



RICE
WEST NILE
Striving for Self Reliance

Profile



© *Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile (RICE West Nile)*

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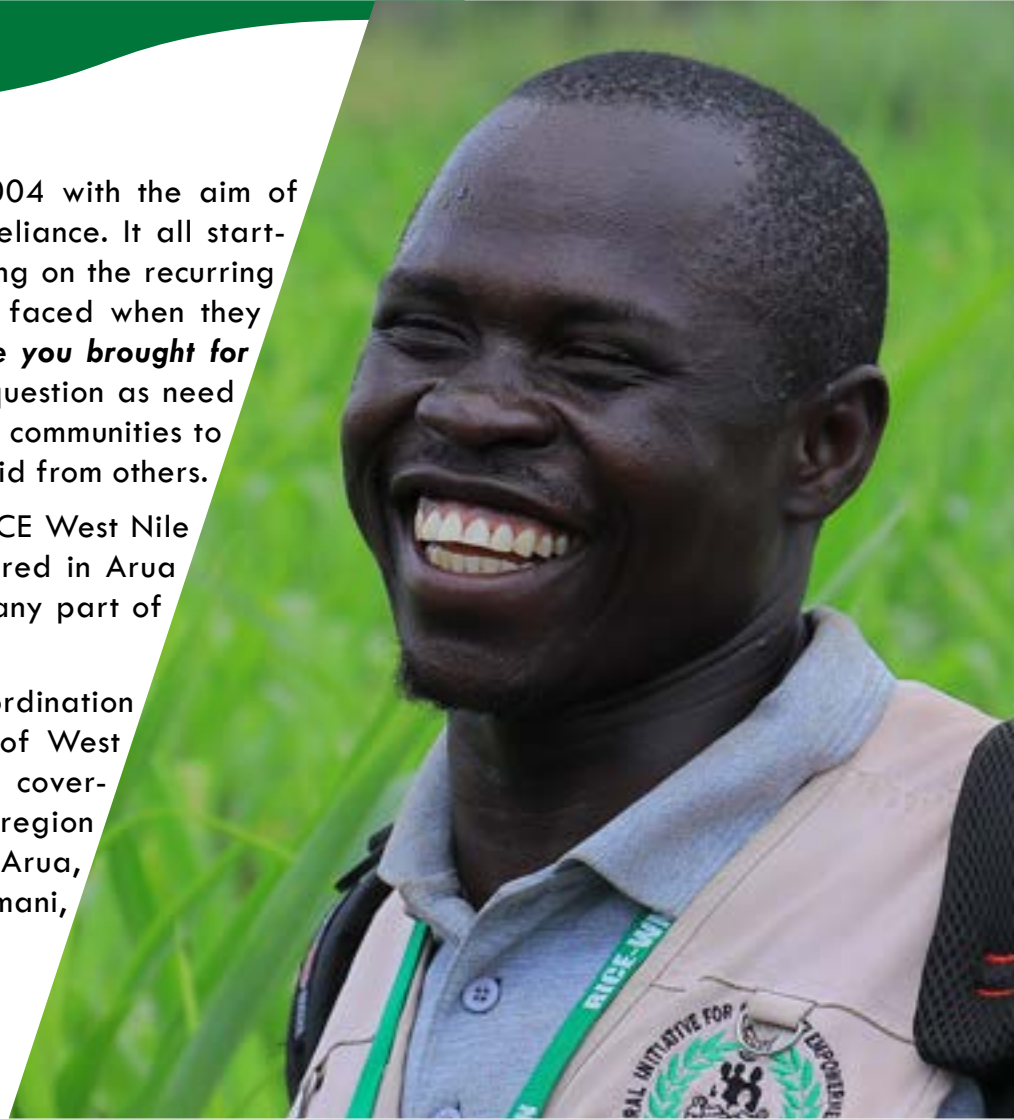


OUR STORY

RICE West Nile was founded in 2004 with the aim of empowering rural people for self-reliance. It all started by the founder members reflecting on the recurring and rampant question they always faced when they came back from school; **“What have you brought for us?”** The founders interpreted this question as need to do something that can enable the communities to be self-reliant rather than wait for aid from others.

