

Objective 5: To conduct regional and international advocacy on refugee issues in Uganda					
Expected Outcome 5: Regional and International stakeholder are informed of refugee issues, challenges and successes in Uganda					
Activities	Expected Outputs	Expected Outputs (Extension)	Actual Delivery	Percentage towards Target (Outputs)	Variance
Objective 5: To conduct regional and international advocacy of refugee issues in Uganda	RLP staff participate in 2 international conferences	Participate in 2 international conferences	4 RLP staff participated in the UNHCR Annual Consultation with Refugees (Pre-ExCom). (2 in 2018 and 2 in 2019)	200 percent towards target	4 RLP staff participated in the Pre-ExCom in 2018 and 2019 (2 per year)
Activity 2: Regional Stakeholders conference on Migration and Access to Justice trends	1 Regional Dialogue benefitting 30 participants is to be conducted	1 regional conference	2 X 2-day regional conference conducted. Reaching a total of 255 participants. The first one drew 105 (57f, 48m) far more than the 30 originally anticipated, and the second. The second regional conference draw a total of 150 (83m, 67f) in November 2018.	200 percent towards target on number of conferences, and 850 percent on total number of people	-
Activity 3: Convene the first of a series of annual roundtables for Local Council Chairpersons and Resident District	NA	Convene roundtable for Local Council Chairpersons and Resident	1 regional convening organised involving participants drawn Resident District Commissioners and	F = 5, M = 25	This activity was introduced in the cost-extension and arose from conversations about a

Commissioners from across Uganda's refugee hosting districts		District Commissioners	District Chairpersons (LCV) from Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Lamwo, Yumbe, Moyo, and Kampala at Skyz Hotel Naguru on 27 June 2019		lack of spaces for district leaders to discuss refugee-host management. In Phase II the roundtable for district leaders will be conducted annually
Host the 4 th South-South Institute on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, drawing extensively on the results of the intensive screening conducted throughout Phase I	N/A	Host the 4 th South-South Institute on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	The Fourth SSI was conducted from 26-29 May 2019 – Kolping Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. The event drew 414 (359m, 55f) Participants from Africa and Europe.	100 percent towards target	SSI has been incorporated into Phase II of the project

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION (OUTCOME/IMPACT LEVEL)

Objective 1: To build the capacities of Rule of Law Stakeholders: Uganda Police Force, Immigration, Prisons, UPDF, Magistrates and Local Leaders

The implementation of this component of the project was led by our Access to Justice Programme which seeks to bring legal aid services closer to forced migrants, build the capacities of state and non-state actors on issues of forced migration and empower forced migrants to better demand and defend their rights. The Programme provides free legal assistance to individuals and groups of forced migrants. Such assistance includes follow-up of cases at police stations and detention facilities; representation before courts of law and other quasi-judicial bodies; drafting of legal documents and the promotion of alternative dispute resolution.

The Programme also seeks to improve legal and human rights awareness and community empowerment through information sessions, English for Adult classes, RESPECT University courses, community policing, public information materials, encouraging the formation of support groups and training of community interpreters, and conducts studies on access to justice and uses the findings to seek solutions by engaging with the various stakeholders involved including police, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Prisons, the Judiciary, UNHCR, and the Office of the Prime Minister.

Training Rule of Law Actors on Refugee Rights and Protection

Rule of law actors in Uganda struggle with a number of ‘software’ and ‘hardware’ challenges including limited knowledge of refugee law, refugee rights and protection; lack of training on managing refugee-host relationships, legal procedures, and effective investigations and documentation of cases reported. Besides the ‘software’ challenges, many rule of law actors grapple with communication, transport, stationery, and housing challenges – forcing many to operate with minimal resources and sometimes pushing the ‘cost of justice’ to refugees and hosts who have to meet costs such as those related to photocopying relevant police documents and/or those related to medical examination by a police surgeon.

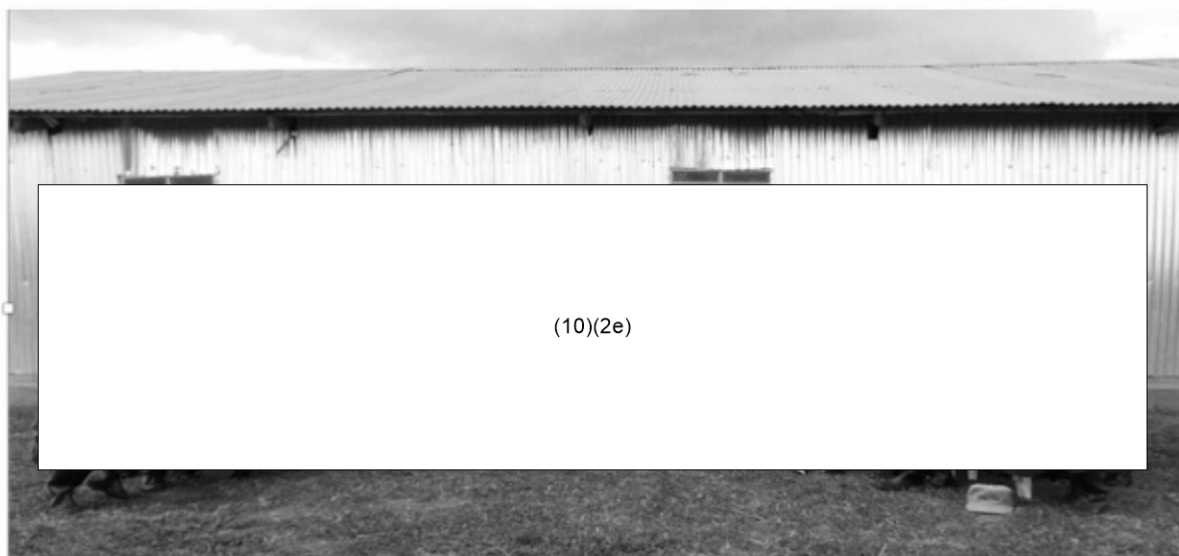


Figure 1: Training of Police Instructors at the National Police Training School - Kabalye



Through the project, we trained police officers, officials of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), Police instructors, Police Officers, Prison Officers, Refugee Welfare Committee members, Paralegals, Community interpreters, Refugee and Host Youths on videography, medical students, medical practitioners, and district leaders on key principles of refugee rights and protection, key legal frameworks, rule of law procedures, and refugee-host relations using the Manual and User Guide designed with support of the project.

Community Policing

Organized to create awareness of existing laws and frameworks and with the aim of curbing crimes in communities and building trust in the police and justice system, the community policing sessions attracted a wide range of stakeholders including Police, Settlement Authorities, district Community Development Officers, Internal Security Officers, faith-based and cultural leaders, refugee leaders and community members for constructive dialogues. The sessions were conducted at village, cluster, blocks, and zonal levels depending on the arrangement of the settlement, to maximize dissemination of information and to reach the most vulnerable who might not have the energy to travel long distance for more centrally located information sharing sessions.

Monitor police in the settlement for impact

The functions of the Uganda Police Force are listed under Art. 212 of Uganda's Constitution and The Police Act CAP 303 and its regulations (The Police Regulations S.I 303-1). They include, but are not limited to preserving law and order, preventing and detecting crime. Frequently refugees get in conflict with the law and inevitably have to interact with the Police. Many refugees are not familiar with the Ugandan laws and their rights.

