

**Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund**  
**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025**  
 (Regular Funding Cycle)

<b>Country</b> Uganda	<b>Submitted by PUNO(s) UN Women or NUNO(s)<sup>1</sup></b> Name of Entity: UN Women Name of Representative: Paulina Chiwangu
<b>MPTF Project Number (s)</b> 00125449 00131748 (LHUB)	<b>Reporting Period</b> January 1 - December 31, 2025
<b>Track</b> <i>Select all that apply</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Funding Track <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Funding Track	
<b>WPHF Outcomes<sup>2</sup> to which report contributes for reporting period</b> <i>Select all that apply</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 1: Enabling Environment for WPS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 2: Conflict prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 4: Conflict Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 5: Protection of Women & Girls <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and Recovery
<b>Programme Start Date</b> April 2024	<b>Total Approved Budget (USD)</b> USD 2,062,513
<b>Programme End Date</b> May 2026	<b>Amount Transferred to CSOs (USD)</b> USD 1,604,977 (total for programme period)

<sup>1</sup> Non-UN Organization. Applicable to Rapid Response Window for Peace Processes

<sup>2</sup> As per WPHF results framework nested model, WPHF outcome areas are equivalent to the impact level for grantees

## Executive Summary

During the reporting period, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Uganda continued to strengthen women's leadership in conflict prevention and enhance the protection of women and girls in high-risk and crisis-affected settings. Following a Call for Proposals in August 2023, the National Steering Committee (NSC) selected 12 grantees to implement projects commencing in 2024 focusing on advancing women's participation in peacebuilding and improving access to protection services for women and girls. Four grants concluded in 2025, while eight remain active until 2026. The NSC convened in July and November 2025 to review progress and provide technical and strategic advisory to the Managing Entity and the grantees. NSC members provided real-time feedback to six grantees who presented their work, and the meetings provided an opportunity to discuss WPHF strategic priorities and plans for beyond the current funding round.

WPHF funding contributed significantly to Uganda's efforts under the Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP III) (2021-2030) and aligned closely with national humanitarian and local governance priorities. The portfolio has strengthened women's meaningful engagement in early-warning mechanisms, electoral peacebuilding, land governance, and community mediation, while ensuring that survivors of violence accessed multi-sectoral support. These interventions reinforced government and community-based structures working to prevent conflict, promote peaceful coexistence, and safeguard women and girls facing heightened risks of violence. WPHF grants also contribute critical resourcing towards NAP III priorities. This is important as a recent Mid-Term Review of the NAP III indicated that inadequate resourcing remains one of the main impediments to achieving its full implementation.

**Under Impact Area 2** (Conflict prevention) **988,805** conflicts on land and property, domestic and family matters, community resources, gender-based and social conflicts, and disputes between citizens and local authorities were resolved through mediation forums, and conflict-sensitive reporting among female journalists reduced tensions and social cohesion within communities ahead of the 2026 elections. This followed interventions by 9,204 (8,205F, 999M) trained peace mediators and 628 (450F, 178M) peace monitors who reinforced community alert and early-warning systems, enhanced knowledge and skills in land rights among 2,000 community members, leaders and land governance actors (1,720F, 280M), and engagement with 300 election-related community stakeholders (219F, 81M), including police and youth groups, in dialogues on conflict prevention mechanisms during elections.

**Under Impact Area 5** (Protection of women and girls), **4,561** female survivors of violence reported improved emotional wellbeing and recovery due to improved access to survivor-centred Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and legal referral services. Additionally, **823** community members (682F, 141M) are now more resilient and **682** women and girls, particularly adolescent mothers and GBV survivors, are more economically independent following integrated GBV prevention, economic empowerment and community awareness interventions.

In 2025, **591,519** individuals (377,878 F, 213,641M) directly benefited, gained strengthened skills, access to improved protection mechanisms, and access to inclusive community dialogue platforms through their participation in training, protection services, peacebuilding structures, and community-based dialogues. Moreover, WPHF broadened public awareness and support for gender-responsive peacebuilding, indirectly reaching approximately 3,277,604 people through expanded advocacy, media engagement, and radio programming.

The additional **peer-learning grants** between WONETHA and TUSITUKIREWAMU (TUWG), and between GUIDE and CEDOA, led to improved coordination, more consistent application of survivor-centered and rights-based approaches in peacebuilding and GBV/SEA prevention, and strengthened outreach to marginalized women. These results were enabled through enhanced institutional capacities, strengthened staff wellbeing, and the adoption of survivor-centered safeguarding practices across participating organizations.

Grantees are now designing and implementing more effective, compliant, and sustainable support to women and girls affected by conflict and crises following targeted capacity strengthening under the 5% capacity strengthening allocation. Interventions reinforced organizational systems and coordination while deepening CSO knowledge and practical capacity on Women, Peace and Security, humanitarian action, and resource mobilization.

**Key challenges** included persistent community mistrust in formal justice systems, persistent harmful social norms and economic vulnerability, increasing land disputes, rising electoral tensions ahead of the 2026 elections, limited availability of specialized MHPSS services, and barriers for rural women to access referral pathways. These increased the pressure on grantees to expand the reach of their interventions. Relatedly, the resourcing environment for Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) remains highly competitive and constrained, with limited domestic private sector investment in gender-focused initiatives. While WROs and CBOs increasingly benefit from capacity-building support, grants are often short-term and project-specific, creating challenges for long-term sustainability. This situation became more acute in 2025 with key development partners reducing or re-prioritizing funding. In addition, significant USD:UGX Foreign Exchange (FX) losses increased operational costs, requiring cost saving and prudent expenditure.

## 1. Project Profile for Reporting Period

Use the following table for an overview by each project/organization. For each grant (programmatic, institutional and L-HUB grants), please use a separate row. Refer to definitions in the footnotes.

Funding CFP	Lead Organization Name	Type of Organization	WPHF Outcome/ Impact Area	Project Location (State, Province or Region)	Name of Implementing Partner(s) and type of Organisation	Project Start and End Date as per Partner Agreements <sup>3</sup>	Total Approved Budget (USD)
CfP3	AFHI	Women's Rights/Led	Outcome 5	Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District	Prosperity Mission Uganda (youth-led, refugee-led)	30 April 2024-30 April 2026	200,000
CfP3	AIIJ	Women Led	Outcome 2	Wakiso and Jinja city	N/A	13 May 2024-31 August 2025	102,581
CfP3	ARD	Women's Rights	Institutional Funding	Kampala	N/A	25 April 2024-14 April 2025	30,000
CfP3	CERID	Youth Focused	Outcome 5	Koboko Municipality, Koboko District	N/A	9 May 2024-30 April 2026	200,000
CfP3 + Peer Learning Grant	GUIDE	Women's Rights/Young Women Led	Institutional Funding Peer Learning Grant	Mpigi	Centre for Development Outreaches Africa (CEDOA)-LHUB partner	9 May 2024-31 July 2025	30,000 8,000 (L-Hub)
CfP3	KOWDO	Women's Rights/Led	Outcome 2	Mbale, Tororo, Bududa	N/A	30 April 2024-30 April 2026	200,000
CfP3	MIRAC	Women's Rights	Outcome 2	Hoima City, Hoima District, and Kikuube District		9 May 2024-30 April 2026	180,000
CfP3	NUWOSO	Women's Rights/Led	Outcome 5	Agago, Lamwo and Nwoya districts	Nwoya Women Organization Development Initiative (NWODI) (woman's rights/led)	9 May 2024-14 April 2026	190,000
CfP3	PSD	Women's Rights/Led	Outcome 2	Busiro North, Busiro East and Busiro South		13 May 2024-30 April 2026	200,000
CfP3	RFPJ	Other	Outcome 2	Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kyenjojo and Kabarole districts		9 May 2024-30 April 2026	200,000
CfP3	SHED	Women's Rights/Led	Outcome 2	Kampala, Wakiso and Kayunga	KAD Initiative Uganda (women's rights organization)	9 May 2024-30 April 2026	200,000
CfP3 + Peer Learning Grant	WONETHA	Women's Rights/Led	Institutional Funding Peer Learning Grant	Wakiso	Tusitukirewamu Group Bwaise (LHUB)	9 May 2024-31 July 2025	30,000 8,000 (LHUB)

<sup>3</sup> Use the official start and end dates as per the partner agreement and/or amendment. If the project received an extension, please note this.

## 2. Beneficiaries and Reach (Consolidated)

- a) Complete the Excel spreadsheet called "WPHF Beneficiary Template 2025" for each project and submit with your report. Instructions for this working sheet are found in the template. The excel sheet tracks beneficiaries by each CSO.
- b) In the tables below, provide the consolidated number of direct beneficiaries reached for all projects during the reporting period and cumulative numbers.

Current Reporting Period (2025)					
Age Category	Women/Girls	Men/Boys	Other (LGBTQI+)	Total Direct	Indirect Beneficiaries
0-17 years	64,019	13,677		77,696	
18-29 years	41,747	25,789		67,536	
30 years +	272,112	174,175		446,287	
<b>Total</b>	<b>377,878</b>	<b>213,641</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>591,519</b>	<b>3,277,604</b>

**\*ATTACH WPHF Excel Beneficiary Template.**

Cumulative					
Age Category	Women/Girls	Men/Boys	Other (LGBTQI+)	Total Direct	Indirect Beneficiaries
0-17 years	64,019	13,677		77,696	
18-29 years	42,119	26,005		68,124	
30 years +	278,217	179,141		457,358	
<b>Total</b>	<b>384,355</b>	<b>218,823</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>603,178</b>	<b>3,335,899</b>

### 3a. Context/New Developments

During the reporting period, Uganda continued to face a complex and rapidly evolving peace, security, humanitarian, socio-economic, and political environment, which continued to affect the protection, participation, and leadership of women and girls. Uganda remains Africa's largest refugee-hosting country as of December 2025, with 1,921,017 refugees and 40,501 asylum seekers, of which 51 % identified as female, and 32% under the age of 18. The country saw a constant stream of new arrivals throughout the year amidst already strained resources. Food ration cuts, prolonged drought, limited livelihoods, and overcrowding intensified stress, anxiety, and protection concerns across both refugee and host communities. These pressures contributed to rising cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV), increased demand for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and heightened community tensions, especially affecting refugee women and adolescent girls who faced increased risks of exploitation, intimate partner violence, and transactional survival behaviours.

Refugee hosting districts such as Koboko, Arua, Lamwo, Agago, Nwoya, Wakiso, and Kawempe reported a continued rise in violence, harmful social norms, and weak community-level mechanisms for conflict prevention. Structural drivers including poverty, restrictive gender norms, social exclusion, and limited access to economic opportunities further undermined women's rights and reduced their access to justice, safety, and leadership. These challenges particularly affected women-led organizations, whose frontline work intensified in response to growing protection concerns yet remained constrained by limited resources.

Politically, Uganda's environment became more sensitive as the country moved toward the 2026 general elections. This included reported incidents of disputes, disruptions, and localized violence in some areas. These dynamics contributed to increased political competition and, in some communities, strained social cohesion and civic engagement spaces. Women political leaders and activists, journalists, as well as election monitoring reports, cited heightened pressure, online harassment, and reduced access to safe and inclusive platforms for engagement.

Grantees, many of whom are women-led grassroots organizations, faced increased workloads in GBV response, MHPSS case management, and peacebuilding engagement, while navigating funding pressures linked to currency fluctuations and humanitarian resource constraints. Coordination with district leadership, humanitarian clusters, and protection actors became more critical to ensure timely referrals, protection interventions, and resilience-building activities.