Starting from humble beginnings, RICE West Nile is an indigenous NGO head-quartered in Arua City with a mandate to operate in any part of Uganda.

RICE West Nile has two program coordination offices in Moyo and Arua districts of West Nile sub region with interventions covering 11 districts of West Nile sub region including Pakwach, Madi-Okollo, Arua, Arua City, Terego, Koboko, Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi, Zombo and Nebbi.



Our Mission

To Kindle and facilitate a people led and sustained protection of nature and well-being of humanity.

Our Vision

A self-reliant, sustainable and holistically transformed society.

Our Core Values

1. Simplicity
2. Team Spirit
3. Equity
4. Novelty
5. Transparency and Accountability
6. Safeguarding

Our Strategic Aims

Strategic Aim 1: Protection and preservation of nature.

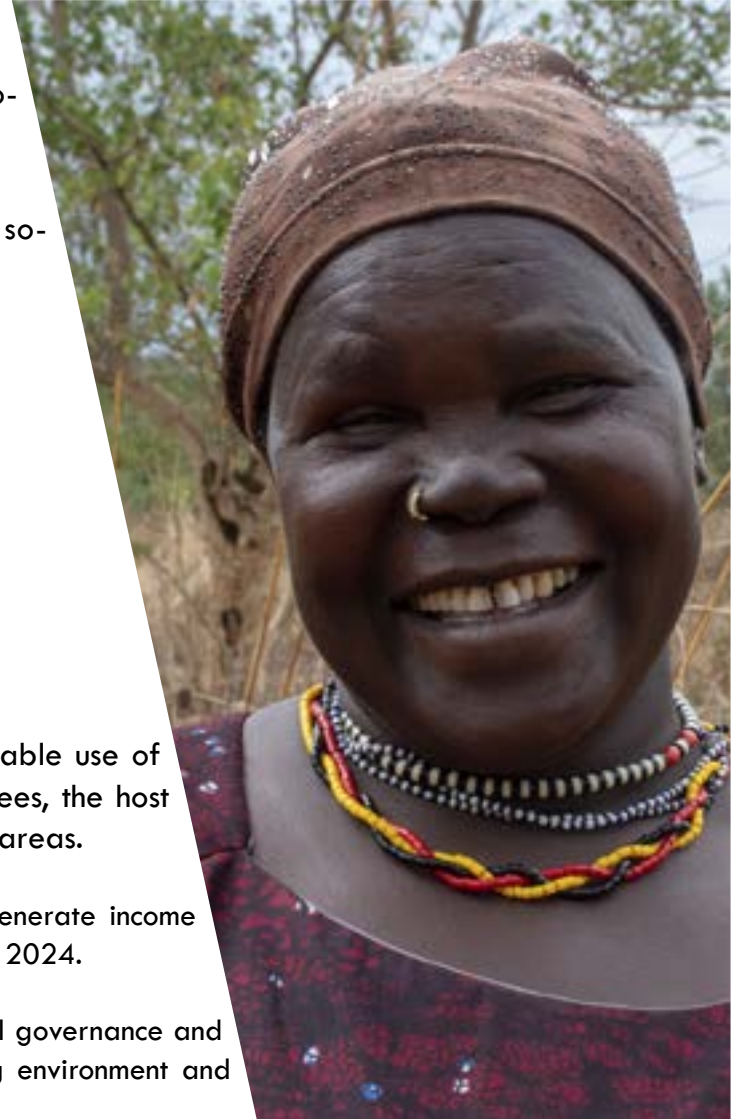
Objective: To conserve the ecosystem and promote sustainable use of natural resources among 250,000 highly vulnerable refugees, the host community and non-refugee communities in the operational areas.