As part of the project initiatives, we closely monitored various police



Figure 4: Discussion with OC Station of Panyadoli Police Stations in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

posts and stations for impacts of our collaboration with police on the services offered to community members. During the monitoring meetings RLP engaged with police on key technical challenges, how the vehicles were being used, key concerns of community members, and key training needs which we then incorporated into our training and mentorship sessions. In these monitoring visits, entries in police register books were also discussed to ascertain quality and necessary gaps for alignment.

During the monitoring visits, RLP also ascertained whether the efforts made by RLP had an actual impact on service delivery and to establish whether the knowledge acquired during trainings have translated into improvement in service delivery.

Monitoring places of detention

Navigating through the legal system for most forced migrants as well as for indigent nationals is a daunting and confusing task, especially if already locked up in prison. To provide effective legal support, our lawyers conducted several visits to police to follow-up on cases identified for evidence building to support court processes. Police visits also served an important function in case identification for legal support.

While in custody, it is extremely difficult for inmates, even those who qualify for mandatory bail, to access court as a result of affordability issues, judicial bureaucracies and bottlenecks. Prisoners - especially refugees - not only have inadequate knowledge of their rights but also have limited access to lawyers and relatives to support them to access the courts. For children in confinement the conditions are appalling, and when their parents are made to overstay on remand the children are not spared either.

During the course of implementation, our lawyers rigorously conducted prison visits. During these visits, our legal team held group and private conversations with inmates to discuss their



Figure 5: Visit to Ihungu Remand Home

next court dates, legal needs, family messages (if any), and legal education among others. From these visits, direct

clients support was provided including spot-on legal advice, mapping of cases that RLP could support, as well as key issues of concern that were further discussed with police and prison authorities. However, some of the requests were beyond RLP's mandate including complex medical needs (not war-related), overcrowding, English lessons in prisons, and psychosocial support for inmates.

Some 'undocumented migrants' were identified during the visits. However, they were not registered as refugees according to The Refugees Act (2006) and The Refugee Regulations (2010). Whereas they identify themselves as such, they are unable to access some services as a result of that limitation. Further, majority of the undocumented migrants who come in Uganda are in an extremely vulnerable situation both psychologically and financially also facing language and cultural barriers. The activity contributed to identification of cases for legal representation, legal advice and disbursement of non-food items such as jerrycans, sanitary towels, etc.

Interpretation gap is one of the challenges that police and prisons grapple with followed by limited space for storage of exhibits. Also, suspects' right to food remains far-fetched in many police posts, stations, and while appearing before courts. In some police posts (especially) at the outposts, feeding a suspect is the responsibility of the complainant, and this results in complainants feeling they are being 'forced to feed their enemies'.



Figure 6: A makeshift counter used for both registering cases and a holding facility for juveniles at Bweyale Police Station

Furthermore, many police posts and stations lack safe spaces in which to temporarily shelter victims/ survivors of domestics and sexual violence – and that further aggravates the fact that police settlements not only have few police officers, but even fewer female police officers.

Profile of Prisoners visited Jan 2018 – Jun 2019)

Gender	Number	%	Nationality	Number	%	Legal status	Number	%
Male	616	86	South Sudan	163	23	Undocumented Migrant	69	10
Female	102	14	Sudan	4	1	Refugee	265	37
Total	718	100	Uganda	381	53	Asylum Seeker	2	0
			Burundi	4	1	Host	382	53
			Congo	20	3	Total	718	100

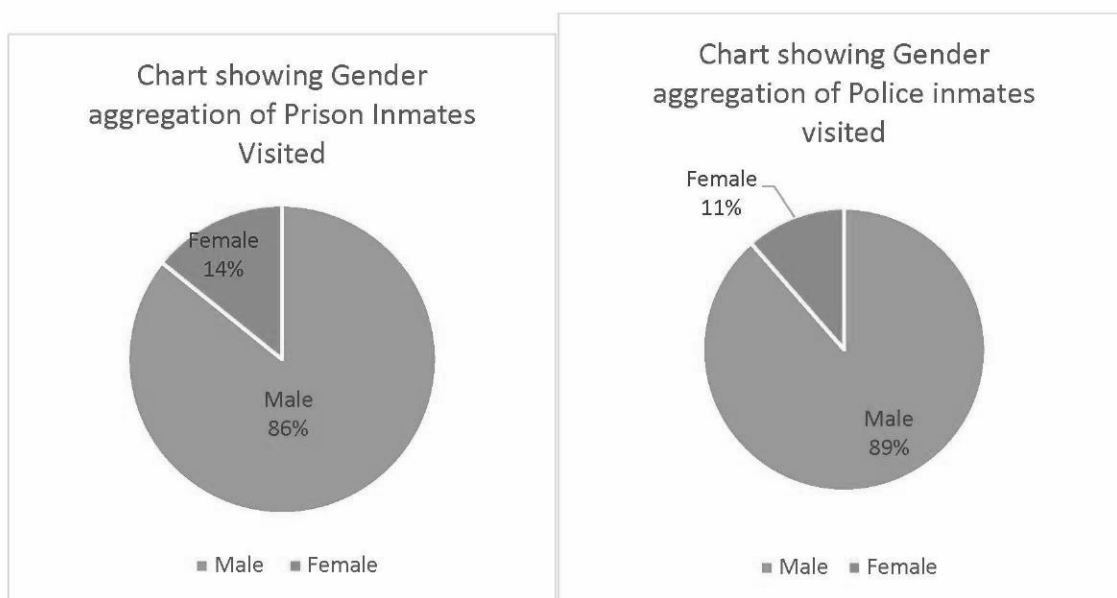
DR Congo	93	13
Kenya	12	2
Rwanda	39	5
Tanzania	2	0
Total	718	100