Despite these contextual shifts, WPHF programming remained a vital mechanism for advancing Uganda's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda enhancing women's safety, expanding their leadership in community peace structures, strengthening their economic resilience, and ensuring their participation in humanitarian response and decision-making spaces.

### 3b. Coordination in Humanitarian/WPS

UN Women Uganda actively participates in inter agency, coordination and district stakeholder platforms. This includes regularly attending Humanitarian Country Team (HCT-Lite) meetings, the Refugee Protection Working Group and the Inter-Agency Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, among others. In these forums, UN Women continuously highlighted and advocated for gender sensitivity within the humanitarian response, and approaches seeing Protection as a life-saving intervention.

In addition, UN Women works closely with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in coordinating and implementing Uganda's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP III WPS). 2025 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and involved a series of events showcasing Uganda's progress on WPS throughout the year. The National 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held on October 31<sup>st</sup> also saw the launch of the extension of NAP III to 2030. WPHF grantees were also involved in and highlighted as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations throughout the year, notably with PSD's Executive Director addressing stakeholders at a Knowledge Fair celebrating Women in Peacebuilding hosted by UN Women in December.

WPHF grantees such as PSD, AFHI, CERID and NUWOSO were periodically invited to provide context specific briefings to stakeholders across platforms such as Human Rights Committee in Wakiso district, Refugee Response Committees and forums on the PSEA and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). In these meetings, grantees shared evidence-based reports and lessons from the field on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), WPS, PSEA, and social norms transformational approaches. These engagements increased recognition of WPHF grantees as frontline actors and contributed to harmonized approaches to GBV case management, MHPSS standards, community engagement, and women's participation in peacebuilding initiatives.

#### 4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

##### Country Level Impact and Results:

In 2025, the WPHF portfolio significantly contributed to **Conflict Prevention**, resulting in strengthened early warning response systems and enhanced capacity of communities to identify, analyze, mitigate, mediate and refer emerging conflict risks. **988,805** community level conflicts in Wakiso, Hoima, and the Rwenzori region were resolved through mediation (*Impact Indicator 2.2b*), including cases of domestic violence, land conflicts, family negligence, and disputes around resources. Conflict prevention mechanisms and social cohesion are stronger and more gender-sensitive, and safety and wellbeing for women and girls has been enhanced as a result of **280,887 women's** meaningful participation, leadership, and protection in peacebuilding processes (*impact indicator 2.1, 2.2a*).

Under **Protection of Women and Girls**, protection and resilience outcomes have been reinforced through integrated GBV prevention, psychosocial, and referral services in Agago, Nwoya, Yumbe and Nakivale settlement. Three CSOs have greater influence and agency to work on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) (*Impact indicator 5.1*) and have **extended this influence to 132 local women's organizations, CSOs and autonomous social movements** who now jointly advocate for women's rights and are implementing interventions to prevent and respond to SGBV (*Impact indicator 5.3*), reaching over 5,600 women and girls, including refugees and persons with disabilities.

Collectively, these interventions advanced inclusive, women-led peace and security outcomes and strengthened community and institutional capacities for sustainable conflict prevention and protection.

##### CSO Impact and Results (do not include outputs):

##### PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING:

##### WPHF Impact Area 2: Conflict Prevention (6 grantees)

##### **Impact statement: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response**

Attitudes and practices towards women's participation in decision-making and conflict prevention processes in WPHF target areas have shifted significantly, resulting in stronger, more inclusive community-based peace and early warning systems. **9,832** women peace mediators are now widely recognized as credible first responders, working closely with police, sub-county authorities, and Local Council leaders to identify, analyze, and respond to emerging conflicts. Consequently, **988,805** conflict cases were identified and analyzed in Wakiso, Kayunga, Bududa, Busoga, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Tororo and Hoima Districts. 979,574 cases were resolved through mediation, arbitration, reconciliation and negotiation, with 7,850 referred for further management, and 1,381 conflicts pending conclusion. Some of the cases include domestic violence, land, environmental, and election-related disputes. Timely mediation, referral and community dialogues demonstrated clear coordinated, women-led conflict prevention systems.

*"Land disputes affect entire households. My mediation helps families reach agreements that protect livelihoods while preventing long-term community divisions. In October alone, I mediated and closed 5 land cases in my community" - Abitegeka Lucy, one of the Peace monitors with Mid-Western Region Anti-Corruption Coalition (MIRAC), WPHF grantee in Hoima District, Mid-Western Uganda*

##### African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ)

##### **Outcome 1: Skills and knowledge of female journalists and media influencers in conflict reporting, peace journalism, and conflict resolution techniques enhanced.**

Conflict-sensitive public discourse and media engagement were strengthened during the electoral period in the Busoga region, contributing to more peaceful electoral processes and enhanced social cohesion. This came as a result of publishing 52 conflict and gender-sensitive stories, 55 short videos with conflict-resolution messages on local media spaces such as Radio BABA, NBS TV Busoga, print media, and online spaces that influenced reporting standards and promoted non-violent narratives through the 52 female journalists and media influencers.

#### 4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

##### **Kolir Women Development Organization (KOWDO)**

##### **Outcome 1: Enhanced involvement of women peace monitors and other local partner organizations to identify and respond to threats and early warning signs of conflicts in Mbale, Tororo and Bududa districts**

Early warning and response capacity has increased in Mbale, Tororo and Bududa districts, with 250 peace actors (including women peace monitors and clan leaders) actively identifying conflict risks, documenting incidents, and referring cases. Local conflict-response systems have undergone measurable improvements, with 654 cases being identified by women peace monitors. Of these, 480 were resolved, 110 are still pending and 64 were referred to other dispute resolution structures. There is also increased institutional trust leading to case referrals back to women peace monitors, thereby reinforcing community-level mechanisms for timely prevention and mitigation of conflict.

##### **Mid Western Region Anti-Corruption Coalition (MIRAC)**

##### **Outcome 1: Strengthened women participation in land conflict prevention, management and resolution in Hoima City, Hoima, and Kikuube Districts in Bunyoro Sub Region**

29,824 land conflict cases were resolved and 32 referred for higher management due to enhanced capacity among 1,134 beneficiaries (1,049F, 85M) to prevent, manage, and resolve land conflicts through mediation, negotiation, and improved documentation. This was possible through efforts by the 30 trained land monitors and 80 local council leaders who are mandated to document land transactions, over 60 area land committees and 40 Women community groups (average of 25-30 members per group) who are now equipped with a translated simplified land handbook to manage land conflicts.

*"As a local leader, I can effectively draft land agreements in my village and manage land disputes because of the capacity I got from MIRAC, but before we were not documenting, no evidence and conflicts would arise"* Grace Murungi, a Local Council leader in Kikuube.

##### **Paradigm for Social Justice and Development (PSD)**

##### **Outcome 1: Transformed attitudes and practices towards women's meaningful participation in decision making processes and conflict resolution in Wakiso district**

Women in Local Peace Committees (LPCs) are increasingly recognized as trusted mediators by communities and local leaders. 39 women LPC members are actively engaged in conflict identification, mediation, referrals, and follow-up, leading mediation processes, supporting household interventions, and working closely with formal actors. Local Council leaders are now increasingly involving them in dispute resolution. Over 100 community conflicts were identified and addressed by the women, and 69 were resolved, 21 were referred and just 10 failed to reach a resolution.. Community members (both women and men) now actively seek their support on issues such as domestic violence, land, child rights and interpersonal disputes, reflecting growing trust and acceptance of women as peacebuilders. Overall, women's roles have shifted from symbolic participation to recognized leadership, contributing to reduced tensions and stronger social cohesion.

##### **Outcome 2: Strengthened women-led Community Based Early Warning and Response mechanism linked to the District**

78 conflict risks were proactively identified, analysed, and monitored by Women-led LPCs, enabling timely mediation or referral and reducing the likelihood of escalation. High-risk cases were appropriately escalated to police, Community Development Officers, and district authorities, demonstrating effective use of early warning information rather than reliance on informal resolution alone. LPC members now actively engage Local Council III (LCIII) Chairpersons and council structures, participate in formal meetings and strengthen vertical linkages between communities and district-level actors. Compared to the previous year when early warning efforts were fragmented and informal, 2025 shows a shift toward coordinated, women-led prevention systems that contribute to inclusive peace infrastructure.

##### **Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ)**

##### **Outcome 1: Enhanced multi-stakeholder timely response in the prevention of pre-2025/2026 electoral conflicts**

Community members and stakeholders increasingly identified conflict early warning signs such as rising tensions between political groups, ethnic differences, elections and leadership disputes over decisions, land ownership or inheritance, and proposed joint mitigation strategies. These included formation of common WhatsApp and other digital platforms for early warning and information sharing, community partnerships to address potential conflict drivers, and joint religious and cultural leaders' platforms for conflict mitigation and prevention. Stakeholders adopted proactive non-violent conflict-prevention practices, reflecting strengthened norms around collective responsibility and inclusive prevention of pre-electoral conflicts.

##### **Outcome 2: Increased women's capacity in pre-2025/2026 electoral conflict mapping, analysis and prevention**

Over 200 women leaders demonstrated enhanced capacity to map, analyse, and respond to electoral conflicts, while 25 women-led district coordination initiatives strengthened collective action for conflict prevention across Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyenjojo, and Kasese districts. The women leaders actively identified and addressed emerging electoral risks, including political violence, identity-based tensions, and gender-related disputes, applying mediation and referral mechanisms within their communities. These interventions enhanced information sharing, joint analysis, and coordinated responses, leading to improved conflict resolution at community and district levels and demonstrating a clear shift toward sustained, women-led leadership in electoral conflict prevention.

#### 4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

##### **SHED**

**Outcome 1: Increased conflict prevention and social cohesion among citizens in hot spot districts of Kampala, Wakiso and Kayunga through improved women participation in decision making process and responses related to electoral conflict prevention before, during and after 2026 Uganda elections.**

75 women peace monitors successfully resolved 97 election-related conflict cases, referred 57 for further action, and ensured another 40 remainder under follow-up, demonstrating enhanced capacities and effective local conflict prevention and response.

##### **WPHF Impact Area 5: Protection of Women & Girls (3 grantees)**

**Impact statement: Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls' and their human rights respected**

There is reduced exposure to violence and strengthened resilience and coping capacities among 46,000 women and girls through improved access to psychosocial support and survivor-centered GBV protection services. Livelihoods and household resilience were further improved through market-aligned vocational training and income-generating initiatives in Nakivale refugee settlement, Yumbe, Arua, Koboko and Agago district, with 3,890 women and girls earning an average income of USD32 from tailoring, welding, salon and hairdressing, boosting their household income and economic resilience, addressing this underlying risk factor for violence.

*"Preventing violence starts with listening. Through mediation, I have addressed over 25 household tensions early and connected survivors to support services before harm occurs" - Akello Peace, Peace Mediator with Northern Uganda Widows and Orphans Support Organization (NUWOSO), WPHF grantee in Agago District, Northern Uganda.*

##### **Action for Humanity Initiative (AFHI)**

**Outcome 1: Improved protection of women and girls from risk of Sexual & Gender Based Violence through influencing positive attitude and behaviour change.**

Community members are increasingly willing to report GBV incidents and update of referral services have increased, resulting in a safer and more protective community environment. These positive behaviour changes came as a result of dialogues and awareness interventions, directly reaching 301 community members (218F, 83M).

