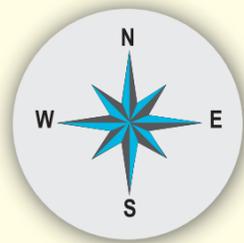




**A Pictorial Report on Nutritious
Food Security in Rwamwanja
Refugee Settlement**



Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement



KEY:

- Region boundary
- Refugee Settlement
- District



What's Inside

- Page 4** Overview of the Project
- Page 6** Food Distribution
- Page 8** Success Stories of Cash and Food Distribution
- Page 10** Backyard Gardening
- Page 15** Impact Stories of Market Strengthening
- Page 16** Village Savings & Loans Association
- Page 18** Volunteers
- Page 19** WFP (UNCDF) New Pilot Model
- Page 20** Financial Literacy Training
- Page 21** Financial Literacy Training Success Stories
- Page 22** Theatre for Development
- Page 26** Tree Planting
- Page 27** Complaint and Feedback Handling
- Page 28** Partnership Matters





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Impact Pictures

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About the Project

According to UNHCR, the refugee influx is a global crisis where over 65.6 million people around the world have been forced to move from their homes due to fear of atrocities sparking from civil/ethnic wars and other political agendas in their countries. Uganda is recipient and host to 1,334,011 refugees according to the May 2018 WFP FDP figures. The country has relatively friendly refugee policies that provide rights to the refugees, such as rights to education, work, private property, healthcare and other essential social services.

Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement is in Kamwenge District, the western part of Uganda. It is home to over 70,000 refugees (including women, children, and men) and the numbers are projected to increase as more refugees arrive through family reunions. ADRA, in partnership with the World Food Programme, has been implementing a General Food Assistance project through in-kind food distribution and cash distribution. Each refugee household member may get the following: 12kg of cereals, 2.4kg of pulses, 0.9kg of oil, 0.15kg of salt (for those receiving food) and 31000 UGX (for those receiving cash) per month.

The project objectives are:

1. To improve availability and accessibility of food by 87, 891 beneficiaries including women,

2. To increase the participation of all stakeholders and accountability in the provision and sustainability of refugees' access to food in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement

Government efforts in providing land to the refugees have been a catalyst in sustainability initiatives such as kitchen/backyard gardening as a cross-cutting activity. ADRA promoted the village savings and loans association (VSLA) approach to enable beneficiaries to expand their income resource base. Through the Sustainable Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) approach, ADRA ensured awareness-raising on nutrition, hygiene and primary health care.

While meeting humanitarian needs, ADRA is focused on exploring the promotion of self-reliance for the refugee community, for example, promoting income-generating projects. ADRA works closely with WFP, UNHCR, OPM and other partners to enable refugees to engage more actively and profitably on land cultivation and related activities. The project requires the involvement of the local government to ensure there are no tensions between refugees and the host communities.





A YOUNG MOTHER RECEIVES FOOD AT ONE OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS AT RWAMWANJA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

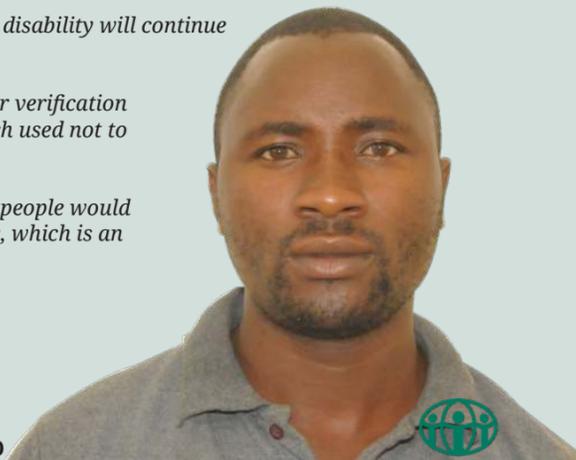
Food Distribution Will Continue

“Despite the innovation and implementation of cash distribution among the refugees, food distribution will continue,” says Alfred Ochora, the Head of Security for ADRA, General Food Assistance Project based in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. Alfred also added “food distribution caters, particularly to people with special and specific needs.”

“The elderly, unaccompanied children below the age of 18 and people with disability will continue to receive their food ration using the old system,” Alfred said.

Feustin Izabayo, a refugee and an ADRA volunteer, said “there is a proper verification of beneficiaries’ names and records with the new system of biometric which used not to happen with the old system.”

“The old system used grouping method which was not good at all because people would miss out on food. The new system also identifies people with special needs, which is an opportunity for everyone to get food on time,” he said.