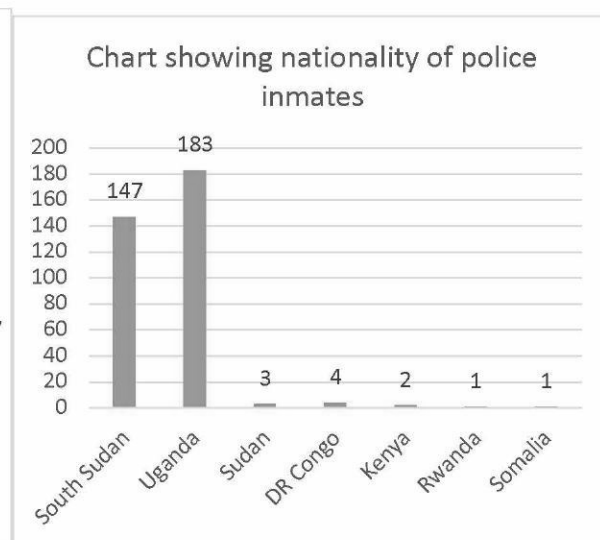
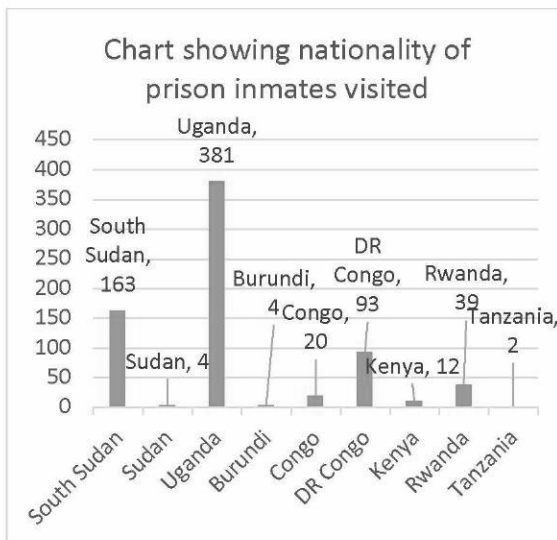
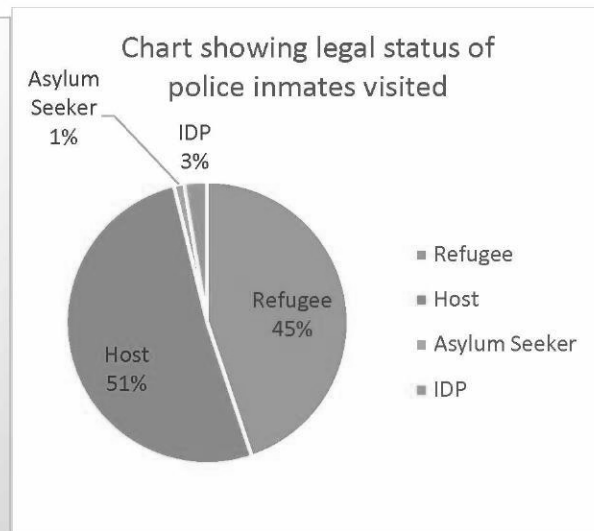
Figure 7: Graphical representation (Prisons)

Profile of detainees visited in Police (Jan 2018 – Jun 2019)

Post/Station			Nationality			Legal Status			Gender		
		%			%			%			%
Police Post	105	31	South Sudan	147	43	Refugee	153	45	Male	302	89
Police Station	236	69	Uganda	183	54	Host	175	51	Female	39	11
Total	341	100	Sudan	3	1	A. Seeker	4	1	Total	341	100
			DR Congo	4	1	IDP	9	3			
			Kenya	2	1	Total	341	100			
			Rwanda	1	0						
			Somalia	1	0						
			Total	341	100						

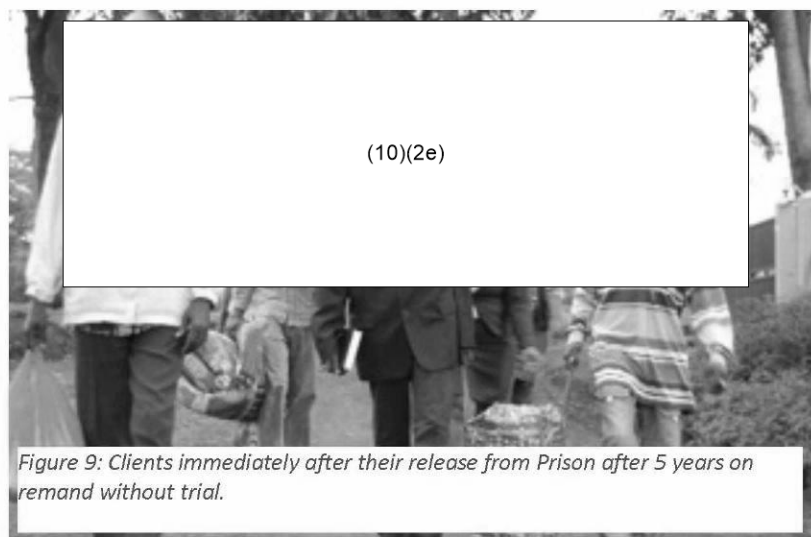
Figure 8: Graphical representation (Police)





Direct legal representation

Whereas community policing and information sessions helped reduce crime rates, prior to RLP's intervention in the settlements in the districts of Lamwo, Kiryandongo, and Adjumani, there were numerous unaddressed cases already among refugees and hosts. Our team had to address these 'old' as well as new cases. During the course of



implementation, we provoked conversation regarding overstay on remand and subsequently the need to organize special High Court sessions in West Nile to benefit refugees and hosts who had overstayed on remand.

Through our interventions, cases were concluded by way of acquittals and others by conviction. Non-custodial punishments such as community service were advocated for, for very minor criminal cases

The average number of times a case was represented in court was between 5-7 times. This high frequency was attributed to the frequent adjournments by judicial officers. At



High Court, many cases remain pending for very long periods because courts officials require financial resources to attend to those cases, especially High Court – leaving many inmates in a state of hopelessness and despair due to unnecessarily long pre-trial detention which is a blatant abuse of their right to a fair and speedy trial guaranteed under Article 28 of the 1995 Constitution.

Due to the long periods taken to commence and conclude matters, many complainants lose interest in the litigation of their cases for reasons associated with the financial and psychological trauma associated with waiting for a trial that never commences. In such scenarios cases were concluded by way of dismissal for want of prosecution under the Trial of Indictments Act and Magistrates Courts Act. If cases were heard promptly dismissing cases would not be warranted, and cases would be heard on their merits and justice would be delivered to either party. As a result of such bureaucracies and technicalities that the common man does not understand, many people lose trust in the judicial justice system.

Upon being released for being found innocent or guilty and served sentence, ex-inmates and ex-convicts struggle to recollect the broken pieces of their lives after prison difficult since family, community ties and jobs were lost during the time spent in prison as well as due to associated community shaming. For many community members, 'there is no smoke without fire' and as such, any person who is taken to police or prison is assumed to have done wrong in one way or another.

Legal Advice and Legal Referrals

Both forced migrants and host communities continually seek legal advice on a range of legal challenge whether criminal or civil. In the beginning we registered few numbers of walk-in clients but the demand soon increased following community information and policing sessions. Legal advice was offered in several places including police stations/post, courts, prisons, and through individual walk-in clients with specific needs.

Using the settlement referral pathways, our team was able to where appropriate refer clients to other service providers especially on issues that are outside RLP's mandate and or our capacity to intervene – many of which were security concerns and request for physical relocation to other settlements, registration of undocumented migrants, and resettlement-related needs.

Mediation (Alternative Dispute Resolutions – ADR) sessions

Not peculiar to a refugee-host relations, conflict and strife are bound to arise in any given time or society. This then necessitates clear means of resolving them including mediation as less costly and friendlier compared to court process, and also as an important entry in strengthening refugee-host relations and peaceful coexistence amongst conflicting parties. Benefits of mediation include reduced case backlog in court and better productivity of communities who would otherwise spent their productive time in protracted court processes.

The tensions between refugees amongst themselves and with their hosts arise partly from lack of mutual understanding and awareness. A lack of understanding of refugee dynamics among the host community fuels unwarranted discrimination and harassment against refugees.



Our experience shows that not all cases find their way through to courts. Reasons include of lack of 'enough' evidence, loss of interest in cases (want of prosecution), threats made against complainants, and distance between homes and police/courts among others. However, we also realized that some community members and leaders negotiate criminal issues away from police or while the suspect is in police custody, thus affecting effective prosecution. From the information sessions and community policing, we have supported professional Alternative Dispute Resolution for minor cases at police and strengthened documentation of such cases through quality mediation notes and agreements.