**Outcome 2: Improved self-reliance and economic wellbeing of young women and girls' refugees and host communities**

72 young refugee women and girls secured sustainable income opportunities in their selected trades, providing pathways to sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families. 13 girls secured metal fabrication contracts in Nakivale refugee settlement, 40 young mothers at Kabazana Women Friendly Space established home-based bakery enterprises, and 19 girls in salon and hairdressing initiated walk in salons at their residences in the settlement.

**Outcome 3: Strengthened local women led Community Based Organizations to influence relevant peace, security and justice processes and decision-making at district/regional and national levels**

26 Community Based Organisation (CBOs) in Nakivale refugee settlement are ably documenting GBV cases and collaborating on joint GBV response initiatives, following engagement with the project. CBOs trained in feminist principles, decision-making, management, resource mobilization, and legal documentation confirmed integrating these skills into their organizational practices, noting improved internal governance, adoption of feminist approaches in daily operations, and strengthened partnerships to expand their resource base, demonstrating enhanced institutional performance and sustainability.

##### **Community Empowerment and Rehabilitation Initiative for Development (CERID)**

**Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to violence, exploitation, and insecurity due to enhanced Safety and Security for Urban Refugee Women and Girls with Disabilities.**

253 women and girls (208 host community, 45 refugees, including 42 PWDs) in Koboko, Yumbe, and Arua City are now able to manage trauma and protection risks and have improved psychosocial wellbeing, contributing to their safety and resilience. This was achieved through improved access to safe spaces, counselling, dignity kits, and referral services under the project.

**Outcome 2: Increased participation in decision-making processes due to increased access to vocational and income-generating opportunities.**

60 women are more self-reliant and demonstrating increasing confidence, voice and influence in decision-making within their households and local communities. This comes as a result of access to vocational and income-generating opportunities such as salon, hairdressing and tailoring enabled by this project.

**Outcome 3: Enhanced capacity of local CSOs to support and advocate for urban refugee women and girls with disabilities.**

Effective collaboration among CERID and 12 CSOs in Koboko Municipality, Yumbe District, and Arua City has strengthened joint advocacy for the rights of refugee women and girls with disabilities, supported by structured networking and peer-learning platforms established under the project. 10 new cross-CSO partnerships have been established, laying a strong foundation for sustained, coordinated and inclusive programming across the target locations.

##### **Northern Uganda Widows and Orphans Support Organization (NUWOSO)**

**Outcome 1: Improved abilities and engagement of targeted 48,000 women and girls in 3 targeted districts on their human rights agency, SGBV prevention and response, access to essential specialized services and support, and sustainable economic activities for poverty eradication and economic self-reliance by April 2026.**

46,000 women and girls are now leading community-driven mobilization on poverty eradication, awareness-raising and advocacy dialogues on prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), as well as capacity-building initiatives that

#### 4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

challenge harmful gender norms and practices. This was as a result of their engagement in “MEGO Makwing” (resilient) Restorative Women Groups.

**Outcome 2: Improved abilities, engagement, responsibility, and social accountability of 90,000 civil society/local community members in 3 targeted districts to monitor and actively engage in the protection of women and girls against SGBV, influence women's rights agency, gender equality advocacy to end SGBV by April.**

There is strengthened community-level protection mechanisms, reduced acceptance of harmful norms and behaviors, and enhanced safety and rights of women and girls as a result of 35,790 CSO and community members leading sensitization, advocacy, and social accountability initiatives that engage men and boys in SGBV prevention, positive masculinity, and gender equality promotion.

**Outcome 3: Improved abilities and active involvement and engagement of targeted 2,100 relevant stakeholders and CSOs in Agago, Lamwo and Nwoya districts to influence women's rights agencies, gender equality advocacy to end SGBV, monitor and engage in the protection of women and girl's rights, and SGBV against women and girls in the societies by April 2026**

There have been positive shifts in attitudes, behaviours, and social norms among men, boys, and community leaders jointly advocating for prevention of violence against women and girls. This follows enhanced capacity and coordinated engagement of 228 key stakeholders in Agago, Lamwo, and Nwoya districts as well as local CSOs, SASA! Forum cultural and religious leaders.

#### **INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING:**

***Impact statement: Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments (3 grantees)***

Through WPHF Institutional Funding, the three supported CSOs now demonstrate stronger institutional systems, improved governance practices, and enhanced accountability, enabling greater organizational resilience, more credible advocacy, and sustained impact for marginalized women, girls, refugees, and persons with disabilities. As a result, the organizations are able to sustain operations for an average of 12 months, retain a total of 19 staff, and implement adaptive strategies that ensure continuity of operations. The organizations have also successfully mobilized new resources totaling USD 334,000 as a direct result of support provided under WPHF. This enhanced their capacity to deliver inclusive, rights based, and evidence driven programmes through the adoption of organizational policies, institutional strategies, and strengthened financial, monitoring, and resource mobilization systems.

#### ***Association of Refugees with Disability (ARD)***

**Outcome 1: Enhanced institutional capacity and human resource of ARD to advocate for rights of refugees with disability.**

ARD is now a more effective advocate for the rights and inclusion of refugees with disabilities due to strengthened institutional capacities. The acquisition of practical competencies in financial management and project information systems has improved internal accountability and programme coordination, enhancing ARD's ability to implement projects more effectively and better engage with partners and stakeholders.

**Outcome 2: Strengthened operational policies and systems and resource mobilization.**

ARD improved compliance with internal and donor requirements and enhanced transparency in programme implementation by strengthening its administrative, financial, and project management systems. This contributed to increased institutional credibility and preparedness for resource mobilization, supporting more sustainable and accountable delivery of programmes advancing the rights of refugees with disabilities.

#### ***Great Lakes Union for Inclusive Development (GUIDE)***

**Outcome 1: GUIDE is strengthened in M&E and information management systems.**

GUIDE now has more consistent documentation and evidence-based decision making due to strengthened organizational monitoring, evaluation, and information management systems, increasing their institutional compliance and reporting. They have also now moved from largely project-based reporting to more institutionalized evidence-driven management systems, an important step toward stronger accountability and stronger evidence-based programming for women and girls.

**Outcome 2: Strengthened capacities in finance management and resource mobilization.**

GUIDE successfully managed UGX 141.7 million in project resources with over 98% budget absorption, with no major financial management weaknesses identified, indicating improved financial governance. The external audit confirmed transparency and donor compliance, strengthening organizational credibility. GUIDE institutionalised resource mobilization capacity and is now proactively identifying funding opportunities, marking a shift from reactive fundraising in 2024 toward planned and diversified resource mobilization.

#### ***Women's Organisation Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA)***

**Outcome 1: Increased security and functionality of WONETHA secretariat to effectively run projects empowering female sex workers in Uganda.**

WONETHA secured approximately USD 105,000 in new funding commitments in 2025, demonstrating enhanced organizational credibility, donor confidence, and capacity to attract and manage external resources. Improved resource mobilization capacity, revised operational manuals and stronger alignment to its Strategic Plan has enabled more systematic programme management and secure, effective delivery of WPS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) programmes.

#### 4b. New Resource Mobilization and Sustainability

In total, WPHF grantees successfully mobilized USD1,675,935 in new resources beyond their WPHF grants in 2025. Some examples of successful efforts include the following:

**ARD** successfully mobilized USD 30,000 from the Disability Rights Fund and USD 60,000 from Humanity & Inclusion, demonstrating strengthened institutional capacity as a direct result of the WPHF institutional support. This additional funding significantly enhanced ARD's programmatic reach and operational effectiveness, contributing to meaningful impact in 2025.

**GUIDE** successfully mobilized additional funding in 2025, securing USD 100,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and USD 39,000 from UNESCO. This resource mobilization reflects strengthened institutional credibility and diversified funding partnerships, further enhancing GUIDE's capacity to implement and scale its programme interventions.

**KOWDO** successfully mobilized UGX 49,000,000 (USD 13,800) funding from the Danish Embassy through DefendDefenders, demonstrating strengthened institutional credibility and resource-mobilization capacity. This milestone is directly attributable to WPHF-supported capacity-building, which equipped KOWDO with the systems, skills, and governance standards required to attract, manage, and account for donor funding. The funds support critical organizational priorities, including policy and strategic plan reviews, and advanced staff training on referral pathways, gender-responsive programming and results-based monitoring.

KOWDO also strengthened the sustainability of GBV prevention and response interventions implemented by community peace monitors by adopting government-led approaches and institutionalizing project gains within government-led systems and district-level structures, ensuring alignment with national reporting frameworks and continuity of service delivery beyond the project lifecycle.

WPHF support since 2021 has played a catalytic role in strengthening **PSD's** technical capacity, programmatic track record, and strategic partnerships, enabling access to larger and longer-term grants and more sustainable programming. In 2025, PSD secured EUR 40,006 (USD 47,000) from GOPA Partners in Action for Change and Engagement (GOPA PACE) on behalf of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and GIZ for Women, Peace and Security programming in the Great Lakes region; and USD 300,000 from the Children's Rights and Violence Prevention Fund for women's and youth economic empowerment. In addition, PSD continues to serve as a sub-partner under the Coalition for Action on UNSCR 1325 (CoACT) under the UN Women flagship WPS programme. These successful efforts reflect the strengthened institutional capacity, visibility and programmatic credibility catalysed by WPHF funding.

**RFPJ** strengthened its institutional sustainability by securing a two-year grant of USD 194,468 from the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund in September 2025. This was made possible by the enhanced organizational capacity, systems, and credibility developed through WPHF-supported interventions, positioning the organization as a competitive and reliable grantee.

**WONEHTA** mobilized approximately USD 105,000 in new funding from multiple donors, including ViiV Healthcare, Urgent Action Fund-Africa, Global Fund-MARPI (Most At Risk Populations Initiative), and the Iren.M Stahaelin Foundation, to expand SRHR, HIV prevention and treatment programmes for female sex workers. This reflects the effect of WPHF-supported institutional strengthening on WONEHTA's systems and resource mobilization capacity.

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

##### WPHF Impact Area 2: Conflict Prevention

##### *African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ)*

##### **Output 1.1: 25 female journalists provided comprehensive training programs in various aspects of election reporting, research, interviewing techniques, fact-checking, and ethical considerations**

25 female journalists have enhanced capacity and leadership abilities following a three-day residential training and subsequent refreshers in Jinja City. This resulted in strengthened skills in conflict-sensitive and safety-focused election reporting, leading to measurable shifts in media framing from adversarial, conflict-escalating narratives to responsible, peace-promoting journalism during electoral periods.

##### **Output 1.2: trained journalists output stories on media platforms**

Journalists produced and published 52 impactful stories on peacebuilding and conflict prevention in their communities across radio, print media, television and online media reflecting conflict-sensitive reporting standards learnt through the project.

##### **Output 1.3: 25 Female media influencers facilitated to shoot short videos carrying messages on peace building**

There is strengthened community-level peacebuilding through women-led media advocacy as 25 female media influencers produced and disseminated 32 community-based stories of change across diverse media platforms. The broadcasts reached varied audiences with over 320,009 estimated listeners, elevating women's voices in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

##### **Output 1.4: 3 X spaces, 3 podcasts and 5 short videos with opinion leaders, female journalists and female influencers conducted and published.**

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Women are increasingly perceived as important contributors and decision makers rather than inactive players in conflict prevention efforts. This follows 5 X-space dialogues, 6 short videos and online content produced by the project showcasing opinion leaders, female journalists and female influencers. Collectively these reached 3,025 women and girls and 211 men and boys.