FEUSTIN IZABAYO



BETTY EZOKO, ADRA STAFF, EXPLAINS TO REFUGEES THE FOOD RATION FOR THE MONTH





Cash-based Initiatives Changes the Lives of Refugees

David Byiringiro, a father of three who settled in Ntenungi B in Rwamwanja Settlement in Kamwenge District, can never stop praising the people who sat in meetings and gave refugees cash for their monthly upkeep instead of food.

Byiringiro said *“the cash distribution is a good initiative, because it gives them a choice on what to eat and what to use it for.”*

He said *“in partnership with ADRA, World Food Programme gives each person sh31,000 per month and it is not restricted on what to use the money for.”*

“I have a household of five people which means I get sh155,000 per month to take care of my family, buy soap, pay for school fees and invest some to enhance my family’s income.” he said.

He said he is now engaged in maize trading after saving some of cash and he can buy other food stuff and milk for his babies, which are not



**KANYAMIHIGO
NDAGIJIMANA, DRC**

**DAVID BYIRINGIRO
NTENUNGI**

distributed by the WFP.

Kanyamihigo Ndagijimana another refugee, said the new system has enabled them to get equal shares because it is transparent. There is a bank at the distribution point, and each person is given his their money

instantly.

“Even if you miss out on the first day of the cash distribution, you are sure that your money will not run out of the bank compared to the food when it could sometimes delay.” he said.



THE CASH RECEIVED BY THE REFUGEES IS USED TO BUY FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES, A MODEL MANY REFUGEES PREFER COMPARED TO FOOD RATIONS, WHICH WFP USES FOR DISTRIBUTING FOOD IN OTHER CONTEXT.





ALFRED OCHORA, THE HEAD OF SECURITY FOR THE GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE VERIFYING REFUGEES CARDS BEFORE THE CASH DISTRIBUTION IN NTENUNGI B

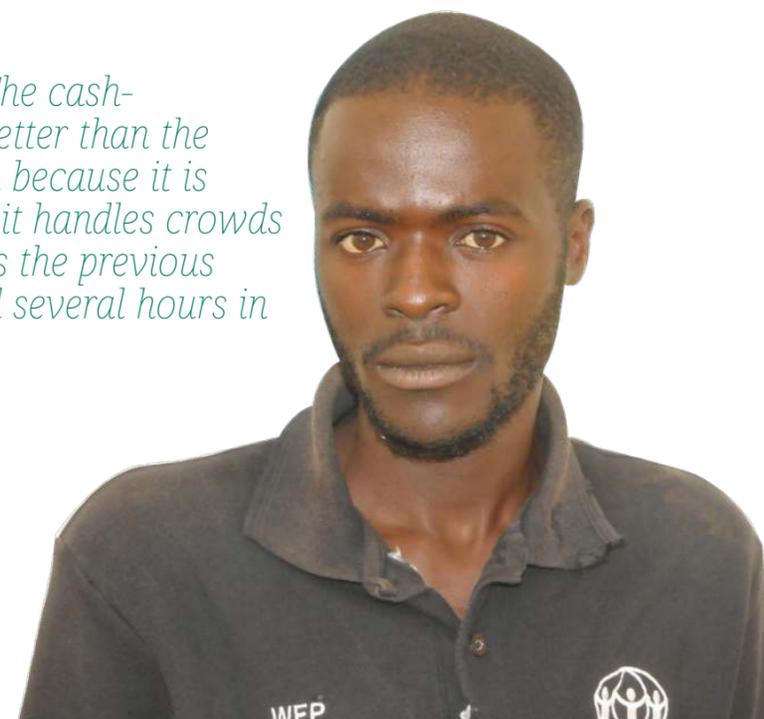
Affirmation of cash-based initiatives



“Ezekiel Mugabukize, Ntenungi Zone from Democratic Republic of Congo
With the food distribution system, we used to get many challenges. The challenges were solved by the cash-based system, which is much easier with effective communication.”



“Innocent Tayebwa *The cash-based system is much better than the food distribution system because it is electronic transfers and it handles crowds in a shortest time versus the previous where we used to spend several hours in queues.*”



Backyard Gardens: Improving Nutrition & Food Security



ATWANETTE UWIZEYIMANA A RESIDENT OF NKOMA B DISPLAYING HER BACKYARD GARDEN



CAROLINE UWERA THE NUTRITIONIST AT RWAMWANJA HEALTH CENTER III, TEACHING REFUGEES ON HOW TO FEED THEIR CHILDREN

“My children used to fall sick now and then, and I did not understand that it was poor feeding that was affecting them. Hospital became my second house, as I had to report to the health centers to treat malnutrition,” said Atwanette Uwizeyimana a resident of Nkoma B within Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement.

The mother of five, who reported to the settlement from Ishengero village in DRC in 2014, never thought growing vegetables in her backyard was the answer to her problems.