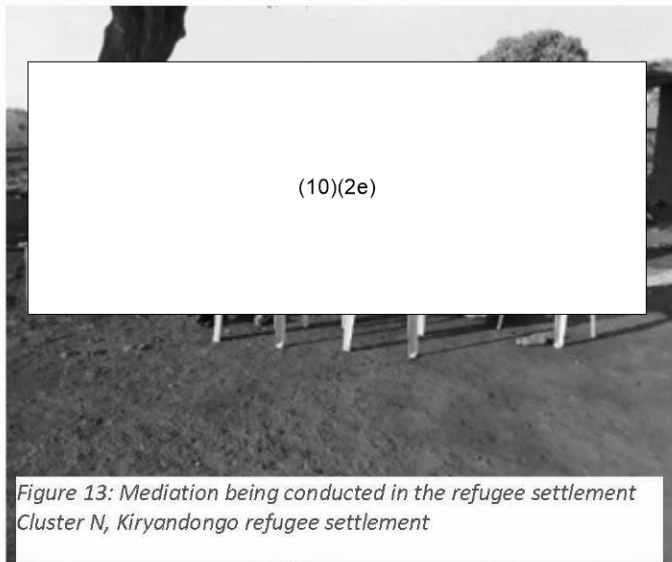


Figure 13: Mediation being conducted in the refugee settlement Cluster N, Kiryandongo refugee settlement

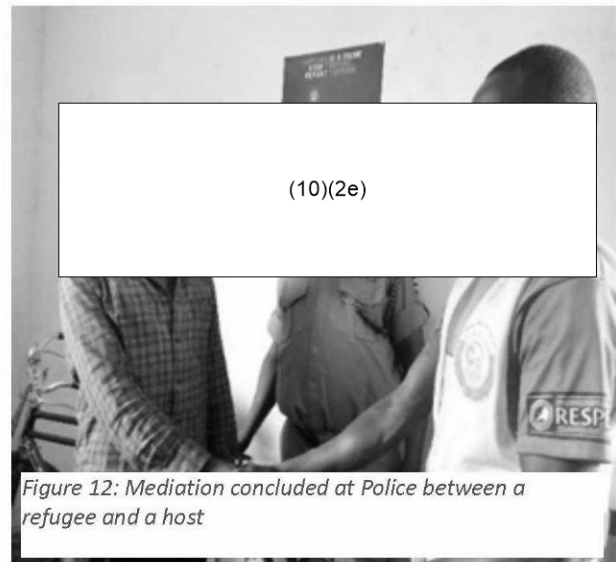


Figure 12: Mediation concluded at Police between a refugee and a host

Objective 2: To build the confidence and self-reliance capacity of South Sudanese Refugees through addressing profound harms

This component of the project was directly implemented by the Gender and Sexuality Programme (in close collaboration with Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing, Access to Justice, Media for Social Change, and Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance Programmes). The Gender & Sexuality's Programme objectives are to facilitate gender sensitivity and inclusivity, awareness and to provide inclusive Sexual Gender Based Violence response and prevention interventions.

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

Ensuring/Modelling Best Practices

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

Pictorial Glimpse of SRSD Model

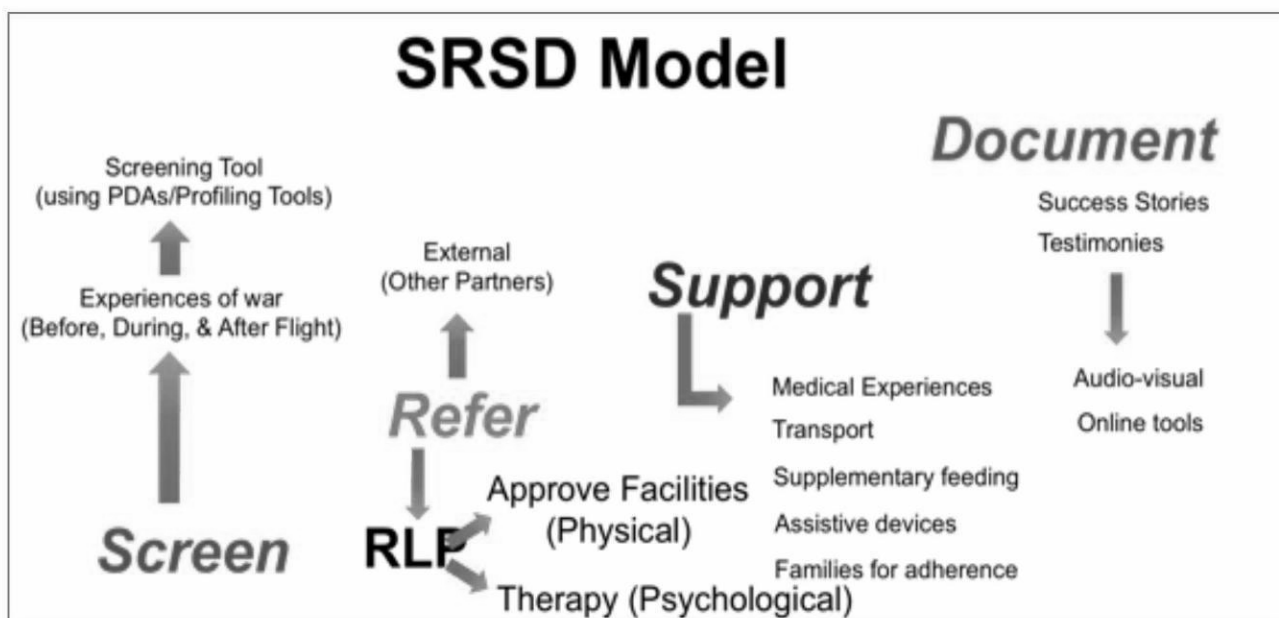


Figure 14: Pictorial Glimpse of SRSD Model

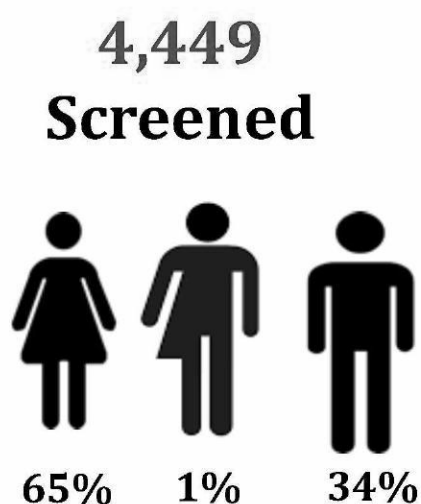
SCREEN

Following successful community information and awareness raising sessions and through effective community mobilisation, the programme for the very time in its record conducted large scale screening for experiences of war – from which we identified thousands of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (figures further below). Prior to 2017, RLP used to conduct paper-based screening which was not only labour intensive but was mired in challenges related to skip patterns during interviews, challenges regarding storage space, and time and cost of manually entering and cleaning data among others. Currently, and using digital tablets and internally programmed software, the screening process has been made simpler and resulted in higher quality and more secure data.

