sexual violence in conflict was recognised through the invitation to the president for a male survivor association that we have been working with for a decade now.



Dr Chris Dolan (Director RLP) and Aimé Moninga (President Men of Hope) at UN Headquarters in New York)

Round table on Human Trafficking, 8 November 2019

The roundtable was held as part of a research partnership project on human trafficking law and policy between the Irish Center for Human Rights at National University of Ireland Galway and Refugee Law Project at Makerere University. The project examines law, policy and practice on human trafficking in Uganda in light of regional and international Human Rights standards. The project takes a close look at the normative, conceptual and practical challenges that arise in meeting SDG targets on gender equality, decent work, reducing inequalities and peace, justice and strong justice institutions as they relate to combating human trafficking. The roundtable looked closely at the specific context of Uganda counter-trafficking law, policy and practice the roundtable will seek to apply regional human rights standards to analyse and evaluate legislative, policy and procedural measures taken to strengthen justice for victims of human trafficking. The brief shared after the roundtable with input from participants can be found [here](#).

International Conference on Global Risk, Security and Ethnicity – 10 -11 August 2019 organized by International Political Science Association (IPSA), Nagasaki, Japan

Dr Chris participated on a panel on Overcoming Gender Based Violence and presented a paper on Disembodied 'Self-Reliance': Adding Insult to Injury in Refugee Settings. In his discussion he sought to bring refugees' bodies back into the discussion and thereby give new impetus to improving responses to experiences of GBV. Through an examination of the physical injuries documented among refugees from South Sudan and living in northern Uganda, as well as the profound impacts of such injuries (particularly in the absence of any adequate humanitarian medical response).

Wilton Park Digital Dignity - 21-23 October 2019

Dr Chris Dolan participated in a residential meeting on *Digital Dignity in armed conflict: a roadmap for principled humanitarian action in the age of digital transformation*. The meeting reflected on the context of principled humanitarian responses to conflict, and the increasing use of online technology to collect data, identify needs, and provide targeted support. It aimed to:

- Increase awareness of the potential risks associated with data collection in a conflict environment.
- Explore how to mitigate risk, increase safeguards and promote good practice on dignity and privacy with affected individuals and communities.
- Consider ways in which digital dignity can be embedded into humanitarian practice and principles.
- Develop recommendations for good practice, drawing on existing frameworks and international humanitarian law.
- Catalyse a new network of actors to take forward future work.²

Finance

RLP Income & Expenditure Summary report - 2019	
	Jan-Dec 2019 Amount in U\$
Balance b/f	1,335,473
Grant Income	3,297,115
Total	4,632,588
Expenditure	
Access to Justice	755,300
Gender & Sexuality	1,672,001
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	116,747
Media for Social Change	89,774
Conflict Transitional Justice & Governance	615,312
Operations & Programme Support	356,436
Capital Expenditure	62,746
Overheads	583,943
Total	4,252,258
Balance c/f	380,330

² Excerpt from the concept note WP1698

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



REFUGEE LAW PROJECT
School of Law, Makerere University
"A Centre for Justice and Forced Migrants"



Plot 6 & 7, Coronation Road, Old kampala, (Opp. Old Kampala Primary School)
P.O. Box 33903, Tel: +256 414 343 556, Email: info@refugeelawproject.org.
www.refugeelawproject.org