Strategic Aim 2: Household resilience and wellbeing

Objective: To improve community resilience and capacity to generate income and sustainably support the wellbeing 126,000 beneficiaries by 2024.

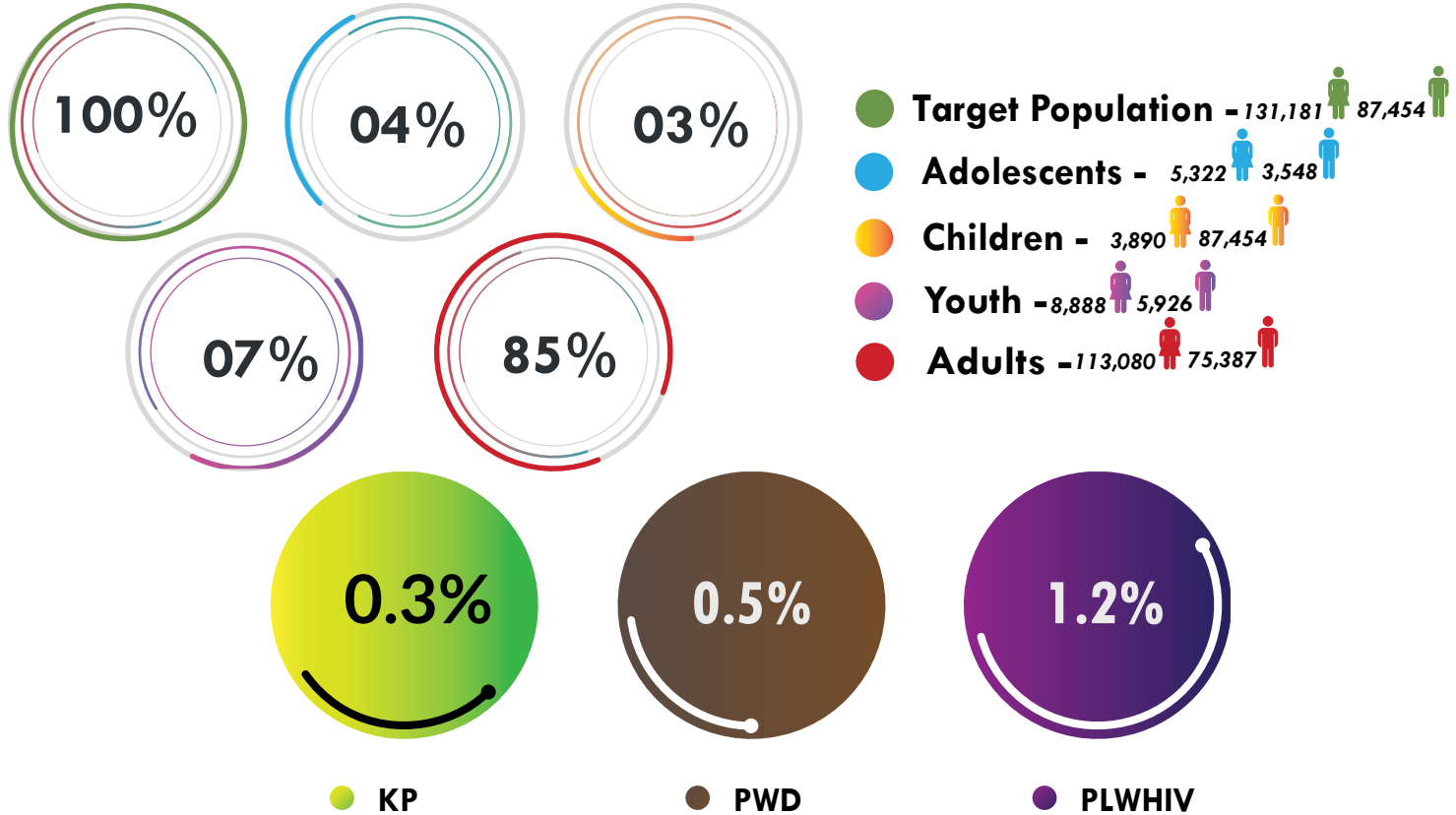
Strategic Aim 3: Leading sustainably

Objective: To demonstrate efficient and effective organizational governance and leadership through exceptional governance, a positive working environment and financial sustainability.