During the reporting period, we screened 4,449 refugees and hosts (2,893 females, 22 sexual and gender minorities, and 1,534) males representing 65 percent, 1 percent, and 34 percent respectively). However, screenings in Kiryandongo, Lamwo, & Adjumani were halted halfway in September following overwhelming demand and a backlog on referrals and preparatory counselling. This way, it provided space and time to support transportation for cases scheduled for medical reviews.

Gender	Screened		Referred and Transported	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Females	2,893	65	877	59
Males	1,534	34	600	40
SGNCs	22	1	15	1
Total	4,449	100	1,492	100

From the 4,449 refugees and hosts screened, RLP identified 1,492 survivors of war-related injuries representing 34 percent of the total screened. Clearly, the screening process contributed and continues to contribute to enabling disclosure through tackling silences regarding experiences of conflict-related harms, including those arising from sexual violence – silences which harm individuals, their households and communities.



1,492 *DISCLOSED*
Experiences of war-related injuries
(Planned 1,296)

34% **Disclosure**

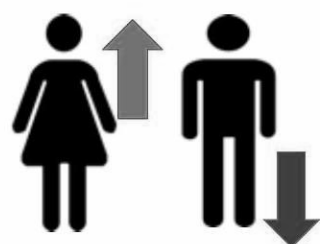
REFER

Subsequently, a total of 1,492 clients were referred for rehabilitation with approved service providers with the breakdown below;

Gender	Screened		Referred and Transported	
	Number	%	Number	%
Females	2,893	65	877	59
Males	1,534	34	600	40
SGNCs	22	1	15	1
Total	4,449	100	1,492	100

More Women Screened – More Men Referred in Percentage

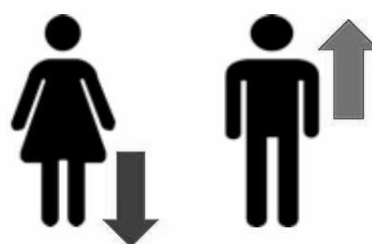
An insight into the statistics highlights a major gendered pattern; whereas RLP screened more women than men, (Women were 65.4 % of those screened, men were 34.1 %), a larger proportion of the men screened were subsequently referred (55%) compared to the proportion of women screened and subsequently referred (37%). A total of 877 women, 15 sexual and gender minority, and 600 men were referred for psychological and medical rehabilitation.



65%

34%

Screening in %



37%

55%

% of those screened
who were subsequently
referred

SUPPORT

Referral is an important aspect in the process in providing comprehensive support to survivors. However, effective referrals require that survivors are followed-through and supported through the healing processes. As a programme, we ensured that besides covering medical bills, we transported clients and their care-takers to and from the hospitals, provided meals throughout their hospitalization, as well as supplementary feeding upon discharge (where recommended by medical workers), procured recommended assistive devices, and supported households for a supportive healing environment, care and adherence to medical treatment as well as reducing chances of triggers and relapse. The table below shows the numbers and percentages of clients supported from screening through to transportation, and the table further below shows those provided psychosocial support.

	Screened		Referred and Transported		Caretakers Transported		Total Transported		Estimated # of Visits
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Est. 4 visits each
Females	2,893	65	877	59	689	59.5	1,566	59	6,264
Males	1,534	34	600	40	458	40	1,058	40	4,232
SGNCs	22	1	15	1	2	0.5	17	1	68
Total	4,449	100	1,492	100	1,149	100	2,641	100	10,564

From one to many: Our experience shows that a behind an individual survivor, there are many more. At least half of the clients who screened positive told us that one of more people witnessed what happened to them – and mainly household members including children. Also, supporting a person’s healing process can seldom be achieved in isolation even with robust means and finances of an institution. As such, and with conditions provided by health workers that no patient is admitted without a caretaker, we supported caretakers too – including a few who later asked difficult but necessary questions; “How about me? It also happened to me and I need support”. (as a result of this we supported 17 female and 7 male caretakers who had not been identified during the screening process.

While this wasn’t planned, we ended up supporting transport, feeding and in some scenarios medical bills of caretakers who fell sick while taking care of a patient. Only 8 percent of our clients did not require caretakers. Also, we learnt that there are 4 hospital visits on average per client and we documented 10,564 visits and with huge pressure on our already limited human, financial, and logistical resources.

**Approx.
10,564
Hospital
Visits**

Psychosocial Support: During the course of project implementation, our team in Adjumani, Kampala, Kiryandongo, and Lamwo, a total of 5,337 clients benefited from psychosocial support services – highest number of counseling sessions to have been conducted in 2 years in the history of the Gender & Sexuality Programme.

5,337 (2,970f, 2266m, 101SGNC) Benefited from Counselling Services



	Individual Preparatory Couns.		Family Prep		General		Total	
Gender	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Female	877	59	1,885	57	208	38	2,970	55.6
Male	600	40	1,383	42	283	51	2,266	42.4
SGNC	15	1	27	1	59	11	101	2.0
Total	1,492	100	3,295	100	550	100	5,337	100.0

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

DOCUMENT

During implementation, we strongly and rigorously document every tiny bit and process of our work, and believe that “Unless documented, it has not happened”. Over the last year, we further amended the above phrase to include “Unless documented and shared, it has not happened”. **Testimonies:** 85 in-depth testimonies (31 females, 32 sexual and gender minorities, and 22 males) for documentation and archival purposes and possible resettlement referrals in the future.

Success Stories: In collaboration with the Media for Social Change Programme, we documented 33 success stories (11 females, 22 males) following successfully medical rehabilitation and evident positive changes in the lives of clients who specifically have regained their *full* functionalities following months if not years of dysfunctional physical, social, psychological and psychosexual pain and despair prior to contact and interaction with RLP. For further information, refer to video clip ([21 Years Running](#)).

Medical Recovery Visits: 939 (out of 1,054 clients referred for medical rehabilitation) were visited at home and their recovery conditions documented using our internally designed tool to document recovery progress and ascertain further interventions if any.

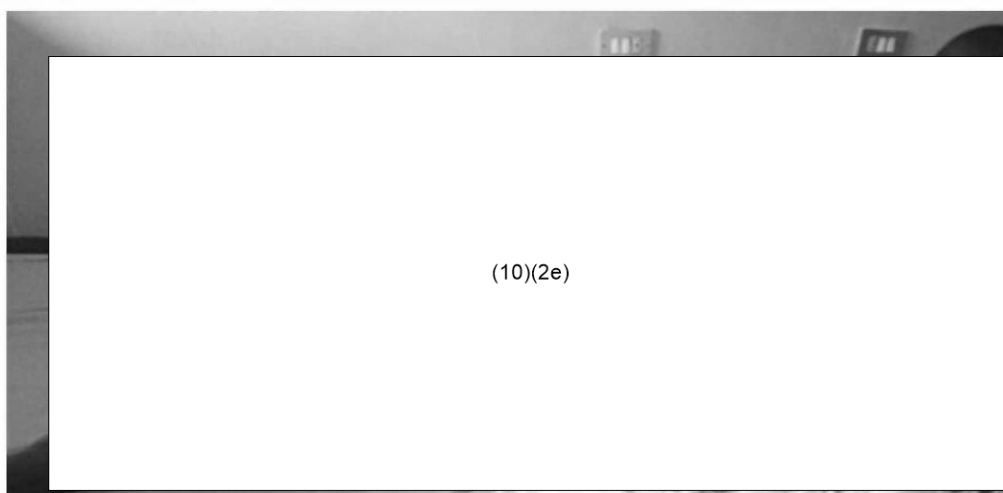


Figure 15: Male survivor of conflict-related sexual violence in a recovery ward after surgery

Objective 3: To Empower Refugees to Speak for Themselves

During project implementation, the team conducted community information sessions on English For Adults, circulated adverts for interested persons to apply, conducted assessment and enrollment, orientation, and actual facilitation of learning using our 'Speak Your Rights' curriculum.

