

CASE STUDY

June 2022

UNITING THROUGH THE POWER OF FOOTBALL IN UGANDA

PROJECT INFORMATION

Locations

— 3

Kampala, Rhino Camp (Arua), and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement (Kamwenge)

Implementation Period

— 12 months

May 2021 – April 2022

Trainers

— 3

YABC trainers from Armenian Red Cross, French Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent Society coached online on YABC & F4D sessions, tools & methodology

Facilitators

— 32

completed the YABC & F4D in-person Training of Facilitators

Participants

— 264

youth aged between 18 to 30 years old, in particular, youth in refugee camps, informal settlements and host communities at risk of violence and exclusion, completed the YABC & F4D Hybrid Curriculum

Micro-Projects

— 19

youth-led & community-based Micro-Projects successfully implemented

People Reached

— 2,690

community members served and reached through the Micro-Projects

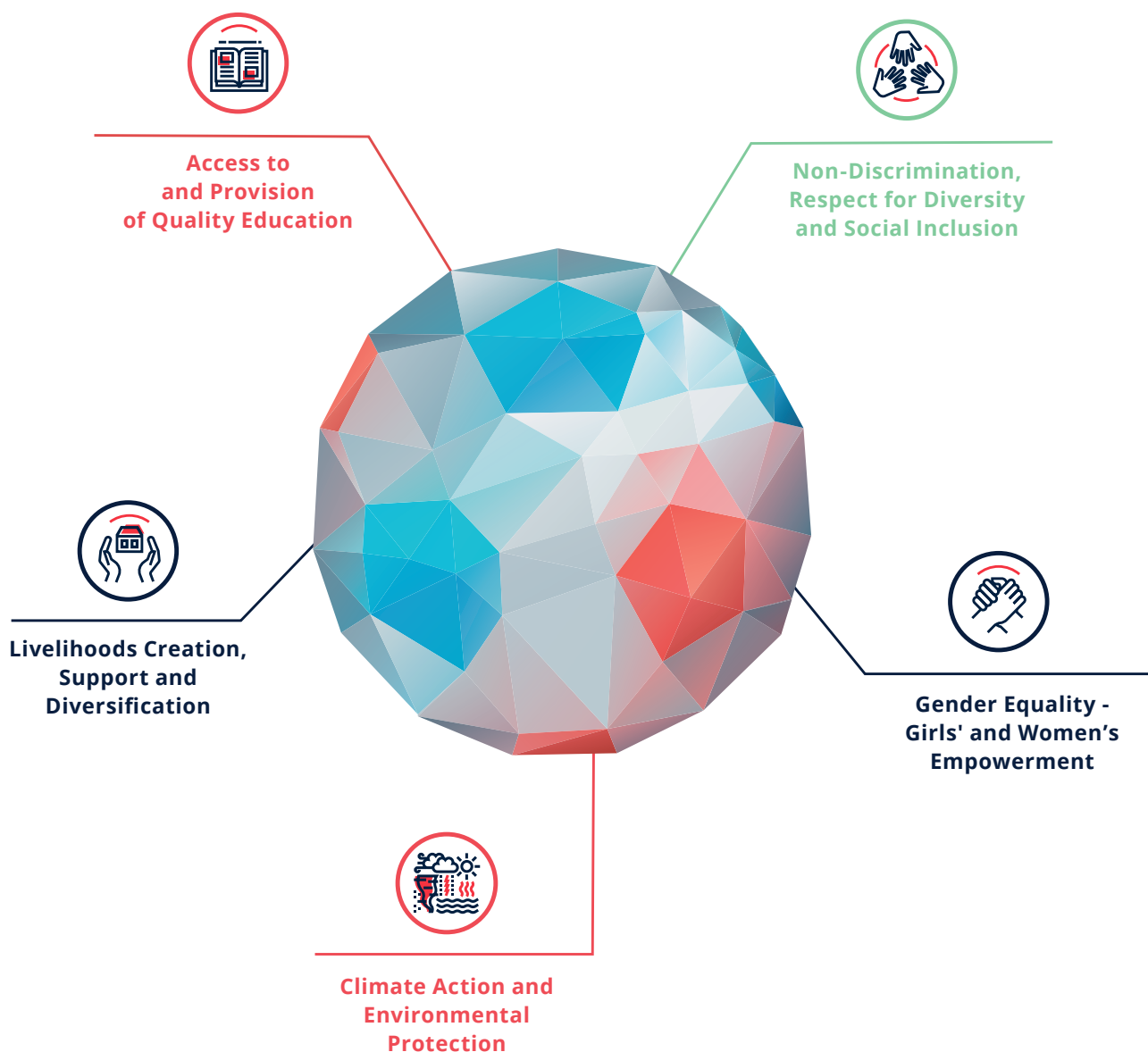


UGANDA



The *Uniting Through the Power of Football* project in Uganda strongly focused on bringing together young refugees who fled their countries and vulnerable youth from the host communities. It created a space to promote intercultural dialogue, understanding and acceptance, as well as to build confidence, open new perspectives and concrete opportunities for youth who had lost everything and could now regain hope of a better future.

Micro-Projects Thematic Areas



Country Overview

General Context

Uganda is the second-most populated landlocked country in the world, with a population of over 41 million people. The country hosts the **highest number of refugees in Africa**, an estimated 1.4 million additional people, with the majority fleeing from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Burundi and Eritrea. 60% of this refugee population are young people under the age of 18 years old.¹ Their **vulnerability is strongly intersectional** and particularly evident for girls and young women and members of ethnic or religious minorities. Gender disparities and high rates of **sexual and gender-based violence** especially among female sex workers is considered to be a national concern.² Decades of regional instability due to political tensions in neighboring countries have resulted in **strained social services in refugee-hosting districts** and increased socio-economic tensions which has directly impacted youth unemployment.³