Our Target Population 2023

Our key beneficiaries include; vulnerable children, adolescents, youth, vulnerable adults (women and men), Persons Living With HIV (PLWHIV), Key Population (KP), Persons With Disability (PWD) in heard to reach and underserved communities in refugee and host within a refugee setting, and communities located outside refugee settings.



OUR APPROACH



RICE West Nile employs the bottom-up and holistic empowerment approach that is community led, focusing on individual behavior change amongst vulnerable communities and groups for sustainable livelihood transformation.

Some of the approaches we use include Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI), Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs), Community Managed Tree Nurseries, Community Events (cultural, sports, street talk shows, dialogues) on peaceful coexistence, Mobile Health Clinics and Gender Action Learning System (GALS) among others.

We deliver grassroots programs i.e. capacity building for grassroots structures and leaders in some of the hard to reach and underserved areas in collaboration with local

governments, other CSOs, CBOs, NGOs, religious and cultural leaders to enhance capacities at both institutional and beneficiary community levels for inclusive and effective service delivery.

We strongly believe in partnerships and networking to achieve our objectives since we contribute and complement the work of government and other development actors in realizing the set broader development agenda at national and international levels.

Our Core Program Areas



COMMUNITY HEALTH

We promote quality health care services accessible to vulnerable communities for household resilience and self-reliance.

We increase access to basic health care and family planning services through Mobile Health Clinics and Community Dialogues targeting hard to reach and underserved communities in partnership with government health facilities and other health partners.

In collaboration with the health facilities and partners, we provide a range of free health care services including family planning services, malaria testing and treatment, cervical cancer screening, HIV prevention, testing

and care services, key population, Child Day Plus (CDP) i.e. immunization, follow up of pregnant mothers among others.

We also promote Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) through increasing the access to clean water Safe water, toilets and good hygiene.



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

We support communities to manage tree nursery and woodlots increase vegetation cover and enhance their capacity to effectively utilize the natural resources around them.

We promote the use of renewable energy technologies i.e. solar home system and improved cook stoves and we also train the community members to construct improved cook stoves using local available materials so as to conserve the environment.

We also train the community on plastic waste recycling where plastic waste is turned in to paver and ventilators.

We promote good governance in oil and gas sector and sustainable land use and management for the benefit of the wider community.



A photograph of a man in a striped shirt tending to tomato plants in a field. The man is leaning over the plants, which have several yellow-green tomatoes. The background is a blurred green field. The image is partially covered by a green banner at the top right containing text.

RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD

We train community members on good agronomic practices through Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) Approach.

We work with farmer groups to develop value chains for selected enterprises aimed at moving farmers away from subsistence to commercial farming so as to address food and income insecurity.

We provide linkages to private sectors to access quality seeds and better markets for their produce.

We also promote community based learning centers (Bonga and Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) centers) for out of school adolescents and unemployed youth to learn life skills and Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

PEACE BUILDING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Since 2014 to date, RICE West Nile has been promoting peaceful coexistence among the refugees and host communities through community events such as cultural, sports, dialogues and broadcast of prerecorded peaceful radio programs on peaceful coexistence.

We also use the mixed farming group approach for social cohesion and increase land access for farming for refugee.

As a result, there has been enhanced capacity of local leaders, community peace monitors, cultural leaders, religious leaders and opinion leaders from refugee and host communities on conflict sensitive response, peace building, conflict mitigation and management.