##### ***Kolir Women Development Organization (KOWDO)***

##### **Output 1.1: 200 women equipped with information and knowledge on human rights, leadership, conflict, and peace building**

Women peace monitors are increasingly seen as credible peace actors and there are better community responses to GBV risks, harmful norms and school dropouts following community dialogues and Barazas reaching 214 participants (119F, 95M). The Barazas took place as a result of 200 women peace monitors and 50 male clan leaders being trained in conflict analysis, resolution and referrals.

##### **Output 1.2: Cases identified and engaged by women peace actors in the community**

There is improved case management by women peace actors and strengthened collaboration with local authorities across Bududa, Mbale and Tororo. Women peace actors documented 1,142 conflict-related cases, of which 654 cases were managed through community structures (480 resolved, 95 referred) and 488 cases recorded using Ministry-approved GBV and Child Protection tools.

##### **Output 1.3: Stronger collaboration among women organizations and social justice groups in the region**

There are improved referral pathways, institutional linkages and coordinated responses to GBV, child protection and community security concerns across targeted districts, reinforcing sustainable conflict-prevention mechanisms. This is due to enhanced collaboration among women's organizations, community structures and district authorities, achieved through engagement with 10 CSOs and 3 district local governments.

##### ***Mid-Western Region Anti-Corruption Coalition (MIRAC)***

##### **Output 1.1 Local council leaders and women groups equipped with knowledge on land laws, regulation, and policies**

There is improved drafting of valid land agreements, effective mediation of land disputes, and increased recognition of women's roles across all levels of land conflict resolution following capacity strengthening among 19 land conflict monitors, 365 local council leaders, and 310 community leaders and committee members on land laws, transaction agreements, mediation, and conflict resolution pathways. Further, 1,049 women and 85 men demonstrate enhanced knowledge and skills on land rights, legal marriage, divorce, and succession, with direct beneficiaries cascading knowledge to families and communities.

##### **Output 1.2. Institutions trained to handle land related conflicts on the legal framework and women land rights.**

Community and local land governance actors have enhanced capacity to prevent and resolve land-related conflicts through improved access to land law information and strengthened knowledge of gender-responsive conflict resolution mechanisms. The distribution of 500 simplified land law books and a series of targeted trainings contributed to more inclusive, informed, and effective land dispute resolution at community level.

##### **Output 1.3. Awareness created on Negative Social cultural beliefs that affect women in land use and management**

Community members, particularly women and other key stakeholders, demonstrated increased knowledge and awareness of land-related legal frameworks and rights, including due diligence in land transactions, succession and will writing, legally recognized forms of marriage, dissolution of marriage, and gender-responsive land conflict resolution mechanisms. Radio talk shows, dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, and community sensitization meetings using forum theatre contributed to prevention and peacefully resolving land-related conflicts in target areas.

##### **Output 1.4. Quarterly monitoring and follow up sessions conducted on land conflict interventions.**

There is strengthened coordination, accountability, and effectiveness of land conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms at district and community levels as a result of two evidence-based planning engagements, six active stakeholder engagements, and eight structured monitoring and reflection processes with community and local leaders.

##### ***Paradigm for Social Justice and Peace PSD***

##### **Output 1.1: Women leaders and stakeholders are knowledgeable on conflict resolution, early warning and response**

40 women Local Peace Committee (LPC) members are now displaying confidence and leadership in acting as mediators, educators, and first responders, applying early warning and response approaches in real conflict situations. Increased referrals from local and religious leaders to LPCs indicate growing recognition of women leaders as credible actors in conflict prevention and resolution.

##### **Output 1.2: Women are supported to establish early warning mechanisms that are linked to the district reporting and response mechanisms.**

LPC members demonstrated enhanced functionality of community-based early warning and response mechanisms, evidenced by their improved capacity to detect, analyse, and respond to conflict risks in a timely and coordinated manner. Women LPC members effectively applied early warning and response strategies to address 112 conflict incidents, including 83 domestic violence cases, 14 land and environmental disputes, and 15 cases of broader community tensions, such as election-related conflicts. These interventions strengthened rapid, community-level response, improved conflict de-escalation, and reinforced linkages between community alert systems and district-level mediation, referral, and reporting structures.

##### **Output 1.3: Communities in Wakiso district have knowledge and information on conflict resolution and conflict prevention through early warning and response**

Communities across Wakiso district have stronger skills in conflict prevention and peaceful dispute resolution, evidenced by more people reporting conflicts early and using mediation and dialogue to resolve issues. This followed 181 mobile awareness clinics reached 3,756 people (2,787F, 938M, including 119 PWDs) on GBV, children's rights, and civic duty. 6 Know Your Role Barazas

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

engaged 420 people (227F, 93M, including 7 PWDs) on land and family conflict issues, while radio shows reached large audiences and prompted 366 call-ins (227F, 139M).

##### ***Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ)***

##### **Output 1.1: Surveys conducted to profile and take stock of existing and emerging pre-2025/2026 general electoral conflicts, impact on women and their respective potential triggers and drivers**

RFPJ's annual survey generated robust evidence on emerging identity-based, intra- and inter-party and gender-based conflicts, their underlying triggers and their disproportionate effects on women's political participation, while also highlighting women's expanding roles in peacebuilding. The findings strengthened the credibility of RFPJ's analytical work and informed actionable recommendations for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive programming ahead of the 2025/2026 elections.

##### **Output 1.2: Women-led advocacy campaigns conducted with different duty bearers to share and discuss existing and emerging pre-2025/2026 general electoral conflicts, impact on women and their respective potential triggers and drivers**

District and regional action plans for peaceful political engagement were formulated following women-led advocacy dialogues to strengthen conflict prevention mechanism. The dialogues identified key pre-electoral conflict triggers and their disproportionate impacts on women and involved 785 stakeholders (458F, 327M). Collaboration among institutional duty bearers was strengthened through two biannual Rwenzori regional dialogues, engaging 85 leaders (30 women, 55 men), supporting joint analysis and conflict-sensitive responses.

##### **Output 1.3: Women-led public awareness campaigns conducted to share and discuss with the public existing and emerging pre-2025/2026 general electoral conflicts, impact on women and their respective potential triggers and drivers**

Public understanding of electoral conflict triggers, early warning signs, and the role of women in conflict prevention were enhanced through 75 interactive radio talk shows across target districts. To reinforce these efforts, RFPJ aired 2,900 radio jingles on conflict prevention across major stations in Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kyenjojo and Kasese, reaching an estimated 301,209 listeners. These short and engaging messages increased public awareness of early warning signs and electoral conflict triggers, encouraged peaceful community responses and promoted inclusive civic participation with particular emphasis on women.

##### **Output 2.1: Trainings for women leaders in conflict mapping, analysis and reporting conducted**

Work related to this output was completed and reported on in 2024.

##### **Output 2.2: Trainings for women leaders in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) conducted**

Work related to this output was completed and reported on in 2024.

##### **Output 2.3: Women coordination meetings conducted**

Women's coordination and information-sharing structures were strengthened through three rounds of district-level coordination meetings across Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyenjojo and Kasese, engaging a total of 882 leaders (771F, 111M). Grassroots early-warning capacity was reinforced through 66 monthly meetings with 50 community reporters (40F, 10M) who monitored and relayed emerging conflict risks. At the regional level, 89 leaders (79F, 10M) agreed on coordinated strategies for conflict prevention ahead of the elections following two Rwenzori women conventions to analyse pre-electoral dynamics.

##### ***SHED***

##### **Output 1: Women CSO leaders trained as local peace monitors to actively take part in electoral conflict analysis and prevention**

387 electoral related conflicts were reported using digital tools and real-time coordination platforms, enhancing early detection and response to electoral-related tensions. This was as a result of 75 women peace monitors being equipped with knowledge in conflict analysis, mediation, advocacy, communication, public speaking, and election preparedness, and facilitated with Kobo Collect tablets to document and report community tensions in real time. Their efforts were complemented by 18 women CSO leaders who applied technical skills, peer learning, and reference tools to track peace agendas, document emerging risks, and engage in grassroots decision-making.

##### **Output 2: Relevant power holders and key stakeholders constructively engaged to address pressing needs, consensus building and better relations.**

Dialogues with the Electoral Commission successfully addressed gaps in voter verification and registration, enhanced women peace monitors' participation, knowledge of voter registration processes, and addressed gender-specific challenges, contributing to peace and security during elections. There was strengthened collaboration among 85 stakeholders (45F, 40M) for peaceful electoral participation and conflict prevention, through eight targeted dialogues and engagement activities across Kayunga and Kawempe.

##### **Output 3: Awareness campaigns (Peace education) conducted to transform mental models and social norms driving election violence.**

There was increased awareness and adoption of tolerance, non-violent conflict resolution, and inclusive participation in electoral processes, driven by targeted peacebuilding interventions. Messages promoting tolerance, highlighting women's roles in peace and security under UNSCR 1325 were disseminated through radio, TV, and posters, while local peace monitors facilitated community dialogues and engagement activities. Notably, a Peace Soccer event in Gayaza, Wakiso brought together youth from different political parties, and a peace concert in Kawempe–Kyebando Nsoba engaged over 150 community members, including 25 women.

##### **Output 4: Coordination and partnership meetings among key actors on electoral conflict prevention and women empowerment conducted at local and national levels.**

Communities and local authorities demonstrated strengthened collaboration and enhanced capacity for electoral conflict prevention, as women peace monitors engaged actively with Local Council chairpersons, security personnel, and women councillors to improve coordination and effectiveness. Five district consultative meetings were attended by 480 key actors (252M, 228F) including district officials, election officers, police, civil society, religious and cultural leaders. Women's engagement groups were

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

also mobilized to align efforts and expand opportunities for women's participation in preventing conflicts before, during, and after the 2026 elections.

**Output 5: Advocacy materials developed and/ or disseminated on Women's participation in electoral conflict prevention and Peace building.**

Local women peace monitors, leaders, officials and political actors better understand their roles and responsibilities, increasing their confidence to actively engage in electoral conflict prevention and support inclusive, community-led decision-making, following the distribution of 250 Peace Guide handbooks. In addition, 13,600 posters and 652 T-shirts were produced and disseminated to raise awareness of UNSCR 1325, promoting women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding and community stability.

**Output 6: Capacity of local Journalists from key media houses in peace Journalism (gender and conflict sensitive reporting) enhanced.**

45 female journalists are better able to produce media content that promotes peace and constructive public discourse following targeted training in conflict-sensitive reporting. Following the 3 trainings and refresher sessions, participants from major media houses, including Top TV, UBC, Spark TV, and Sanyu FM, NTV, NBS actively leveraged their platforms and social media channels to drive peace-focused conversations and stories,

**WPHF Impact Area 5: Protection of Women & Girls**

***Action for Humanitarian Initiative (AFHI)***

**Output 1.1: Improved awareness of women, men, boys and girls on GBV prevention and response Mechanisms.**

There is increased awareness of 5,690 beneficiaries (2,995F, 2,695M) on GBV prevention following awareness raising in target areas of Nakivale settlement. This was achieved through drama groups demonstrating the causes and impacts of drug abuse, and experience sharing by the local structures like the Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs), case workers and the Village Health Teams (VHTs).

**Output 1.2. Project introduced officially to Isingiro and Nakivale settlement partners for buy in.**

Work related to this output was completed and reported on in 2024.