She said after learning good agricultural practices from ADRA, that includes, mulching, irrigation, utilising small land and spacing, she started growing Sukuma Wiiki to feed her family.

“The backyard garden saved me from spending money on medication for my children as they no longer fall sick,” she said.

Caroline Uwera the nutritionist at Rwamwanja Health Center III, urged

the refugees to grow foods like dodo, mangos, eggplants among others to improve on their nutrition.

“Being healthy is a choice. I want you to think deeply about growing your own food to support the cash and food you receive from the implementing partners. It not that you must buy

everything from the market,” she said.

Uwera said, *“the body needs energy giving, body building and protective food to function well.”*

“Being healthy is a choice. I want you to think deeply about growing your own food to support the cash and food you receive from the implementing partners.”





Market Strengthening Opens More Opportunities for Refugees

Traders are already warming up ahead of the intended markets that will be constructed by WFP in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. Byaruhanga James Bisheko, the Head of Sub Office ADRA General Food Assistance for Rwamwanja, said the organisation has been training traders on business identification and management.

He said they also included customers in the training, so they know the services they will receive from the traders and prices.

“We also looked into hygiene, especially for traders who will sell foodstuff to the refugees,” he said.

Bisheko said WFP is constructing markets in the refugee settlement which will be accessed by all.



Volunteers Play An Important Role in Coordination

The community volunteers under Refugee Welfare Council and Cash Management Committee have played a vital role in uniting the refugees and the host community to live in harmony.

Andrew Hawa, a volunteer, said they also act as a bridge between partners and refugees.

They have taken the partnership coordination a further step to sensitising the refugee's communities and host communities on development issues.

"We go door-to-door, to churches, mosques, market places and health centers to provide information to the



ONE OF THE VOLUNTEERS SPEAKING TO SOME OF THE REFUGEES WHO ARE PART OF TUJUNGE VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION GROUP

refugees, on education, nutrition, health, co-existing and solving conflicts," she said.

Johnson Kyaligonza, the Assistant Commandant for Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement under the Office of the Prime Minister, said it is great with the teamwork and commitment ADRA has exhibited in the refugees.

"When we re-opened the settlement in 2012, ADRA was the first organisation that came to the refugees rescue. They comforted them, provided an emergency service which reduced the pressure for the government to provide service," he said.



UN Capital Development Fund pilots a financial literacy to empower refugees with financial skills

MARK ODYANG ANTHONY THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION ASSISTANT AT ADRA

Mark Odyang Anthony, the Financial Inclusion Assistant of ADRA based in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District, said the piloting project of financial literacy an initiative of United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has transformed the lives of refugees and changed their mind on business investment and savings.

He said ADRA has so far trained 620 refugees, and many of these have also saved and invested their money in different ventures.

"They have learnt the importance of saving and we have seen their culture of saving with a purpose improving," he said.

The refugees testified that they did not know that with little savings, they could start a business while others did not have skills to manage the small business they have started.



SOME OF THE REFUGEES IN CLASS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

"My business collapsed because I used all the money to construct a house, not knowing that what I used was part of my capital. But now that

I have learnt record keeping and financial management, I will be the next big businessman in Rwamwanja settlement," one refugee said.



Financial Literacy Training *Bears Fruits*



KIGABI MIHOKO DISPLAYS HER BITENGE SHE SELLS

After attending the Financial Literacy training, Issa Atubu Dorisi and her husband, Tatu Saidi, made a joint decision to put to use the skills they attained. They started saving sh2,000 each per month to start a business.

When their savings accumulated to sh300,000, the couple started selling mats.

"This is the best decision we have ever made. We also realised that what we left South Kivu, will no longer hold as the place is still insecure," he said before his wife Dorisi interrupted saying, "But all we needed was our brain. We are grateful ADRA with UNCDF gave us the knowledge and confidence that we can still make it here."

The couple's business has now grown to sh1m and they can easily take care of their four children.

For Kigabi Mihoko, does not regard herself as a refugee. *"I am so happy about the Ugandan refugee policy that allows to get out of the settlement and do business. After the training, I saved went to Kampala and bought bitenge. I sell them and I can get a profit of sh50,000 per week," she said.*



ISSA ATUBU DORISI AND HER HUSBAND TATU SAIDI



Making sh300,000 is Dream Come True

Batachoka's Story

"I earn more than people who are educated and have white-collar jobs." This is what Batachoka Nabiragane said, as she described the profit she gets from selling mukene (silver fish).

Batachoka started with one basin of mukene but has over time grown her business to a sh100k/sack.

She says she buys it from Hoima at sh700,000 and takes it to the weekly market within the refugee settlement.

The mother of eight says she is now training other women to start business such that they can send their children to good schools, buy solar for their homes and reduce on donor dependence.