Uganda is also a **disaster-prone country** that experiences recurring floods, landslides and epidemics, which have increased in frequency and impact in recent years due to climate change.

The Covid-19 Pandemic and its Impact on the Project

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the government of Uganda enforced several preventive measures, including restricting public gatherings, restriction of cross district movement, restricting movement at night and the closure of schools and institutions of higher learning. The prolonged closure – 83 weeks of full or partial school closures – **affected more than 10 million learners, increasing social inequality**⁴. Throughout the pandemic, issues affecting youth were exacerbated with increased rates of poverty, domestic violence, family conflict, commercial sex activity and teenage pregnancy.

In addition, these restrictions resulted in halting the Hybrid Curriculum phase of the project and delays in the implementation of the Micro-Projects. Despite these challenges, all activities could successfully take place in a face-to-face modality.

1 UNHCR Uganda- Country Refugee Response Plan for 2019-2020, 2021, p.6. Link: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67314>

2 IFRC Country Plan for Uganda in 2021, 2021. Link: https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Uganda_Plan_2021.pdf

3 UNHCR Uganda Refugee Operation Participatory Assessment Report December 2021, 2021. Link: <https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/uganda-refugee-operation-participatory-assessment-2021-national-report-december-2021>

4 The Guardian Online. Uganda's pupils back to school after record 83-week Covid shutdown, Jan 2022. Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/10/ugandas-pupils-back-to-school-after-record-83-week-covid-shutdown>

Project Implementation Overview

Inception and Training of Facilitators (ToF)

The Uganda Red Cross Society built **strong collaboration with strategic, local stakeholders**, including Government representatives, non-government organisation leaders, refugee settlements' leaders and refugee leaders, in order to ensure an effective and smooth delivery of activities.