Teaching English for adults in the refugee settlement

During the year, the English for Adults programme covered several topics in all the levels ranging from homestead and the body, good health and hygiene, reading and writing, environmental management and sustainability, introduction to nouns and verbs, listening and speaking skills practices to introduction to tenses and question forms. Learners were given time for revision and later given mid-term test and end-term exams to assess their level of understanding of the various topics taught in the different classes.





Figure 16: EFA Learners of Zone four, level one during their mid-term exams at Palabek Refugee Settlement- Lamwo



EFA Learners of Zone 4, Level two during their mid-term exams at Palabek Refugee Settlement- Lamwo.

Training Refugee and Host Youth in Videography Skills

4 Trainings on video advocacy were conducted. Two were done from Gulu (for trainees from Kiryandongo and Adjumani), one from Kitgum (for trainees from Lamwo), and one multi-location. The trainings were delivered by members of the Media for Social Change Programme team and reached a total of 96 trainees. The in-depth 2-weeks trainings per group training was groundbreaking. The youth acquired skills in videography, mapping, camera work and photography, and were empowered with skills on video advocacy on community matters.

The topics covered during the training included; Importance of Videography and Photography, Safety, Security and Consent, Mapping in Videography, Storytelling and formats and Process of filming and editing



Figure 17: Video Advocacy Trainees record a video along Gulu highway

In addition, the training applied diverse interactive methods that included power point presentation, handouts, video materials, facilitated film screening, hands-on practical sessions, group discussions & feedback, games and Question and Answer interactive sessions and getting the message out/ Social Media advocacy. As a result, the participants acquired basic skills and knowledge in video

advocacy; videos were produced. Examples include "The Tap" running for 5 minutes focuses on water scarcity which then leads to conflicts in the community; and "Migration Changed My Life" running for 11 minutes. In the second training "The Net" was a powerful product focusing on sensitization of pregnant mothers to sleep under mosquito nets.

Social media engagements to highlight RLP's work included Tweets; Shared posts on the social media i.e. Facebook, YouTube. These will act as platforms for interaction and information dissemination within the settlement to the outside world.



Figure 18: RLP Video Advocacy Trainee recording Human Rights Day commemoration at Reception Centre

As result, over 20 videos have been recorded by the Video Advocacy Trainees have been in position to video document community events like World Refugee Day, World Environment Day, World AIDS Day, International Day in Support for Torture Victims, International Human Rights Day, Trainings (Health workers, Police officers and mentorship sessions for support groups, documentaries for medical rehabilitation recovery success stories, EFA success stories documentaries, Legal aid documentaries, and

awareness raising sessions on HIV prevention and Know Your Status campaign and Common GBV cases in the community and the role of the community in prevention GBV. Advocacy documentaries have also been recorded including a PSN documentary in cluster J PSN village,

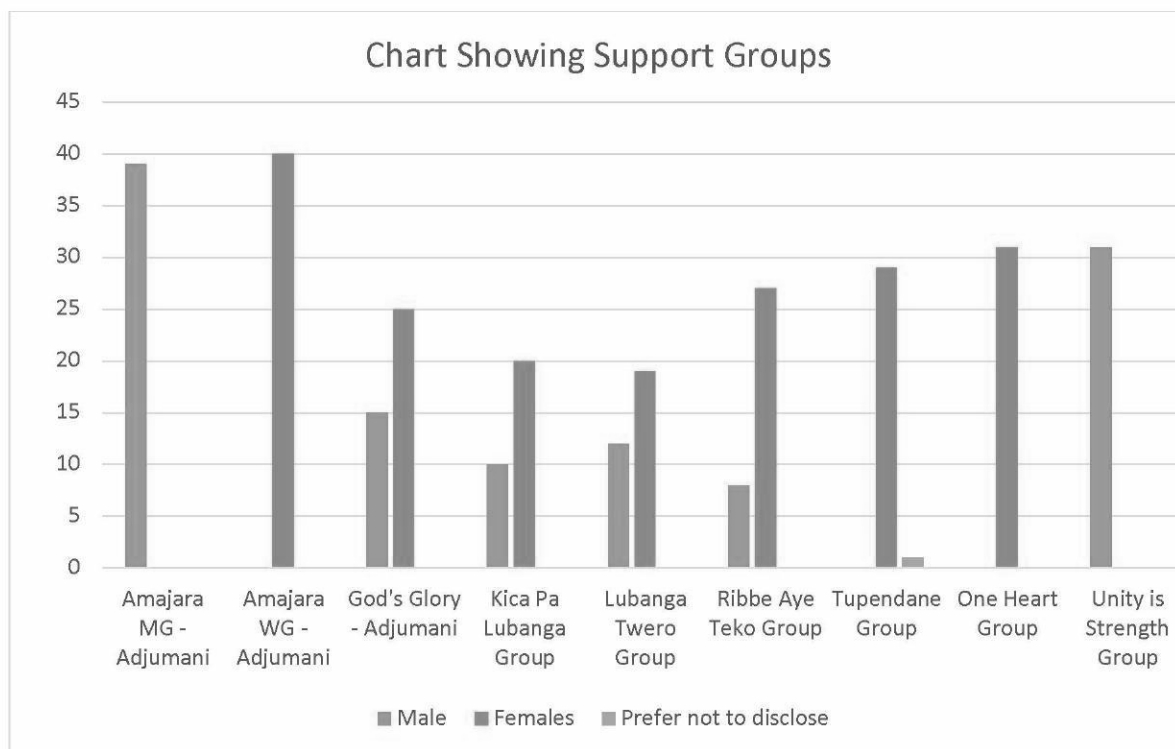
Refugee woman who is engaged in gainful activity in Bweyale market, Know Your HIV Status and audio advocacy for EFA on widows' rights to inherit husbands' properties.

Mentorship and Capacity Building for Support Groups

Establishment of Support Groups

Support groups have been an integral part of RLP's work since its inception in 1999. Through the project, our work with support groups was strengthened and reached people in places RLP had never been to. Below is the breakdown of 9 support groups established (3 each in Kiryandongo, Lamwo, & Adjumani);

Location		Male	Females	Prefer not to disclose	Total
Adjumani	Amajara MG - Adjumani	39	0	0	39
	Amajara WG - Adjumani	0	40	0	40
	God's Glory - Adjumani	15	25	0	40
Lamwo	Kica Pa Lubanga Group	10	20	0	30
	Lubanga Twero Group	12	19	0	31
	Ribbe Aye Teko Group	8	27	0	35
Kiryandongo	Tupendane Group	0	29	1	30
	One Heart Group	0	31	0	31
	Unity is Strength Group	31	0	0	31
Total		115	191	1	307



During group formation, several meetings and mentorship sessions were held with the group to sensitize members present on the importance of support groups in building relationships that promote peer-to-peer support and seek the clients' interest and consent to starting a support group. Group members were first of all creatively engaged in getting to know each other using random pairs. This introduction enabled people to get to know each other and become free with each other.