**Output 1.3 Improved access to comprehensive mental health and psycho-social (MHPSS) support services**

Access to quality GBV and mental health support services was strengthened through community-based outreach and counselling. 87 GBV cases were supported through home visits, where case workers and counsellors provided counselling and referrals for specialised services, improving timely access to protection and survivor-centered care. In addition, 322 individuals (210F, 112M) received mental health and psychosocial support through group and individual counselling, addressing trauma, stress, anxiety, and depression among young women and girls.

**Output 2.1 Young women and girls 'refugees and host communities received economic opportunities.**

Economic self-reliance and livelihoods of vulnerable women were strengthened through targeted skills development and asset support. Ten young mothers at the Kabazana Women-Friendly Space acquired practical skills in bakery and confectionery, with several already applying these skills at household and community level by producing items such as chapati, chips, and mandazi, generating income and contributing to improved living standards.

**Output 3.1 Local women led Community Based Organizations acquired knowledge to influence relevant GBV programming processes and decision making at district/regional and national levels.**

Some of the CBOs that were trained in the feminist principles, management skills, decision making, resource mobilization and documentation skills for legal registration have started using the knowledge within their institutions. They reported that application of the knowledge has helped them to change the way they do things; they have started integrating feminist principles into their day-to-day work and are collaborating with other agencies in a bid to expand their resource envelope.

***Community Empowerment Rehabilitation Initiative Development (CERID)***

**Output 1.1 Conduct project inception/entry meeting with community leaders and key stakeholders.**

Work related to this output was completed and reported on in 2024.

**Output 1.2 Establish friendly safe spaces that provide a secure environment for urban refugee women and girls survivors of SGBV.**

Access to protection, psychosocial support, and empowerment services for women and girls was strengthened through establishment of three safe spaces in Koboko Municipality, Yumbe District, and Arua City, which provided a secure and supportive environments for 169 survivors to access critical services. 210 survivors could make informed decisions about their lives following integrated services offered at psychosocial support safe spaces, including information on women's rights, health, sexual harassment, and GBV case management.

**Output 1.3 Conduct awareness campaigns on rights and protection measures against SGBV and VAWG.**

862 community members (744F, 118M), have increased knowledge and understanding of SGBV, promoting protective behaviours, and reinforcing community responsibility to uphold the rights, safety, and well-being of women and girls. This followed the implementation of eight community awareness campaigns in Yumbe District, Koboko Municipality, and Arua City.

**Output 1.4 Facilitate community dialogues on safety and security issues in particular SGBV and VAWG.**

311 community members (200F, 90M) are more aware of community engagement and response to SGBV and violence against women and girls (VAWG). This followed three community dialogue meetings that promoted help-seeking behaviour, encouraged collective action, and reduced stigma associated with SGBV and VAWG.

**Output 1.5 Offer psychosocial support and resources/materials to urban refugee women and girl's survivors of SGBV and host community members**

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

90 survivors of SGBV have stronger emotional resilience, coping skills, mental well-being, and access to services following establishment of three peer support networks (each with 30 members). 257 survivors (208 host community, 45 refugees, 42 persons with disabilities) received counselling and psychosocial support, including provision of dignity kits, referrals to specialized services, and follow-up care.

**Output 2.1 Offer vocational training and income-generating opportunities to urban refugee women and girl's survivors of SGBV and host community members**

90 women and girls have enhanced employability, income-earning potential, and financial independence through acquiring practical skills, vocational training and income-generating opportunities in tailoring and garment cutting, salon and hairdressing. Obtaining such skill have supported recovery, social inclusion and resilience among the SGBV survivors, providing them with pathways to sustainable livelihoods and contributing to trauma recovery and community integration.

**Output 2.2 Conduct leadership and advocacy training for urban refugee women and girl and host community members.**

60 women and girls (22 from Arua, 18 from Yumbe, and 20 from Koboko) are now more able to influence community dialogue, engage duty bearers, and contribute to inclusive community development initiatives. This follows targeted leadership and advocacy trainings, helping to enhance their voice and agency within their communities.

**Output 2.3 Facilitate radio talk shows for urban refugee women and girls and host community members to voice their concerns**

There is increased public awareness and stakeholder engagement on GBV prevention and response following targeted radio programming in Arua City and Koboko Municipality. 19 radio talk shows were conducted during radio prime time engaging seven key stakeholders panellists, including representatives of persons with disabilities (PLWD), urban refugees, service providers, and CERID staff. These raised community awareness on GBV, available survivor services, and referral pathways, and promoted inclusive dialogue and safe spaces for women and girls to share GBV-related concerns.

**Output 3.1 Conduct capacity-building workshops for local CSOs on gender-responsive approaches and disability inclusion.**

66 CSO representatives (43F, 20M) are better able to deliver gender-responsive and disability-inclusive programming following six capacity-building workshops across Koboko Municipality, Yumbe District, and Arua City. These enhanced participants' knowledge and practical skills to integrate inclusive approaches into programs and services targeting marginalised communities. The workshops also facilitated peer learning and networking, enabling CSO staff to share experiences, strengthen collaboration, and explore partnerships for future initiatives, thereby improving the quality, reach, and inclusiveness of community-based interventions.

**Output 3.2 Collaboration Initiatives/Joint monitoring and project review meetings**

Joint monitoring has enhanced real-time tracking of project implementation and promoted coordinated action, strengthening project oversight, accountability, and stakeholder coordination. This came as a result of four joint monitoring and review exercises engaging 43 stakeholders (1 refugee, 42 host community; 29F, 14M) including local government officials, civil society staff, media representatives, and CERID personnel. Additionally, two project review meetings with 37 stakeholders (21F, 16M), fostered reflection on progress, performance, and lessons learned.

***Northern Uganda Widows and Orphans Support Organization (NUWOSO)***

**Output 1.1: 68 community-based Paralegals specialists trained on women and girls' rights and SGBV response, including SRHR agency, social, economic, cultural, and religious rights, mediation and reconciliation, legal counseling, representation, and referral**

73 community-based paralegal specialists in Agago, Lamwo and Nwoya district are effectively handling women and girls' rights and SGBV issues. This includes addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) agency, social, economic, cultural and religious rights, mediation and reconciliation, legal counselling, representation and referrals. The paralegals work with community members, local leaders and stakeholders in influencing issues of women's rights and developing SGBV responses, contributing to reduced VAWG in the communities.

**Output 1.2: 18 community-based gender equality and women and girls' rights agency, and end SGBV advocacy groups establishment and support**

18 community-based gender equality advocacy groups are now instrumental in championing community mobilization and advocacy engagement on women and girls' protection, organizing community dialogues and meetings to create awareness of the danger of SGBV, and working to end VAWG and gender discrimination in families and the community. This follows their establishment under the project in 2024.

**Output 1.3: 64 community-based home-based care services providers trained for 2 days to support victims of SGBV and their families**

68 community-based home-based care service providers are now effectively supporting survivors of SGBV in their community and families through home-based care services, including psychosocial and mental health therapy support, referral, and follow-up support. This follows training in Agago, Lamwo and Nwoya District which used participatory techniques to promote skills and knowledge for handling survivors with dignity and respect, and enhanced case management approaches.

**Output 1.4: 322 SGBV victims supported and accessed health care services, legal, medical health care, and mental health services**

191 survivors (120F, 71M) accessed integrated health, psychosocial, counselling, legal, mediation, and reconciliation services, delivered through a multi-sectoral referral and response system provided by a coordinated team of project staff, police, Community Development Officers, local leaders, district gender officers, probation officers and paralegals.

**Output 1.5: 8 dialogue meetings targeting 240 women leaders conducted to improve their ability and effective engagement in advocacy to promote and protect women and girls' rights and fight to end SGBV in the communities**

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

471 women leaders across Agago (250), Lamwo (153) and Nwoya (68) districts have strengthened capacity to mobilize peers, engage communities, influence policy implementation, and actively contribute to the prevention of SGBV, promotion of gender equality, and empowerment of women and girls in their communities. This follows 12 dialogue meetings which enhanced leaders' knowledge and skills in advocacy, GBV mediation and reconciliation, addressing harmful norms, and enforcing protective laws and policies.

**Output 1.6: 90 dialogues targeting 9000 local women and girls organized to improve their ability in their human rights agency, end GBV, case management/ reporting, access to health care and legal services, and mental health assistance**

Women and girls demonstrated increased knowledge of SGBV risks, referral and reporting pathways, and available services, leading to improved confidence to report cases, testify, seek support, and actively engage in ending violence against women and girls at family, community, and institutional levels. This follows 95 community dialogue meetings which reached 48,851 local women and girls, including 14 persons with disabilities, through inclusive and participatory approaches.

**Output 1.7: 9 radio talk shows and 4 months of spot messages (Women's Voice) on local FM radio to educate the public on women and girls' human rights, the danger of SGBV, SGBV prevention and response, hold duty bearers accountable, and access to essential services conducted**

There is improved community knowledge of GBV root causes, prevention, survivor-centered response, referral pathways and case management mechanisms, and women's and girls' rights laws/policies following radio talk shows conducted on local FM stations across Agago (Radio WangooH), Lamwo (Mighty Fire FM), and Nwoya (Voice of Nwoya FM). The radio shows reach over 82,000 listeners and enabled interactive community engagement, with a least 18 call-ins recorded to discuss the topics being covered.

**Output 1.8: International Women's Day celebration conducted to enable 1500 women to have an opportunity to advocate for their human rights and policy implementation to end SGBV**

Joint advocacy for GBV prevention and response in the target areas was strengthened through engaging in International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations. This brought together over 1,876 participants (1,088F, 788M), including community members and key stakeholders. The event provided a platform for women and girls to voice priority rights issues, including VAWG, gender discrimination, teen pregnancy, and inequalities in economic empowerment, land and property ownership through drama, songs, poetry, and speeches.

**Output 1.9: 62 community-based Village SACCO facilitators (ToTs) trained**

65 community-based Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) facilitators (27F, 37M) are now able to effectively deliver appropriate VSLA skills to group members, and support groups in their community to promote sustainable savings and economic self-reliance. This followed training covering group dynamics, conflict management, VSLA methodology, and entrepreneurship.

**Output 1.10: 75 Village SACCO groups (60% females and 40% males) of a total of 3000 members formed and trained on VSLA methodology, business/entrepreneurship skills**

Members from 75 Village Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCO)/VSLA (2,510 people in total; 2,290F, 220M)) groups are demonstrating improved capacity in savings and lending management, strengthened household-level borrowing and saving practices, and increased economic self-reliance following training on VSLA methodology and entrepreneurship/business skills. The VSLAs also established weekly dialogue platforms enabling sustained discussions on gender equality, SGBV/VAWG prevention, women's and children's rights, inclusive household economic decision-making, and equitable land and property ownership, contributing to both economic empowerment and social norm change at community level.

**Output 1.11: 75 village SACCO groups provided with kits to support their activities**

75 SACCO groups (average of 30 in each group) with 405 male and 1,845 female members now demonstrate good SACCO recording keeping and more secure resources, enhancing member motivation. This follows the provision of SACCO kits including counter books for record keeping, pens for writing and lockable metallic cash box for keeping group record books.

**Output 1.12: 30 needy SGBV victims supported through 3 months of vocational skills training and support**

28 SGBV survivors (all female) acquired market-relevant vocational and entrepreneurship skills, increased their income-generation potential, strengthening their capacity for economic self-reliance and reducing their economic vulnerability and dependency. 26 survivors pursued hairdressing while two trained in tailoring.