The ToF was delivered by 3 international YABC trainers from the Armenian Red Cross, French Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent Society. The trainers had received specific coaching and support from IFRC and GA on F4D, new YABC sessions developed, and on additional tools integrated related to Project Cycle Management; Protection, Gender and Inclusion; Psychosocial Support and First Aid; and Child Safeguarding policy and practices before and during deployment. The training took place in Kampala, from 25th to 31st May 2021 with 32 youth facilitators from the 3 locations of implementation participating.

The ToF succeeded in providing the facilitators with skills, competences and tools to run the Hybrid Curriculum, while also fostering their own inner transformation and resilience. As demonstrated by the sharing of one YABC & F4D facilitator:

"I experienced a lot from the training, and it was first of its kind to me. Now I have the knowledge to transform the youth within the community without fear and I do everything with a lot of confidence."



Inception Phase with the arrival of the YABC toolkits and face-to-face implementation of the Training of Facilitators in Kampala.

Source: URCS

Hybrid Curriculum Implementation



football 4
development

Following a 6 to 8-week model, the Hybrid Curriculum was implemented with 264 youth in the 3 locations. The participants were selected in a common effort by URCS and the local partners active in the refugee camps and informal settlements, with several stakeholders underlining the importance of **including female participants and members from ethnic minorities**.

Many of the participants agreed to engage in the project, initially attracted by the idea of playing football, they were later amazed by discovering the transformative effect of the integrated Hybrid Curriculum:

“As a facilitator and young person, I feel empowered to address challenges in my community and being a teacher by profession am integrating the skills and am ready to support schools with YABC & F4D (...). Through Football matches, there has been promotion of togetherness, teamwork, friendship, negotiation, and dialogue in cases of any misunderstanding in their communities.”

Ssemakula Vicent, Facilitator, Rhino Camp.

This experience is documented by a significant increase **(+17%) of participants believing in the possibility of peaceful coexistence among different ethnic groups and (+26%) affirming to know, respect and appreciate other groups' cultural and religious practices.**



Hybrid Curriculum implementation in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in Arua District and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District. Participants taking part in the YABC and F4D sessions, as well as football tournaments in 2021.

Source: URCS

Community-Based Micro-Projects

URCS organised Micro-Project ideation meetings to provide the youth teams with the project management skills and tools necessary to proceed in their work of needs-assessment, project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The main issue identified by the participants was **youth unemployment and its negative consequences**, including alcohol and drug abuse, pervasive violence and crime, school drop-outs, sexual exploitation and increased rates of teenage pregnancy. A final workshop was carried out to review the proposals, resulting in the finalisation of 19 youth-led Micro-Projects **focusing on vocational skills development and social enterprise start-ups**.

- **Livelihoods Creation, Support and Diversification:** the youth served by the Micro-Projects (mainly refugees, out-of-school youth, unemployed youth and sex workers) were trained and provided with the essential equipment to start working as bakers, hairdressers, artisans producing crafts, liquid and bar soap as well as eco-friendly paper bags, craft shoes and concrete bricks. Other training and material provided focused on information and communications technology (ICT) and secretarial services.
- **Gender Equality – Girls’ and Women’s Empowerment & Climate Action:** some groups focused in particular on sanitation and menstrual hygiene management, coupling educational activities with vocational training for the production of reusable sanitary pads for distribution in the settlement.



Micro-Projects implementation, which included projects focusing on livelihood creation: tailoring, hairdressing, and reusable sanitary pad making for refugee communities were among the projects implemented.

Source: URCS

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

URCS carried out multiple monitoring and support activities/visits by facilitators, branch and headquarters staff. In addition, two technical support visits were conducted by the IFRC Regional Office and one technical monitoring and documentation visit was conducted by IFRC Geneva and the Regional Office together with URCS staff. On the latest occasion, several **evaluation focus group discussions** were organised to collect the feedback and testimonies of youth participants, local stakeholders and partners, URCS facilitators and staff. URCS also put particular effort into collecting self-assessment questionnaires and creative M&E tools to document the transformative journey of those involved in the project.

Highlights of the Project

"I have not even achieved what I wanted in my life because of the war breaking out, and then I was forced to move away. But I used to be somebody who loved sports, and I wished to be a player in life (...) when Red Cross brought this project in, I realise I still have a chance of expressing my talent and being useful to the community once again."

Robert Samaya, Participant in YABC & F4D Project,
Rhino Camp (from South Sudan, in the camp since 2016)



- **Access to and Provision of Quality Education:** as agreed with the local partners, URCS paid particular attention to including youth at risk of dropping out of school or youth that had already abandoned education. These children and young adults are those particularly at risk of child labour and/or child marriage, engaging in

unhealthy coping behaviours and experiencing violence. The provision of the YABC & F4D non-formal educational activities helped bridge the gap between formal education and employment by providing essential life-skills and vocational training to improve the livelihoods opportunities for vulnerable youth.

- **Strategic Partnership and Institutionalisation of the Hybrid Curriculum:** URCS strongly focused on cooperating with strategic stakeholders including Windle International, a leading agency on education interventions in refugee settlements, local sport clubs and associations. Notably, the **collaboration with the Government of Uganda** represented by the Youth Affairs Department in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development resulted into the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the National Society for the integration of the Hybrid Curriculum in the formal education system and scaling-up the project at national level (MoU under development at the time of end of project implementation).
- **Local Collaboration:** URCS successfully engaged the United Somali Community Leadership and youth in dialogues and consultation on how the Somali girls could participate in football and YABC activities while still wearing their cultural and religious dress. Despite the conservative culture and initial barriers, they participated wholeheartedly in the project.
- **Improving Livelihood Opportunities:** one of the sensitive topics addressed through the project has been prostitution and its devastating effects on girls and young women, including early pregnancy and marriage. The provision of vocational training and start-up equipment to those particularly vulnerable groups was aimed at improving their livelihood opportunities thereby reducing the chance of becoming sex workers due to the lack of alternative sources of income.
- **Violence Prevention:** URCS is working in a refugee camp which has instances of youth suicide: Two participants disclosed that they had planned their suicide after failing to find better options to address their challenges. The project has impacted them in such a way that they see the value in themselves and the difference they can make and are now not intending to do this. They feel there is the chance to live again.



VOICES FROM THE PITCH

“ My name is Tinah. I’m a refugee from Rhino Camp for Resettlement. I am originally from Kenya. When you get to these camps there are just a lot of times when we have not much to do and it is difficult to find a purpose, to grow my knowledge. So, when I was chosen to be part of the YABC Project I was excited about the things I was going to learn to do. I wanted the skills to make something for myself.

At first, I was very surprised about how much we learned and did, because I originally thought it was only about football. But I soon realised how the project impacted other areas.

For us in the camp, the Project made a big difference because we learned how to communicate with each other and how to cooperate with other tribes. It also gave us girls the opportunity to show and improve our skills, and we now play with the boys and we are as good as them. So, this made a big difference.

For me personally, I learned how to express myself, I have grown in confidence. I used not to be confident, I used not to talk. But since I joined the YABC project, I’m confident and I feel I can do whatever I want. Even in school, I’m the head girl of our school because of my confidence.

For our community, we made a tailoring project that we hope will lead to us teaching other youths to do the same. Our goal is to one day become trainers ourselves to teach others to help themselves. ”



Tinah Nalisa, YABC & F4D participant from Kenya living in Rhino Camp.

Source: URCS



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.



The Generation Amazing Foundation (GA) is a human and social legacy focused organisation that launched in 2010 during Qatar's successful bid for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™. GA operates its sport for development programmes in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Qatar's National Vision 2030, to promote sustainability, inclusion, and gender equality. GA's unique methodology utilises the power of football to impart crucial life skills including communication, leadership, teamwork and compassion to youth and communities in need across the globe. Since its launch, GA, in collaboration with key partners, has reached and positively impacted over 1 million lives in 35 countries and counting.