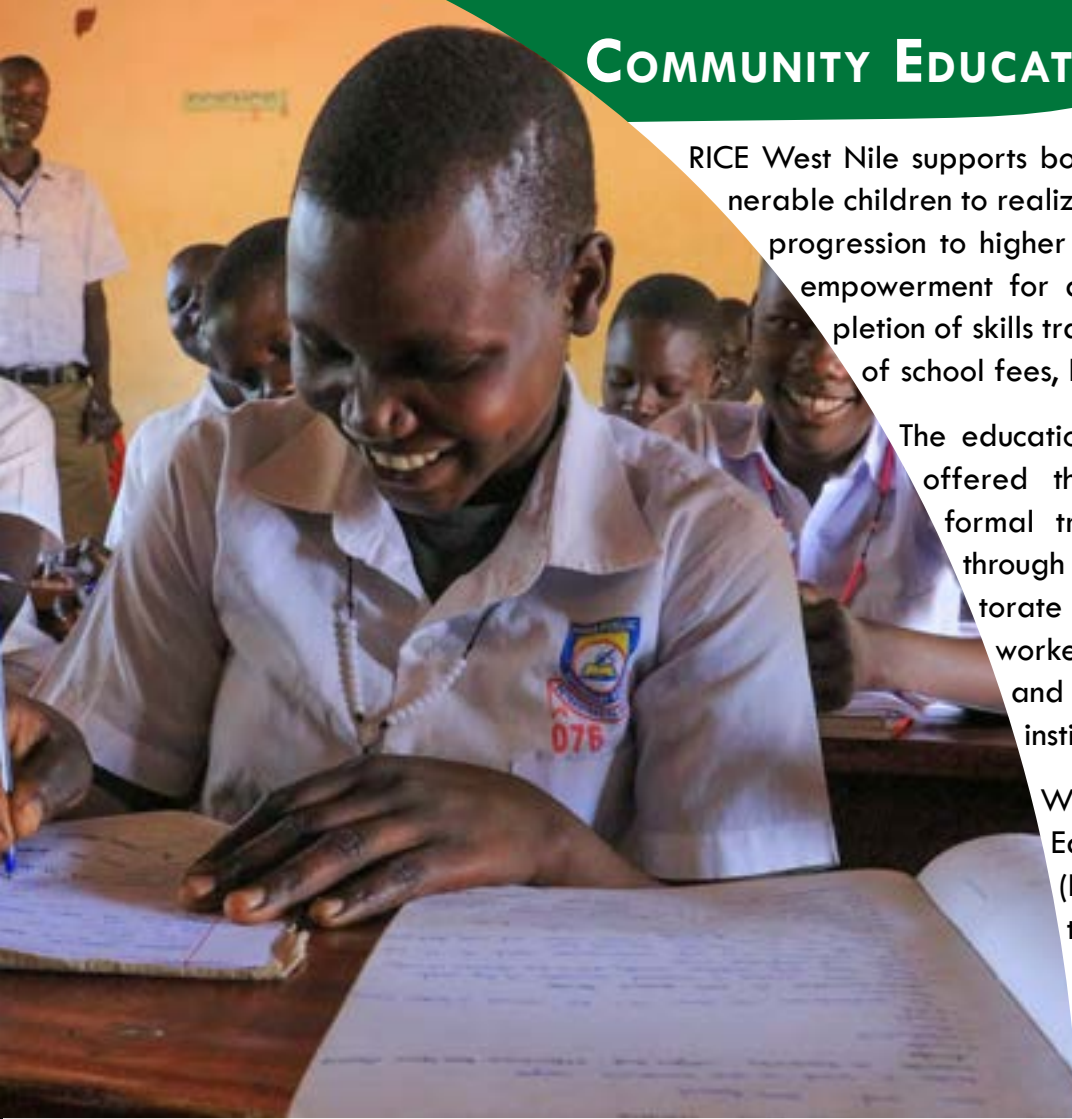


COMMUNITY EDUCATION

RICE West Nile supports both in-school and out of-school vulnerable children to realize their education dreams inform of progression to higher levels of education and economic empowerment for descent livelihoods following completion of skills training. We do this through provision of school fees, basic needs and startup kits.

The education support for the beneficiaries is offered through different ways including; formal training institutions, apprenticeship through local artisans, linkage to the Directorate of Industrial Training to obtain a workers Practically Acquired Skills (PAS) and scholarships offered by different institutions.

We also provide inclusive, quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to establish a strong foundation for lifelong learning targeting marginalized and disadvantages children aged 3-8 years from refugee and host communities.



CROSS CUTTING THEMES

1. Gender

We recognize gender relations and inequalities are fundamental cause of poverty in the hard to reach communities we work in and so, we strive to reduce these inequality as to promote equity and peace in the community.

RICE West Nile has zero tolerance for gender based violence including sexual violence, sexual exploitation/abuse and forced prostitution, domestic violence and forced/early marriage.

2. Safeguarding

At RICE West Nile, we believe all people have a right to live their lives free from Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SEAH), and that no child or adult at-risk should be subjected to abuse of any form. We recognize that there is unequal power between RICE West Nile Employees and Related Personnel and the people we partner and work with throughout our programs or projects, and also between people within our organization. We expect that our power will not be used to undermine ourselves or cause harm to others.

3. Saving for transformation

Community groups are trained in financial literacy, savings for transformation, VSLA methodology among others. The community learning centers and some groups are supported with savings kits.

4. Disability inclusion

RICE West Nile works for inclusion of people with disabilities in all activities where possible. We also link them and support services for inclusion.

AWARDS

1. Prestigious SEAL of Quality Excellence Award as Gold Winners for the best local NGO by West Nile Quality Brands Awards 2022/2023.
2. Certificate of recognition for the best partner in the financial year 2020/2021 by Itula Sub County Obongi District.
3. NGO Quality Assurance Certificate 2019 - 2024 by NGO Quality Assurance Mechanism.
4. Certificate of recognition for distinguished service in promoting Environment and Natural Resource Utilization by The United Nations Systems in Uganda 2018.
5. NGO Quality Assurance Certificate 2014 - 2019 by NGO Quality Assurance Mechanism.



OUR NETWORKS

1. Arua District NGO Network
2. Northern Albertine Sustainable Energy Network (NASEN)
3. Northern Albertine Network on Petroleum (NANEP)
4. Uganda Water Sanitation and NGO Network (UWASNET)
5. Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA)
6. Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO)
7. Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) CSO Network
8. Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability (UCCA)
9. National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD)



OUR PARTNERS

Current Partners

European Union

- Security, Protection and Economic Empowerment (SUPREME) in Uganda 2020-2024
- Equitable Access to Quality and Transformational Education for refugee- and host communities in West Nile Uganda (EQUATE) 2022-2024
- Prevention and Response to Teenage Pregnancy Through life skills, Income, and formal Education Re- entry (PRETTIER) Project 2022-2024

STROMME Foundation

- Program for Adolescents and Children's Education and Social empowerment (PACES) 2021-
- Program for Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Economic Empowerment (PEACE) funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) 2021-2023.
- Youth lead Empowerment Initiative (YEI) 2022-2025
- Reaching and Enrolling out of school children (RISING) including Refugee Boys and Girls in Schools in Uganda 2022-2025

Mennonite Central Committee

- TLC- Transforming Lives of Conflict affected children and youth in Imvepi refugee settlement and host communities 2019-2022.
- MCC COVID- Wash project in Imvepi settlement was also supported by the same donor.
- Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods (FSL) 2022-2023
- Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods (FSL) 2023-2025

The Aid Support Organization (TASO) - (Global Fund)

- Malaria Response - 2023
- Increasing Access to HIV Care and Treatment Services in Arua City 2022-2023
- Promoting Malaria Prevention and Control in Manibe Sub-County 2022-2023

AMREF Uganda

- Strengthening Community Resilience for Refugees and Host Populations (SCOREP) 2022-2023

American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

- Peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities 2019-2021.

- Promoting livelihood and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities (in Imvepi Refugee settlement) 2021-2022.
- Land Rights and Sustainable Development 2014-2017.
- Multi skilling for income and food security (MIFOS) 2022-2023.

Community Health and sustainable Environment Africa (CHASE)

- Mobile Outreach Clinic 2018-2021
- Increasing access to healthcare and family planning for West-Nile fishing communities 2021-2023.
- Improving Household Resilience for Refugee and Host Communities Around BidiBidi Refugee Settlement 2021-2022.
- Improving livelihoods and sustainable fishing in West Nile fishing communities. 2023-2025.

Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI)

- Attaining and Sustaining HIV Epidemic control in the West Nile region of Uganda through optimization of highimpact interventions to achieve UNAIDS 95:95:95 targets - 2020-2023.

AWO International

- Strengthened Resilience of Refugees and Vulnerable Families from Host Communities through enhanced food security, livelihoods and women- SRILL 2023-2025.

Past Partners

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND (Eropean Union)

- Enhancing social safety through conflict sensitive approaches among refugees and host communities during COVID 19 interventions in northern Uganda. 2021

Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR)

- Respect for Pupils Right Project 2018-2021.

Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA)

- Urban refugees support in Arua city. The project targeted refugees and ran for a period of six Months 2021.

CIVFUND

- Support to Persons with special needs with food and livelihoods to mitigate the effects of COVID 19 Pandemic 2020.

CARE International Uganda

- Stimulating Adaptive capacities of Communities (SACC) Project. 2018-2020

World Wildlife Fund Uganda (WWF Uganda)

- Clean Energy project: 2017-2020.
- Young Environmental Trainees (YET) 2012- 2014.
- Green Watch Land and Property Rights 2013.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Environment and Energy project in Rhino Camp and Imvepi Refugee settlements 2018-2019.
- Peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities 2018.

Global Fund for Children (GFC)

- Transforming the life of conflict affected girls in West Nile 2014-2020.

Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)

- Oil and Gas governance (2013-2016, 2018-2019).

Arua District Local Government

- Maintenance of Anti-Malarial Drains 2009 -2012.

Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD)

- Community governance project 2008-2010.

Uganda Program for Human and Holistic Development (UPHOLD)

- Sensitization of youth in school on HIV/AIDS, HCT, debate and dram on HIV/AIDS 2007.

Uganda Malaria Communities Partnership (UMCP)

- Prevention of Malaria in pregnant mothers and children under 5 years 2007-2009.

Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) and Uganda Health Marketing (UHMG)

- Strengthening Civil Society for Improved HIV/AIDS and OVC service delivery in Uganda (SCIPHA)I - 2011-2015.

International Alert

- Economic Empowerment of Women (EEW) in cross border trade across Uganda - DR Congo Border 2011-2013.

- Harnessing the Potential of Oil and Gas to Contribute to Peace & Development in Uganda I and II (2011- April 2014, 2016-2018).

WellShare International

- Scaling up HIV/AIDS Prevention in Arua District (SHAP) 2012-2015.

Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)

- Community Empowerment Program (School gardens) 2011-2014.
- Sustainable Sanitation and hygiene for All; 2014-2017.

USAID SAFE

- Peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities in Rhino Camp refugee settlement 2014 – 2017.

Horizont 3000

- Sustainable Agro-Enterprise Development project 2017-2019.

Family of Tilman Kiesig- a German volunteer

- Urban Youth support project in waste recycling to make paver. The project supported one youth group who are going on with their work 2018.

Walter Solbach Metallbau (WSM)

Water for Production Project - 2018-2022.



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