**Output 2.1: 68 Community-based male engagement specialists trained to champion mobilization, engagement, and advocacy on women's rights agency**

99 male engagement specialists demonstrate enhanced knowledge and skills in community mobilization and advocacy for women's and girls' rights, strengthening their capacity to champion gender equality and support community-based SGBV prevention and response. This follows refresher trainings applying participatory methodologies encouraging discussion and experience sharing.

**Output 2.2: 36 male peer clubs formed to support males' empowerment and engagement, including mentorship regarding the protection of women against SGBV**

450 members of 18 male peer clubs demonstrated increased empowerment, leadership, and mentorship capacity, strengthening their role in promoting positive masculinities, challenging harmful gender norms, and actively supporting the prevention of SGBV and gender-based discrimination at community level. This followed training in advocacy, challenging harmful gender norms, prevention and response to SGBV across Agago, Lamwo, and Nwoya Districts through structured peer discussions. This expands the network of male peer clubs to 36, as 18 clubs were previously formed in 2024.

**Output 2.3: 90 males' dialogue sessions organized targeting 9,000 males to improve their abilities regarding women and girls' human rights agency, gender equality promotion, GBV prevention and response in their families and communities**

There is improved knowledge and attitudes on women's and girls' rights, gender equality, and SGBV prevention and response at community level, with 20 Male stakeholders pledging commitment as change agents and role-models. This was as a result of 65

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

additional male dialogue sessions reaching 10,018 men and boys, building on the 25 sessions conducted in 2024, facilitated by project officers, sub-county Community Development Officers, and male engagement specialists using participatory methods.

**Output 2.4: 48 social accountability dialogues targeting 4800 civil society organizations to monitor and engage in addressing gender inequalities, stigma, and discrimination, promoting women and girls' rights to end SGBV**

Civil society members and local leaders in Agago, Lamwo and Nwoya are more vigilant and proactive, mobilizing men and boys as frontline actors, reporting SGBV cases, providing peer support, and referring survivors to health, legal, and psychosocial services, contributing to zero-tolerance norms toward VAWG and improved safety and well-being of women and girls at community level. This follows 43 civil society/community social accountability dialogues reaching 34,640 participants (29,545F, 5,095M).

**Output 3.1: 3 SASA! Forum formed and trained on women's rights protection, gender equality, and SGBV prevention and response, policy implementation, advocacy, mediation, and reconciliation**

97,620 community members (50,210F, 47,410M) have enhanced capacity to promote women and girls' rights, prevent and respond to SGBV, and challenge harmful social norms and practices, thereby contributing to improved gender equality and enhanced protection of women and girls at community level. This follows the establishment and training of 72 SASA! Forums across Lamwo, Agago, and Nwoya Districts.

**Output 3.2: 3 district-level SASA forum advocacy dialogues to influence harmful social, cultural, and religious norms and practices that fuel gender inequality and SGBV in their communities, organized**

456 community leaders and stakeholders (268M, 188F) are now more able to challenge harmful social, cultural, and religious norms, promote women's rights, and prevent SGBV. The enhanced awareness contributed to the adoption of clan by-laws promoting women in leadership and decision-making, zero tolerance to GBV, gender equality, child protection, compulsory girls' education, household poverty reduction and food security. This follows 14 district-level SASA! forum advocacy dialogues across Lamwo, Agago, and Nwoya Districts fostering more inclusive, gender-responsive, and safe communities.

**Output 3.3: 36 local women's organizations/CSOs trained on gender equality integration and implementation, influence women's rights agencies, and work to end gender equality and SGBV**

36 local CSOs, comprising 12 women-led organizations, 10 women's rights organizations, 8 youth-led organizations, and 6 children's rights organizations across the Acholi sub-region, have now adopted gender equality integration approaches in both development and humanitarian interventions, improving their capacity to promote women's rights, prevent SGBV and advance gender equality in their communities. This follows training delivered to the CSOs under the project.

**Output 3.4: 3 (district level) SGBV referral, coordination, and case management mechanisms to end SGBV established and strengthened**

82 stakeholders (48F, 34M) are now more better coordinating on GBV and child protection referrals and case management mechanisms following quarterly district-level SGBV referral and coordination meetings in Agago and Lamwo. Coordination meetings were facilitated by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and involved all members of the district leadership, both political and technical teams, ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

**Output 3.5: Quarterly district-level SGBV coordination meetings with stakeholders organized**

SGBV coordination and referral systems were strengthened across Agago, Lamwo, and Nwoya Districts, and district coordination networks are more functional with improved accountability and collaboration among policymakers, government actors, CSOs, and community leaders, leading to enhanced SGBV prevention, referral, and response systems. This follow 6 coordination meetings, reaching 216 key stakeholders (121M, 95F). The meetings involved Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), Local Council V (LCV) leaders, District Health Officers, Police Commanders, Civil Society Organizations, community and sub-county leaders, religious and cultural leaders, media, and implementing partners and focused on coordination of SGBV referral pathways, community mobilization, engaging men and boys, and effective case management.

**Output 3.6: A 24-hour emergency phone line and a vehicle to respond to emergency cases have been established**

280 cases were reported, with 85 GBV cases responded to, 32 referred and 16 pending by the end of the reporting period (with a further 147 to be managed in 2026), enabling timely lifesaving support for survivors. This was because of a 24/7 toll-free line and a vehicle made available under this project to respond to emergency cases.

**Output 3.7: Quarterly project performance M&E conducted**

Project performance and accountability to stakeholders was enhanced through adaptive management as a result of quarterly joint monitoring visits to project locations. The monitoring teams engaged with GBV survivors, beneficiaries in vocational training, SASA forum members, and MEGO Makwiny Restorative Group members to verify achievements and success/impact stories, whilst gathering community feedback, helping to identify challenges to inform corrective actions.

**Output 3.8: Quarterly project performance review/reflection meetings conducted in 3 project districts with stakeholders.**

Transparency, accountability, learning, and local ownership of the project was strengthened, contributing to the sustainability of impacts beyond WPHF-UN Women funding. This was as a result of review meetings in the three target districts, with 48 stakeholders (21F, 27M) in Agago District, 42 stakeholders (20F, 22M) in Lamwo District, and 44 stakeholders (24F, 20M) in Nwoya District. Participants included District representatives, Police, Resident District Coordinators, Local Chairpersons, religious and cultural leaders, and partners, ensuring broad representation.

**Output 3.9: 2 days training of implementing partners staff and Board member on finance and project management skills conducted**

Work related to this output was completed and reported on in 2024.

**WPHF Institutional Funding**

**Association of Refugees with Disability (ARD)**

#### 4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

**Output 1: 4 staff members trained on the on accounting and project information system software**

ARD is able to support project implementation more effectively following a two-day capacity-building training for five staff members (2F, 3M) on the usage and application of the project information management system. In addition, institutional systems and governance structures have been strengthened following a validation meeting attended by seven board members and one support person (4F, 4M) and five staff members (2F, 3M), which included training on key organizational policies and strategies.

**Output 2: Organisational policies, information Management systems for Project management and financial accounting established**

ARD has stronger governance structures, improved accountability and risk-management mechanisms, enhanced planning and reporting capacity, a well-developed resource mobilization strategy, and stronger data protection and accessibility standards, collectively contributing to more effective and compliant organizational operations. These were achieved through developing and finalizing core organizational policies and strategies, including the Safeguarding Policy, Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Strategy, Resource Mobilization Strategy, Project Information Management System, and the Data Protection and Privacy Policy together with the Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility Policy.

**Great Lakes Union for Inclusive Development (GUIDE)**

**Output 1.1: 9 GUIDE staff trained in data collection and analysis, reviews of best-practices, lessons learned, program impact assessment and innovative integrated Information Management Systems**

GUIDE's accountability and data-driven programming has substantially improved after nine GUIDE staff (7F, 2M) strengthened skills in data collection and analysis, program impact assessment, and Information Management Systems in 2025. This improved data accuracy, timeliness of reporting, and evidence-based decision-making. Trained staff applied these skills in program evaluations and documentation of best practices, strengthening proposal development and donor reporting.

**Output 1.2: GUIDE is fully equipped with supplies/materials needed to facilitate continuous effective institutional information sharing, analysis and learning**

GUIDE staff are now conducting data analysis, reporting, and presentations more effectively, supporting both internal learning and external accountability. This comes as GUIDE strengthened its institutional information management and learning capacity by equipping the organization with essential tools and systems. Five computers, one projector, and specialized Information Management software (SPSS) are now fully operational and integrated into daily work. These investments have improved data storage, analysis, and presentation, enabling more efficient information sharing and evidence-based decision-making.

**Output 2.1: 9 GUIDE staff trained in financial management**

GUIDE strengthened its financial management and accountability systems, enhancing transparency, sustainability and donor confidence, and enabling effective management of UGX 141.7m (approx. USD 39,000) with 98% budget absorption and no major audit weaknesses. Nine staff (7F, 2M) were trained in financial management and internal controls, improving budgeting, reporting accuracy, and compliance, supported by a simplified Internal Control Toolkit.

**Women's Organisation Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA)**

**Output 1: Increased resources for the organisation and efficient systems and manuals in place**

WONETHA strengthened its organizational systems through the revision and validation of core institutional manuals on human resources, financial management, resource mobilization, and strategic planning. An inclusive planning retreat with staff, board members, and sex worker representatives further refined the Strategic Plan 2022–2026, strengthening strategic clarity and institutional direction.

**Output 2: Office Security and functionality enhanced**

Work related to this output was completed and reported on in 2024.

## 5. Impact Story

### **Breaking Barriers: Refugee Girls in Nakivale Forge a New Path through Welding**



*Young women undertaking their welding lessons in Nakivale refugee settlement. (photo credit: Isabella Bwiire/ UN Women)*

*"We wanted to challenge the stereotype that welding is only for men."*

In Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Isingiro District, host to over 170,000 refugees from diverse national backgrounds, a remarkable transformation is taking place. A group of 14 determined young refugee women and girls are redefining gender roles and building a new future.

In January 2025 the women were selected via the Refugee Welfare Committee to participate in a skilling opportunity in welding and metal fabrication offered by AFHI under the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), with technical support from UN Women.

*"We've seen many girls trained in tailoring and hairdressing, but they often struggle to find work because they are so many in the market. We chose welding because it's hands-on, in demand, and it gives us real opportunities,"* said one of the young participants.

With the help of a professional fabrication company, the group embarked on an intensive 6-month training program. Despite initial fears, especially about working near electrical sparks, the girls found encouragement in each other.

*"At first I thought I could never do it,"* said another woman. *"I used to pass the welding shop and imagine getting burnt. But a friend kept pushing me to stay and just last week I earned 200,000 UGX fixing doors and windows within the settlement."*

Beyond technical skills, the training ignited a profound sense of confidence and independence. One trainee reflected, *"My husband couldn't believe I was learning welding. But now, there's peace in our home. No more fights or harsh words. He respects me more because I can also bring income to the family."*

Their vision doesn't stop at individual success. The group dreams of renting a workshop space after graduation to start their own welding business. *"We want to be role models to other young women and mothers,"* one of them explained. *"If we can do it, so can they."*

This story is more than just about skills training, it's about dignity, resilience, and economic empowerment in a challenging environment. These women are not only reshaping metal but also reshaping mindsets in Nakivale and beyond.