Throughout the project, our staff maintained a close professional working relationship with the leadership of the groups to see to it that the groups are supported as and when necessary. Subsequently, a number of activities were conducted including psychological first aid training, mentorship on leadership and group dynamics among others.

Objective 4: To engage the host communities in reversing the impacts of sudden overpopulation and resultant environmental degradation



Introduction

The Third Assessment Report by the Technical Working Group 1 of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that the temperature increase since 1861 (attributed to anthropogenic activities) has been $0.6 \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$. Globally, according to this report, the 1990s was warmest decade and 1998 the warmest year in the instrumental record, since 1861. (IPCC, 2001). The issue of climate change has now become urgent in Africa, not just because of the global focus and associated debates that have ensued in recent years, but because of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events attributed to climate change (Kojwang & Larwanou, 2015).

In Uganda, temperature is expected to increase by 1.5°C in the next 20 years and 4.3°C by 2080 (Nyasimi, Radeny, Mungani, & Kamini, 2016). With the livelihood of the people dependent on climate, and very vulnerable to extremes events, the country is expected to suffer the brunt of climate change's impacts (Hepworth & Goulden, 2008).

Uganda's National Development Plan II and upcoming NDP III emphasize the value of climate in achieving sustainable, long-term economic development and this is in line with targets of Vision 2040 (GoU, 2015). Although Uganda has committed to addressing the challenges by ratifying the global accord UNFCCC and setting national policy (NCCP, 2012), climate change still continues to be an inadequately addressed challenge in Uganda.

For instance forest cover reduced from 24% in 1990 to only 11% in 2016 (MWE, 2016), the effect of climate change characterized by unpredictable rain and drought is affecting agricultural activities which are the backbone of the people of Uganda.

With the settling of refugees in the country, the demand for wood fuel, land for cultivation and other environment resources has increased leading to degradation of the resources which in turn is leading to climate change that affects communities. This project engaged refugees and host community in reversing the impacts of sudden over population and its environmental impacts.

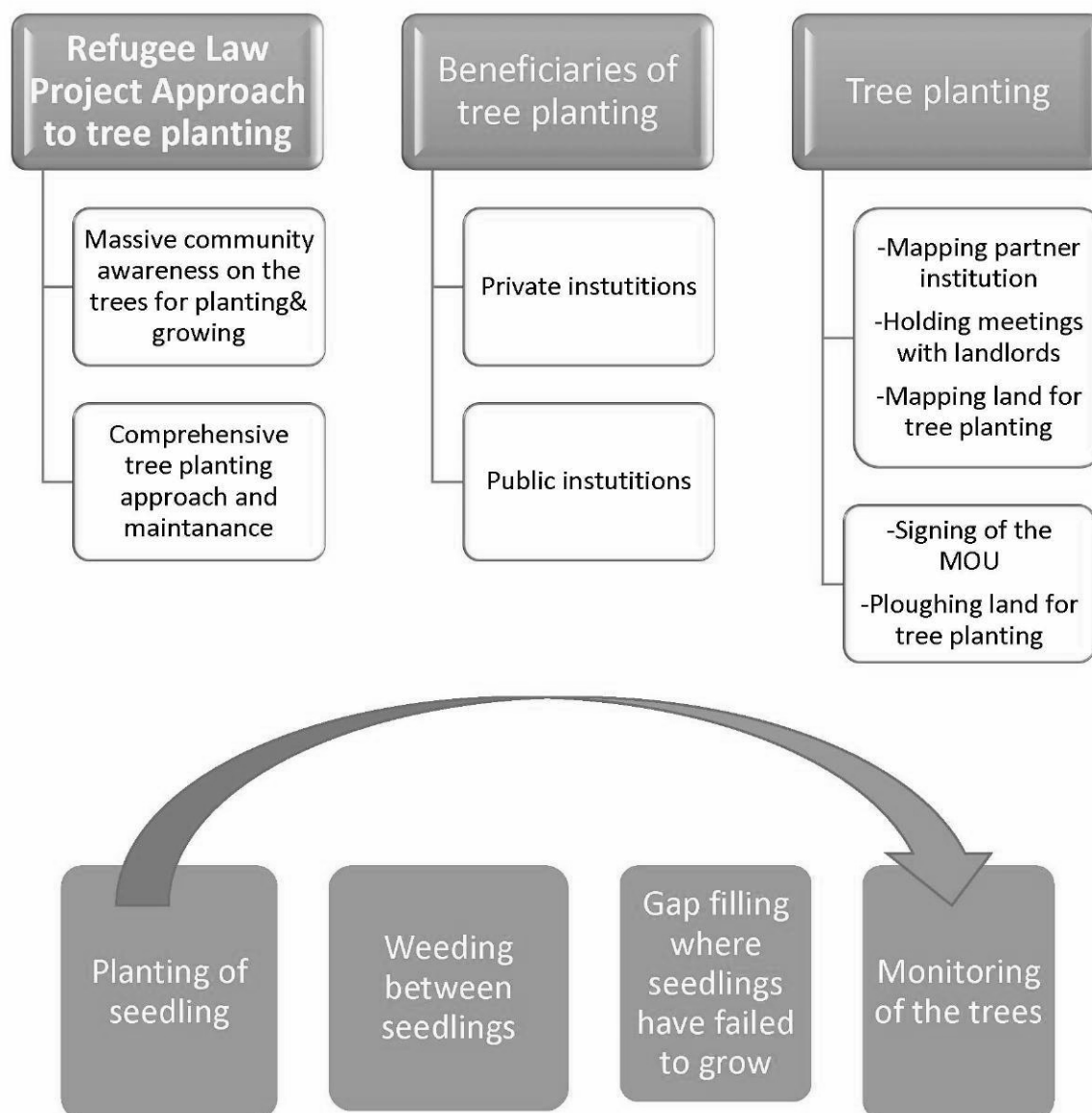
Over dependence on environmental resources by refugees and host is reported to be causing environmental degradation to the resources and because of scarcity of the resources, both refugees and the host struggle over the little available resources to make ends. The resultant conflicts threaten peaceful coexistence. This component of the project thus looked into promoting peaceful coexistence by addressing impacts of climate change and promoting awareness on environmental protection through dialogue and tree planting.

Approach Used in Meeting the Objective

As part of the deliverables, RLP organised community dialogues and used incentivized approach for tree planting. This was done by providing financial support to community members and suppliers engaged in tree planting. Local suppliers were contracted to work with community and money is paid through them. Through this approach we also meant to provide financial support to the locals to improve their standard of living.

Steps taken to achieve tree planting

Whereas each of the districts were distinct, the diagram below represents our intervention steps;



Land acquisition

The decision was made to plant the trees in institutions to enable more sustained management and to avoid technicalities around land ownership. Validation of documents were done as well as physical inspection of the land alongside inquiries on their credibility after which Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with landowners.