"I was taught how to do business that is why I must share the skill so we all prosper. This will be a good gesture of giving back to the Ugandan government and partners so that money spent on refugees can be invested in other priority areas such as roads, health sectors, water and education," she said.



Matumaini's Shoe Story

Grace Matumaini, a shoes trader, says money is available in the refugee settlement and she does not have to move to look for it.

Matumaini says she goes to Kampala to buy shoe stock in wholesale, which she resells to the refugees at affordable prices.

"Selling shoes to fellow refugees earns not only money but also makes me feel good to serve a community. I fully understand its financial challenges and that's why I sell it cheaply for them to afford," she said.





Theatre for

DEVELOPMENT

Like the saying "music is food for the soul," the refugees of Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge, under their umbrella of Vuta Nikuvuta Drama Group, have taken it further.

The group has helped to promote education, good health and nutrition among the refugees.

The drama always stages their plays during the food and cash distribution, and in market places to promote peace and reconciliation by the use of music and dance.







SOME OF THE REFUGEES AFTER RECEIVING TREES SEEDLINGS FROM AMON TWONOMUJUNI OF ADRA



AMON TWINOMUJUNI HANDING OVER TREE SEEDLINGS TO THE REFUGEES IN RWAMWANJA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



More Trees

To mitigate the negative effects of climate change, ADRA promoted tree planting and the use of energy saving stoves among the refugees.

Complaints and Feedback from the refugee community

For Alice Nuwahereza, the Complaint and Desk Assistant, welcoming complaints and receiving feedback from the refugee community is more than just work.

“Some refugees miss their food and cash allocation and we ensure that we document them and present their cases to UNHCR and OPM for immediate solution,” she said.

Nuwahereza said food is something that one can't do without and they ensure within one day, the refugees' issues are handled.

Nuwahereza said sometimes, ADRA receives domestic and child abuse complaints and they have a good working relationship with other implementing partners to ensure such complaints are handled.

“If a child comes to us with a complaint, we work with Save the Children to ensure they investigate and their issues are addressed. If it is domestic related or men mis-using the cash they receive instead of buying food for the family, ADRA works with LWF that investigate the claims and we separate the wife's card from the man's card so that the women receive their money to take care of the family individually,” she said.

David Byiringiro one of the refugee volunteer said ADRA has been a bridge between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and other implementing partners.

He is so happy that ADRA handles their complaints with professionalism and pays attention to details and also gives them timely feedback.



Partnership Matters

Working with and in Partnership with UNHCR, Local Government and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM): The project has been focused on ensuring that key stakeholders are fully involved to reduce dependence on project funding. For example, the subcounty and district extension workers are involved in training farmers and providing guidance to organize farmer groups through telephone and by physical invitation. The contacts that have been made will continue to be used beyond the project life cycle.

Aligning the project interventions with other government programs such as Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) and Agricultural Cluster Development Program has potential to enhance initiatives including providing inputs such as seeds, tools and extension services.

Working through Organized Groups: ADRA works through partnerships with local CBOs such that all beneficiaries form groups which are together supported and maintain group learning activities with or without ADRA support. For example, the gardens are established through groups where every 10 households are formed into a group that attracts extension services, ensuring that they also buy together and sell together to reduce operational costs.

The groups through their leaders have often approached other livelihood partners for support. This is sustainable as capacity is not limited to one agency.

Going Forward: ADRA has invested in training her staff at different ranks to look more into market development and financial literacy training in order to economically empower the refugees with opportunities and knowledge and skills to be resilient and self-reliant with abilities to access food of their choice in a dignified manner.

Investments will need to be made in developing both physical and fiscal markets for a better economy, both for the refugees and host communities.



CHARLES ED II AGUILAR, ADRA COUNTRY DIRECTOR & JAMES BISHEKO, ADRA-GFA HEAD OF SUB-OFFICE, DOING A ROUTINE MONITORING AT ONE OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS



EL KHIDIR DALOUM (WFP COUNTRY DIRECTOR), IS ACCOMPANIED BY PARTNERS (ADRA, UNHCR & OPM) AS HE VISITS ONE OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS IN RWAMWANJA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



Rwamwanja Statistics



Planned beneficiaries for cash: 66,867

Actual beneficiaries for cash: 65,535

Planned beneficiaries for food: 3,054

Actual beneficiaries for food: 2,763

Statistical report as of July 2018 - December 2019 Field Level Agreement



World Food Programme



ADRA



A CONGOLESE WOMAN USES AN IRIS SCANNER FOR BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION TO RECEIVE FOOD IN RWAMWANJA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



TO MITIGATE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ADRA PROMOTED TREE PLANTING AMONG THE REFUGEES & THE HOST COMMUNITY