### **6a. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Management Entity**

The UN Women Uganda Country Office featured the WPHF NSC meeting in the 2nd quarter Newsletter 2025 <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/07/un-women-uganda-2nd-quarter-newsletter-2025>

The UN Women Uganda Country Office featured a WPHF Success Story and highlights of a joint NSC Monitoring mission in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Newsletter 2025 <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:4ab1f933-8f0a-4718-889d-1db1faaaabcd>

A story about refugee women in Nakivale refugee settlement who trained as welders under AFHI's project was published on the UN Women website <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2026/01/breaking-barriers-refugee-girls-in-nakivale-forge-a-new-path-through-welding>

The Country Office also highlighted a number of WPHF engagements on X throughout the year including the following:

### 6a. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Management Entity

- National Steering Committee members visited Wakiso to meet peace committees trained by PSD <https://x.com/unwomenuganda/status/1988612295748944315>
- Beneficiaries under PSD shared how project trainings empowered them to work with local councils to address GBV cases <https://x.com/unwomenuganda/status/1988612299444387964>
- In Madiop, Lamwo, women sharing stories how they are not just mediating conflicts but rather reshaping peace between refugees & host communities, due to NUWOSO's project <https://x.com/unwomenuganda/status/1971489882750193879>
- Peace monitors under KOWDO's project sharing their success stories in Bukalasa sub-county, Bududa district <https://x.com/unwomenuganda/status/1933055540604596544>

### 6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

#### MIRAC Women's land right mini book (Local language translation version)

MIRAC produced an [informational booklet](#) on women's land ownership and women's rights related to land in Uganda (available in hard copy). To ensure wider reach and effective cascading of information, the booklet was translated into local languages and disseminated within communities. Through this resource, women were able to more easily understand land ownership frameworks and their associated rights, strengthening their awareness and capacity to claim and protect their land rights.

#### PSD Quarterly Success Stories Bulletin

PSD compiled and disseminated success story bulletins that strengthened stakeholders' understanding and visibility of programme results, good practices, and emerging lessons. The bulletins showcased progress, promoted shared learning, and encouraged sustained engagement with programme activities. They were widely circulated to key district and national stakeholders, including Community Development Officers (CDOs), District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), District Planners, Human Rights Committees, the offices of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), District Executives, and police and prison leadership, civil society partners, and relevant government actors such as the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).

<https://paradigmforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/PSD-Success-Stories-Bulletin-Issue-No.1-of-2025-A5.pdf>  
<https://paradigmforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/PSD-Gender-Peace-and-Security-Program.pdf>

#### GUIDE Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Resource Guide

GUIDE, together with its CSO partner Centre for Development Outreaches Africa (CEDOA), under the L-Hub Peer Learning Award, developed a comprehensive 'PSEA Resource Guide' as a practical staff tool consolidating key policies, procedures, reporting pathways, and good practices into one reference document. It was disseminated digitally (email, websites/online platforms) and in print during trainings to standardize PSEA understanding and staff practice, strengthen prevention and response mechanisms, and align safeguarding approaches with international standards, including simplified visuals for ease of use.

<https://guideug.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Resource-Guide-on-Prevention-of-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Abuse.pdf>  
<https://www.cemauganda.org/documents/Resource%20Guide%20on%20Prevention%20of%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20and%20Abuse.pdf>

#### RFPJ Annual Survey Report (Final RFPJ Survey report.pdf)

RFPJ conducted the 2025 Annual Survey Report on pre-2025/2026 electoral conflicts in the Rwenzori region. The survey highlights identity-based and party-related conflict risks and GBV driven by weak dialogue, political intolerance, monetised politics, and entrenched patriarchal norms, which constrain women's political participation while also recognising women's peacebuilding roles. It found that electoral conflicts undermine women's political participation (40% citing reduced electability of women candidates and 20% citing self-censorship), while women's prevention roles were most commonly framed as peace activism (50%) and early warning (20%). The findings were used to refine RFPJ's prevention strategies, particularly around women's early warning, dialogue facilitation, and political participation, rather than for public advocacy or external circulation.

#### KOWDO Gender Attitudes & Perceptions Assessment (Community Leadership & Peacebuilding Assessment.docx)

KOWDO conducted a community assessment with 106 opinion leaders (45F, 61M; including 27 youth and 30 elders) on norms around women's leadership and decision-making in peacebuilding. Findings show 93.3% rejected justification of violence against women and 40% supported men deciding alone vs 60% supporting joint decision-making. 100% supported women's participation in leadership/peacebuilding, reinforcing the need for continued sensitization and advocacy to shift harmful norms. These insights enabled KOWDO to tailor its engagement strategies, prioritize high-resistance issues, and adapt messaging for different community groups, including elders, men, and youth, thereby strengthening the effectiveness of norm-change and prevention efforts under the project.

**7a. Capacity Strengthening Activities by UN Country Office/Management Entity For Countries that have implemented Capacity Strengthening Projects with WPHF funding**

In 2025, UN Women Uganda implemented strengthening activities to support the 12 WPHF grantee and 3 sub-partner CSOs. These initiatives aimed to strengthen organisational systems, coordination, and technical capacities to ensure effective, compliant, and gender-responsive implementation of WPHF-funded projects.

**Annual comprehensive capacity strengthening training**

The annual comprehensive capacity strengthening training for WPHF grantees and sub-grantees, held in April 2025 at the UN Women Uganda Country Office, strengthened systems and structures for the implementation and coordination of WPHF. The training covered key areas including reporting requirements, risk management, audit preparedness, project closure, data privacy, resource mobilization, and PSEA as part of the broader safeguarding framework. Through this training, partners strengthened their understanding of UN Women and WPHF policies and compliance standards, resulting in improved accountability, clearer operational procedures, and reduced fiduciary and operational risks. Inputs provided by the UN Women Regional Office further enhanced partners' foundational understanding of resource mobilization, while peer learning and experience sharing strengthened coordination and collaboration among WPHF partners.

**Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) training**

An online Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) training was conducted in August 2025 for WPHF grantees, with 22 participants across the grantee organisations. The training strengthened grantees' capacity to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment principles into WPHF-supported humanitarian programming. Participants deepened their understanding of key GIHA concepts and global frameworks, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Handbook and the Gender and Age Marker, and strengthened their ability to apply gender analysis and gender-responsive approaches across humanitarian planning, implementation, and monitoring. The training further reinforced the importance of meaningful participation of women and girls and inclusive, gender-responsive humanitarian action.

**Resource Mobilization (RM) peer learning session**

As part of the quarterly capacity strengthening support, an online resource mobilization peer learning session was conducted in December 2025. Selected grantees shared practical resource mobilization experiences, strategies, challenges, and lessons learned. Through concrete case examples, WPHF grantees strengthened their practical understanding of how to plan and pursue fundraising opportunities, align proposals with donor priorities, and support sustainability beyond the WPHF grant period. The session also provided brief guidance on project closure considerations, further supporting effective programme management.

These capacity strengthening activities directly contributed to the results framework and indicators outlined in the WPHF Capacity Building Project (Uganda). In particular, the activities supported Outcome 1: Systems and structures for the implementation and coordination of WPHF strengthened, and Outcome 2: Enhanced knowledge on current WPS and humanitarian action topics and on resource mobilization and sustainability. Through the annual comprehensive capacity strengthening training, GIHA training, and resource mobilization peer learning sessions strengthened their institutional systems, compliance with UN Women and WPHF requirements, and technical capacity to design, implement, monitor, and report on WPHF-funded projects. These interventions contributed to improved results-based management, safeguarding practices (including PSEA), and sustainability planning among partners.

**7b) Other countries' capacity strengthening initiatives that have benefited WPHF Partners**

N/A

**8. L-HUB Grants (Peer Learning, Mentorship or Joint Advocacy Actions)<sup>4</sup>**

**WONETHA**

Through joint interventions implemented by WONETHA and Tusitukirewamu (TUWG), a total of 42 staff and board members (4M, 38F women) from both organisations strengthened their technical, institutional, and psychosocial capacities across peacebuilding, GBV prevention and response, digital safety, mental health, and rights-based service delivery. Key outputs included capacity-building trainings, peer learning and exchange visits, and exposure visits, which enhanced conflict resolution skills, survivor-centred GBV case management, SRHR and HIV programming, referrals, advocacy, and community engagement. These peer learning engagements also catalysed sustained collaboration between the two organisations, including continued technical exchanges and the joint development and submission of funding proposals. Institutional governance and coordination were further reinforced through joint board sessions and staff exchanges, while cross-trainings and the establishment of Innovation Hubs strengthened digital advocacy, documentation of best practices, and organisational learning. Periodic wellness and mental health sessions additionally supported staff resilience and well-being.

**GUIDE**

<sup>4</sup> For partners that have also been engaged in the Women Have Wings Awards, please use this section to report on the main results and activities completed as aligned with the Project Document.

The peer learning partnership between GUIDE and the Centre for Development Outreaches Africa (CEDOA) strengthened their capacity to prevent and respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in refugee contexts through targeted trainings, joint assessments, and awareness campaigns. Key interventions included capacity building in PSEA using an intersectional and survivor-centred approach; development of a practical PSEA Resource Guide to standardise safeguarding and reporting practices; mental health and wellbeing training to strengthen staff resilience; and media and digital literacy training to improve ethical communication, digital advocacy, and misinformation management. The partners also conducted joint SEA risk assessments in Bidibidi, Kiryandongo, and Rwamwanja refugee settlements, engaging over 60 stakeholders, and implemented multilingual awareness campaigns to improve community knowledge and safe reporting.

The project delivered measurable results in skills, collaboration, and sustainability. Ten staff per organization were trained, with 70–80% already applying new skills in campaigns and field activities. GUIDE reported an estimated 40% reduction in staff stress levels linked to well-being practices. The partnership produced over 10 joint PSEA campaign series, strengthened survivor-centred response systems, and expanded CSO visibility and outreach. A total of 105 CSO representatives across age and gender groups were reached (57 women/girls, 43 men/boys). Collaboration continues through joint proposals and peer-learning networks, positioning both CSOs to scale integrated protection and inclusion efforts.

## 9. Risks and Mitigation

<b>Risk Area</b> (contextual, programmatic, briefly describe)	<b>Risk Level</b> 4=Very High 3=High 2=Medium 1=Low	<b>Likelihood</b> 5=Very High 4=Likely 3=Possible 2=Unlikely 1=Rare	<b>Impact</b> 5=Extreme 4=Major 3=Moderate 2=Minor 1=Insignificant	<b>Mitigation</b> Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period to address the risk
Governance (Weak accountability, transparency, and risk management of Grantees)	2	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with external partners and stakeholders to improve transparency around the feasibility of major programmes/projects; provide stronger oversight through regular monitoring of programmes and spot checks</li> </ul>
Programme partner management (Weak ability of beneficiaries to fulfil commitments in a timely and effective manner)	2	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the capacities of government and CSO partners in Results-Based Management (RBM), including program management, monitoring, and reporting, as well as operational aspects such as financial management and internal controls.</li> <li>Offer comprehensive training on new partnership procedures, guidelines, and ensuring compliance with program and financial regulations.</li> <li>Oversee the implementation of audit action plans by the respective partners.</li> </ul>
Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (violations of the principles of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by grantee staff or associates)	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk-based capacity assessment conducted for all grantees prior to onboarding</li> <li>PSEA training carried out as part of the grantee onboarding workshop and targeted training delivered for some grantees</li> <li>Action plans developed to roll out greater awareness raising</li> </ul>
Financial market instability and inflation of the economy (Volatile exchange rates, rising costs, and reduced purchasing power can affect budgeting and financial planning)	3	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leveraging existing collaboration with consultants, contractors, and vendors to negotiate competitive pricing, while ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the process</li> </ul>
Extreme weather conditions that make it difficult to operate or deliver on mandate leading (damaged roads difficult access to beneficiaries)	3	3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and conduct more monitoring activities and field trips during the dry season</li> <li>Coordinating with local networks to gather information while minimizing potential risks.</li> </ul>

## 10. Delays and Adaptations/Revisions

The transition to a new Finance Manager, coupled with some delays in activity implementation due to campaigns ahead of the 2026 elections, required mitigation measures. A field monitoring mission was conducted with the new Finance Manager to familiarize him with the grantees, their financials, and the overall WPHF project implementation process, enabling a smooth transition and onboarding process. Additionally, measures were adopted to accelerate activities across affected grantees, including weekly meetings with the grantees to identify any delays and challenges during the period, ensuring that the project remains on track.

<b>11. Lessons Learned<sup>5</sup></b>			
<b>Identify Challenge/Describe</b> <i>Challenges can be programmatic or operational affecting the country program and/or of projects.</i>	<b>What are the factors/reasons contributing to this challenge?</b>	<b>How was the challenge addressed? What was done differently, or what will be done to address the challenge?</b>	<b>Key Lesson Learned</b> <i>As a result of the challenge what did you (and partners) learn from the situation that has helped to inform the project, or improve how the project is implemented or for future interventions?</i>
A challenge arose during one project closure due to a misunderstanding of financial regulations, which resulted in ineligible expenditures, such as office rent costs incurred after the project end date. This led to subsequent delays in refund, financial clearance, and project closure.	The issue arose from a misunderstanding of UN Women financial regulations, particularly regarding expenditure eligibility beyond the project period. The grantee's limited funding base also constrained their ability to immediately refund the ineligible expenditure.	UN Women Uganda worked closely with the grantee to agree on a structured repayment plan, under which the refund will be made in instalments during 2026. UN Women Uganda continues to regularly follow up and encourage timely reimbursement to ensure full compliance and eventual project closure. To prevent recurrence, UN Women Uganda re-communicated financial regulations and expenditure eligibility requirements to other grantees and reinforced guidance on allowable costs, particularly those related to project end dates and closure procedures.	This experience highlighted the importance of early and proactive financial guidance for grantees, especially small and grassroots CSOs. As a result, UN Women has strengthened its preventive approach by providing advance guidance at least three months prior to project closure, with specific emphasis on eligible expenditures, financial compliance, and end-of-project procedures. This has improved risk mitigation, reduced misunderstandings, and strengthened grantees' capacity to manage project funds in line with UN Women regulations.

<b>12. Innovations and Best Practices<sup>6</sup></b>
<p><b>a) Innovations:</b> NUWOSO Introduced digital toll-free number for communities to anonymously report SGBV cases or tensions. This helped identify hotspots, patterns, and underlying causes of conflict. Data collected informed targeted mediation, dialogue, or resource allocation.</p> <p>Participatory theatre, storytelling, roleplay, and sports as platforms to surface community issues and collaboratively propose solutions has proven highly effective in conflict prevention. For instance, SHED organized a community sports gala that brought together members from all political parties, creating a neutral and engaging space to promote peaceful elections. Through these activities, participants not only enjoyed interactive and inclusive engagement but also internalized messages of dialogue, tolerance, and non-violence.</p> <p>Integrating livelihood support programs, Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups and vocational skills training with conflict prevention initiatives represents a pioneering approach to addressing the economic drivers of conflict. By reducing financial stress and competition over scarce resources, this innovation decreases community tensions and mitigates the risk of conflict. Successful applications by AFHI in refugee settlements, MIRAC in Hoima, KOWDO in the Eastern Region, and PSD in Wakiso demonstrate that empowering communities economically can be a transformative strategy for sustaining peace and resilience in humanitarian and post-conflict contexts.</p> <p><b>b) Best Practices:</b> Investing in strengthening the skills and systems of local actors such as district officials, community-based organizations, paralegals, and women's groups through training, mentorship, and technical support has proven effective in building sustainable local capacities for service delivery, protection, and advocacy such as on Land conflict issues in Hoima under MIRAC and, SGBV issues in Agago under NUWOSO</p> <p>Establishing partnerships with local authorities has proven very effective across several grantees who worked with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)/ Refugee-Led Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations, traditional leaders, and private sector actors to maximize reach, tap on available resources, and leverage local knowledge. For example, AFHI worked with PMU (a refugee-led</p>

<sup>5</sup> A lesson learned is a systematic reflection of challenges (or successes) that have occurred during the reporting period which has resulted in a change, adaption, or improvement as a result of the challenge, or a planned change or adaptation in the future.

<sup>6</sup> A best practice is strategy, approach, technique, or process that has proven to work well and deemed to be effective or appropriate for addressing a problem based on experience, evaluation or in comparison to other practices, and is therefore recommended as a model. It is also a practice that has been tested and validated and has potential to be replicated and there is value in sharing with others working in similar contexts, sectors, or with similar target groups.

### 12. Innovations and Best Practices<sup>6</sup>

organization), RFPJ partnered with faith-based organizations to preach the message of peace during election period, and NUWOSO worked with traditional leaders for social norm transformation change. In addition, KOWDO successfully integrated some of the peace monitors into Local Government implementation frameworks. Such multi-stakeholder engagement enhances legitimacy, sustainability, and effectiveness of interventions

Leveraging social media platforms responsibly was a successful method to promote peace and counter misinformation. For example, AIJ produced peaceful messages to shape narrative about women's participation in peace processes, using digital platforms to engage audiences, create accurate and factual content, and proactively address online hate speech and harmful narratives. This helped to ensure that digital engagement contributes positively to community cohesion and conflict prevention.

### 13. Auditing and Financial Management

N/A

### 14. Next Steps and Priority Actions

- Secure funding for the next grant cycle by showcasing proven results and leveraging strategic platforms to engage donors and key stakeholders.
- Support grantees to finalize projects with excellence, ensuring high-quality outputs, strong results documentation, and evidence of impact.
- Strengthen sustainability beyond the grant period by supporting grantees to develop and operationalize clear sustainability and transition strategies
- Close current grants efficiently and transparently, with complete documentation, visible and verifiable results, clean audits, and full compliance with accountability standards.
- Ensure recognition and visibility of achievements, highlighting grantee contributions and results to donors, partners, and government stakeholders.
- Capture and document lessons learned and success stories through structured learning briefs.

## ANNEX A: Summary of WPHF Results (by Indicator)

For each WPHF Outcome which is relevant to CSOs supported during the **reporting year**, report against the Impact Level (WPHF Outcome) Indicator. DO NOT include consolidated data, only for the 2025 year. Note for how many CSOs this is relevant (Column 2) and provide a very brief summary the results (Column 3), presenting both the numeric value and summary. If an outcome is not relevant to your country, enter N/A in both CSO and summary columns.

WPHF Indicator	Relevant for How Many CSOs (number)	Summary Result (1 short paragraph). Include the number and a short description. This is a consolidation of what is done in 4a.
<b>Institutional Funding</b>		
1.1 Average number of months organization can be sustained as a result of institutional funding	3 (ARD, GUIDE, WONETHA)	Organizations will be sustained for an average of 12 months as a result of improved organizational and management systems and Resource Mobilization capabilities. The organizations have been successful in mobilizing new resources as a direct result of support provided under WPHF.
1.2 Number/Percentage of staff retained as a result of institutional funding	3 (ARD, GUIDE, WONETHA)	Institutional funding enabled retention of 19 staff members (13F,6M), ensuring organizational continuity. ARD retained five staff(2F,3M), GUIDE 9 staff (7F, 2M) and WONETHA 5 staff (4F,1M)
1.3 Development of risk management and contingency plans or strategies for organization	3 (ARD, GUIDE, WONETHA)	<b>3 grantees developed comprehensive risk management and contingency framework, including mandatory Risk Management Matrix, covering five key organizational risks such as reduced resources, identifying potential threats, likelihood and impact.</b>
1.4 Number/Types of adaptive strategies, tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations	3 (ARD, GUIDE, WONETHA)	<b>7 adaptive strategies and tools were adopted by the three institutional strengthening grantees (ARD, GUIDE, WONETHA), including resource mobilization strategy, financial management policies and tools, risk management framework, reporting systems, staff capacity-building protocols, and PSEA procedures to ensure institutional continuity.</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Conflict Prevention</b>		
2.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in conflict prevention processes and response	5 (MIRAC, PSD, SHED, AIJJ, RFPJ)	280,887 women actively participated in decision-making processes for conflict prevention and response, strengthening community-led peacebuilding initiative in WPHF target areas.
2.2 Number/Types of conflict prevention mechanisms are gender responsive	5 (MIRAC, PSD, SHED, AIJJ, RFPJ)	Five types of gender-responsive conflict prevention mechanisms now exist, comprising women-led mediation committees, community dialogues, inclusive early warning systems, structured referral pathways linking survivors and vulnerable individuals to formal protection and justice actors, and media and non-violent civic engagement promoting inclusive decision-making.
2.2b Number of conflicts resolved, averted or referred	5 (MIRAC, PSD, SHED, AIJJ, RFPJ)	989,030 conflicts were successfully resolved. These included land and property conflicts, conflicts over access to water sources, electoral related conflicts, marital disputes, conflicts of survivors seeking justice, and conflicts over substance abuse affecting community relations, among others. 124 further cases were referred for further management at police and justice centres. Together, conflict case management promoted community peace, conflict resolution, and enhancing safety for women, girls, and vulnerable groups.
<b>Outcome 5: Protection of Women and Girls</b>		
5.1 Number/Percentage of CSOs, that report having greater influence and agency to work on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)	3 (NUWOSO, CERID, AFHI)	3 CSOs now better influence, advocate for, and implement effective prevention and response interventions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) at community and local governance levels. For example, in Nwoya District, NUWOSO influenced the passing of teenage pregnancy ordinance “keep the girls in school” campaign to reduce the level of teenage pregnancy and protect the girl child. This was tabled and passed at the Local Councils. In Arua and Isingiro, CERID and AFHI influenced and advocated for the protection of persons with disabilities through intentional enrollment to economic empowerment programmes such as welding and tailoring, reducing their vulnerability to SGBV driven by economically-induced factors.
5.2 Degree to which social accountability mechanisms are used by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end SGBV	3 (NUWOSO, CERID, AFHI)	70% of CSOs used social accountability mechanisms to monitor and address SGBV, such as public hearings, feedback platforms, monitoring committees and advocacy campaigns to enhance transparency and protection for women and girl (NUWOSO, CERID, AFHI). The limitation is with the resource envelope among Local grassroots CSOs.
5.3 Number of local women's organizations, CSOs or autonomous social movements coordinating efforts to advocate and implement interventions to protect women and girls' human rights and ending SGBV	3 (NUWOSO, CERID, AFHI)	132 local women's organizations, CSOs, and autonomous social movements are jointly advocating for women's rights and implement interventions to prevent and respond to SGBV in target areas of Agago, Nwoya, Isingiro, Koboko and Arua following interventions by WPHF grantees. Over 12,000 women and girls accessed SGBV response services such as mental health services, counseling, compensation, and access to safe spaces,