Land clearing

Tractors were hired to clear land for planting. Thereafter, quotations were sourced, stumps were removed from the garden involving community. The man in the photo below, for example, was involved in the stump removal and earned some modest monies to sustain his family.

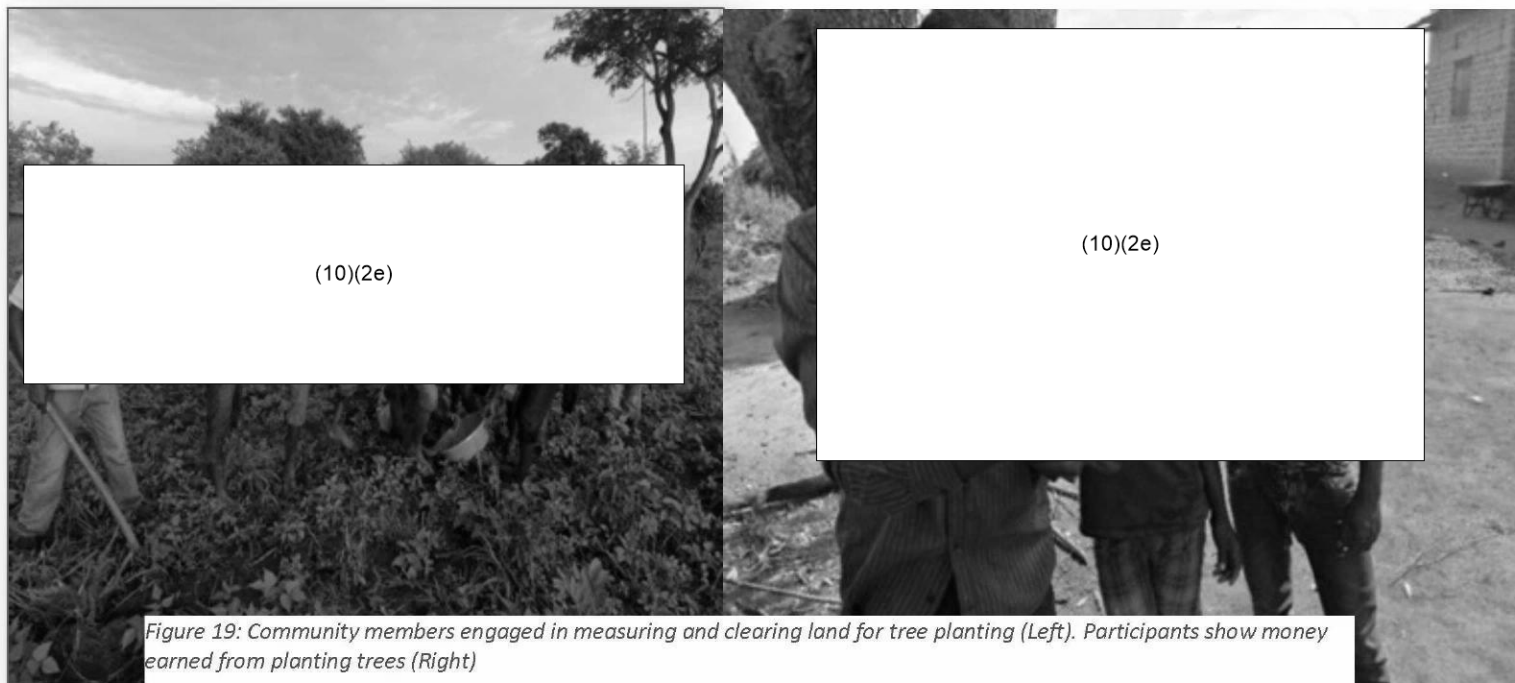


Figure 19: Community members engaged in measuring and clearing land for tree planting (Left). Participants show money earned from planting trees (Right)

Tree planting

Seedlings were purchased from local suppliers in the respective districts following process of procurement, quality checks were done to sort out poor quality seedlings, and planting was done in collaboration with community members including refugees. Planting took place throughout favorable sessions of the year with frequent monitoring visit to determine the survival of the trees, and where need arose, support local 'irrigation', weeding and later gap-filling to replace seedlings that did not survive the first round of planting.

Community dialogues

With a history of conflicts over resources between refugees and host community, impacts of climate change in the community, community dialogues were meant to discuss rationale of intervention, forge practical solutions to the challenges experienced, as well as buy-in of the approach of intervention. Also, at the request of the community of Palaro Sub County in Gulu District, one dialogue was held in Gulu to address issues of environmental degradation as a result of charcoal production that was sky rocketing at the Sub-county level.

The only settlement in Adjumani district (out of 18 settlements) with a bit of wood security is Maaji, and it only takes between 6-8 months for refugees to exhaust the firewood in their settlement. In some settlements like Nyumanzi, refugees have no access to grass and wood and

the hosts are selling these materials to them. Environment is a development issue and we should lobby for change.

Environmental issues have 3 elements which are; the social aspect that impacts on people, the economic aspect, and the ecosystems – all three are inter-linked. Some of the impacts of environmental degradation are; some species of flora are disappearing; boreholes are not yielding and so on.



Objectives of Community Dialogues

The dialogues were held to;

- Discuss environmental issues affecting refugees and host community which bring about conflicts between the two community.
- Explore tree planting management by bringing together different relevant stakeholders
- Sensitize communities on the dangers of environmental degradation and specifically the need to address mass tree cutting and charcoal production
- Achieve a buy-in with partner institutions and community leader on tree growing and other climate changed activities
- Deliberate with leaders of institutions and the community about their responsibilities with regard to tree growing and tree management
- Discuss environmental management challenges that potentially affect tree planting and tree growing projects.
- Explore the roles of district leaders on climate change and specifically tree management

Representation of Tree Planting in the Three District

During intervention in the 3 districts of operation, 240 acres of land in the 3 field sites and 85,563 seedlings were to be planted. The survival rate has been between 66-70% (varying per location – from which gap filling was then done). Specifically, the following were accomplished;

- 27 meetings were conducted with the district and community to disseminate information about the project and land acquisitions. In this meeting the district suggested planting the

trees in established institutions for proper management purposes and we were advised to reach out to the different institutions for land use agreements.

- 240 acres of land were agreed with 20 institutions including schools, churches, prisons, and district headquarters
- Land assessment was done in all the institutions to validate the credibility of the land on account that some of this land may have issues, later it was determining that the land was okay with no conflicts linked to it.
- Stumps were removed from some gardens by community members before ploughing by tractor and in some cases oxen.
- 85,563 assorted trees were planted, some of these trees included, Teak (White and Black), Aborea, Mahogany, Neem, Pines, Jack Fruits, Mangoes, Oranges, Lemons, and Guava among others.
- Alongside suppliers, 398 community members directly supported stump removal and tree planting of which 45 were refugees, particularly in the activity of tree planting within the area of the partnered institutions
- 43 representatives of International Organisations (UNHCR and its implementation partners), District Leaders (District Chairpersons and Resident District Commissioners), District Technical Team (District Forest Officer, and District Environment Officer), Refugee and Community leaders were involved during the activity, OPM, UNHCR, partner organizations, refugee leaderships and Sub County leadership.

Pictorials



Figure 21: Teachers from Mungula SS during a dialogue in Adjumani



Figure 22: Community members in dialogue session at OPM's Office in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement