



COUNTRY CHAPTER
UGANDA



Baseline Study Uganda

The Learning and Evaluation Team (LET) of the **Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP)** is conducting an impact evaluation (2017-2020) of the integrated approach to refugee and host communities.

Results from the baseline are used to inform practice in 2019 and to measure progress at the 2020 endline.

BASELINE

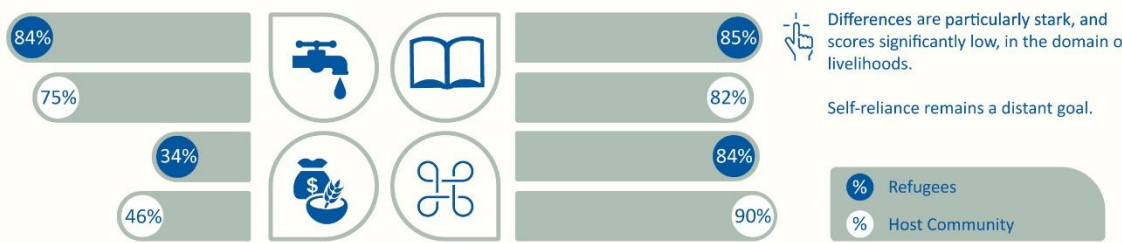
May – June 2018 • 840 households surveyed in/around Rhino Camp: 425 refugees and 415 hosts • In-depth interviews • Key informant interviews with main stakeholders



KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE: RHINO CAMP, ARUA

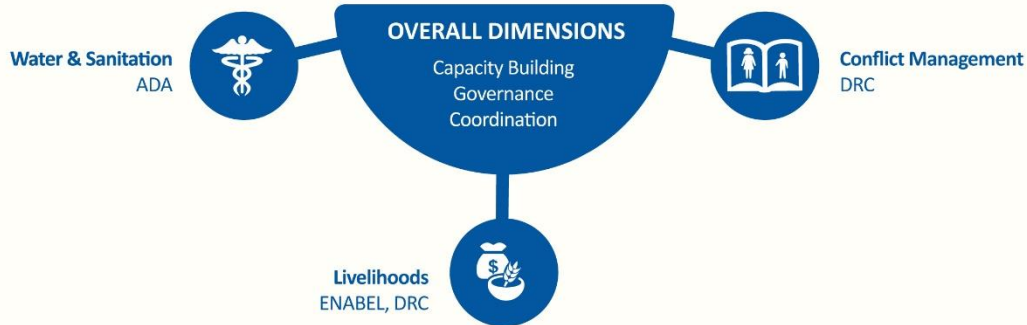
<p>Population Youth dominate the sample; average age of 18. Refugees are mainly recent arrivals from South Sudan.</p>	<p>Progressive model Refugees have the right to work, travel, access public services. They are also given small plots of land.</p>	<p>Food security Major issue: 97% of respondents worried about not having enough food to eat.</p>
<p>Water 95% have access to borehole or tap, but water quality is low. Shortages a challenge for farming.</p>	<p>Safety 80% of hosts and 76% of refugees feel safe. Most expressed the view that they can turn to authorities if needed.</p>	<p>Education 70% of host and 84% of refugee children attend school regularly; improvements since camp setup.</p>
<p>Livelihoods Half of host and a quarter of refugee households have a source of income, although mostly irregular.</p>	<p>Migration Intentions 2% of hosts and 9% of refugees claim they are planning to migrate.</p>	<p>Social cohesion Hosts and refugees coexist relatively peacefully; 20% have recently experienced conflict.</p>

AVERAGE SCORES IN DOMAINS OF WASH, EDUCATION, LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL COHESION ACCORDING TO RDPP METRIC

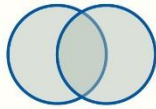


XXXXXX: RDPP outcome metric focusing on areas targeted by programming in Wad Sharifey and surroundings.

RDPP PROGRAMME AREAS & IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



KEY FINDINGS



RELEVANCE

RDPP activities in line with CRRF objectives and well-aligned with national policies. Relevance less clear at the district level. Participatory methodologies are used to ensure relevance to beneficiaries.



ADAPTIVENESS

Needed in the context of renewed refugee influx, which resulted in additional funding and increased timelines. Needs assessments are carried out to ensure activities mirror evolving demand.



COORDINATION

Involvement in CRRF coordination structures. Steering committee involves Government actors. Different counterparts, varying degrees of involvement. Limited ownership by local authorities.



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability considerations are reflected in planning documents. Challenging in the water & sanitation component for structural reasons, and in the skills development component due to limited engagement by the Government.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

OVERALL

Access to land does not automatically lead to self-reliance.

Prioritise food security while pursuing more development-oriented initiatives.

STRUCTURAL

Agree on common Theory of Change and joint M&E.

Incentivise local government involvement.

Strengthen information sharing among RDPP partners and beyond.

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC

Implement tracer studies.

Strengthen instant skills training.

Facilitate access to finance.

Urgently prioritise WASH component which is currently delayed.

DONORS

Avoid an overload of processes and layers of coordination.

Coordinate a mapping of all activities under CRRF.

RDPP in Uganda: The case of Rhino Camp

Presentation of the case study: scope and methodology

This chapter evaluates the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in Uganda, focusing on activities in Rhino Camp, Arua District. The analysis is based on quantitative and qualitative data collected in Rhino camp between mid-April and early May 2018, as well as on comprehensive review of available project documentation. The survey reached 425 refugee households and 415 nearby host community households, with qualitative information gathered from both groups. This baseline report offers a snapshot of the situation at that particular time and place. Data will be used to trace impact in 2020 as part of the Learning and Evaluation Team's impact evaluation of RDPP in the Horn of Africa.

The Regional Development and Protection Programme in Uganda, entitled “Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU),” aims to strengthen integrated solutions and foster long-term capacity-building and governance. The inhabitants of Rhino Camp and its surroundings are supported by RDPP via three thematic components: **Water and sanitation, skills development and livelihoods, and conflict management**. Sensitive to the need of mitigating risks, sectoral activities focus on improving livelihoods, food security, and broadening access to education.

The SPRS-NU includes three separate components implemented by Enabel, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in a consortium led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The case study in and around Rhino Camp focuses on one component: the Enabel support of skills development for refugees and host communities in Rhino Camp. Further desk review provided background on the other two components.

This report is divided into four sections:

- I. **Key messages**. The section highlights fundamental trends, action points, and findings that have emerged from the baseline, providing an overview and summary of the overall report
- II. **Uganda: An innovative but limited model** outlines the context within which RDPP is operating in Uganda, with particular reference to Rhino Camp. The section singles out and explores details of the lives of refugees and hosts that can inform operational activities
- III. **Evaluating needs on the ground** sets out key quantitative and qualitative data and indicators that will allow the measurement of RDPP's impact in Rhino Camp
- IV. **How are the needs on the ground being met?** introduces our recommendations to address gaps highlighted in section III. This includes, as a **way forward to the endline, the presentation of an RDPP outcome metric for Rhino camp to allow for a monitoring of the impact of programming** on the key variables identified for this location.

I. Key messages

RDPP is a multi-annual development programme, focusing on addressing longer-term needs. While it does not focus on humanitarian activities, RDPP is impacted by the consideration that basic humanitarian standards are not currently met in the location of study. Food security is a serious issue for both refugees and hosts, with the majority not having enough food to eat at home. The provision of **direct nutrition assistance** to refugees as part of the DRC-led RDPP project is relevant to the well-being of local populations. At the same time, as food aid appears to have supplanted local food suppliers since the arrival of refugees, a gradual shift to a cash voucher system (including both hosts and refugees) may prove more sustainable.

Arua presents positive opportunities to scale up programming, notably on livelihoods and social cohesion. Carried out in a context that encourages refugees to become self-reliant, granting them freedom of movement, asset ownership and the right to seek employment, RDPP **livelihoods programming** is the first attempt to implement the 'Skilling Uganda' strategy in an emergency situation with vulnerable populations still receiving humanitarian assistance. Enabel's vocational skills component mainstreams the national business, technical, vocational and education training (BTJET) reform strategy in a context of displacement. This appears to have been met with some success: trainees¹ felt that the vocational training courses correspond to their interests, have high market relevance and provide good job prospects afterwards. There was a clear demand from beneficiaries and local authorities to scale up such opportunities.² Some of the skills offered are perceived to provide larger returns in Arua town, inciting young people to move there after graduation (e.g. catering/hotel), whereas other skills are seen to be more relevant for the settlement itself (e.g. construction).

Overall, hosts and refugees coexist peacefully in and around Rhino Camp. As this has not always been the case, the context now offers an opportunity for further development.

RDPP activities in Uganda remain relevant to **local beneficiary / community** needs and are based on participatory approaches. They have proven their adaptiveness and have integrated sustainability considerations in the design from the onset. The complex governance setup in Uganda does not make capacity building towards integrated approaches for **local authorities** an easy task. Whether different sector ministries and district governments are prepared to take on greater responsibility in refugee response depends on the interest and incentive structure but also on their ability to do so.

The report presents **a set of recommendations to be shared and discussed with implementing partners** to obtain their feedback and agree on a way forward for the second half of RDPP's timeline in Uganda.

¹ The research team interviewed 30 current trainees from the Siripi training Center in Rhino Camp attending a training session organised by Welthungerhilfe.

² Part of the Enabel approach is to provide funding for training institutes to scale up.

II. Uganda: an innovative but limited model

Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting nations in the world, with close to 1.3 million refugees as of May 2019. Refugees from South Sudan represent the largest cohort (73%), followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, 19%). These migrants reside in thirty refugee settlements, mainly in the north-western districts of the country bordering the DRC and South Sudan. They benefit from what is often hailed as one of the most progressive refugee regimes in Africa: refugees in Uganda have the legal right to work, start businesses, travel and access public services such as education, health and water. In the settlements where they are usually hosted, they are provided with small plots of land to be used for housing and agriculture. In practice, however, the quality and size of the allotted parcels vary considerably, and it is rarely possible to earn a living from agricultural production alone. Food aid is gradually phased out over five years, after which the newly arrived refugees are expected to have become self-reliant (this system was under review at the time of data collection).

The stakeholder landscape is focused on self-reliance. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Department of Refugees leads Uganda's refugee response. Aligned with the National Development Plan 2016-2020, its 'Settlement Transformation Agenda' aims to achieve self-reliance for refugees and promote social development in refugee-hosting areas. UNHCR is actively working with the Government of Uganda to implement a self-reliance strategy, the 'Refugee and Host Population Empowerment' (ReHOPE), with the aim of improving socio-economic integration of refugees. Furthermore, RDPP activities fall under the objectives of the CRRF in Uganda, aiming to support governance and capacity to deliver integrated services. However, recent studies have highlighted the limitations of this programming, indicating that integration of services may not necessarily result in integrated communities, or to wider / full integration of host communities in service provision. In some cases, these studies argue, this policy leads to resentment and a sense of expectation unfulfilled.³ In addition, while Uganda can be compared favourably to other countries in the region, attempts at integrated service provision are incomplete and sometimes inadequate, impeding effective local integration for refugees.⁴

Rhino Camp is a settlement composed of five zones scattered over an area of approximately 225 square kilometres. The general topography of the project area is hilly with deep valleys. Its estimated population as of June 2017 stood at around 87,000 (23,000 households).

Hosts constitute 17% of the area population. About 96% of the refugees in Rhino Settlement originate from South Sudan. The host community is predominantly constituted by Lugbara tribe members.

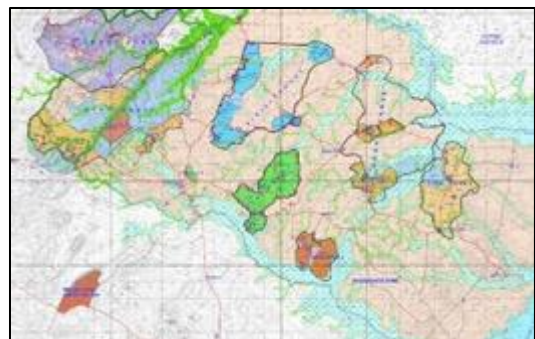


Figure 1 - Rhino Camp

Arua town, the busy district capital located about 60 km south-west of Rhino Camp, is where most of the NGOs and UNHCR have their district headquarters. The economy of Arua district revolves around agriculture, with four out of five households growing crops such as cassava, beans, groundnuts, sesame, millet and maize. Tobacco is a common cash crop.

³ ReDSS (2018). *Are integrated services a step towards integration?*

⁴ Bohnet, H. & Schmitz-Pranghe, C. (2019). *Uganda: A role model for refugee integration?*

The inhabitants of Rhino Camp and its surroundings are supported under RDPP via three thematic components: Water and Sanitation, Skills development and Livelihoods & conflict management. Rhino Camp consists of scattered settlements, which means that not all activities take place at all locations.



Figure 2 - A rural setting

The activities, detailed in Table 1 below, and RDPP as a whole have had to adapt since RDPP's inception in 2015: the arrival of refugees from South Sudan following the intensification of the conflict led to a re-design of support. Furthermore, in 2018 accusations of mismanaged funds led some donors to freeze contributions to UNHCR operations in country and prompted some officials to step aside pending further investigations. The long-term consequences of these changes will only emerge over time and may be tracked and further analysed at the endline stage.

Table 1 - Snapshot: RDPP activities in Arua in 2018

SECTOR	ACTIVITY	IP
Livelihoods	Short and medium-term vocational training and entrepreneurship support, specific focus on youth, women and girls. Coordination with Skilling Uganda strategy.	ENABEL
	Farm inputs. Establishment of livelihoods groups including VSLA. Accelerated learning programme for out-of-school children.	DRC
Water and sanitation	Construction / rehabilitation of piped water supply systems and ensuring sustainable operation and maintenance. Construction of fecal sludge treatment plant, water protection. Sanitation awareness campaigns.	ADA
Conflict management	Conflict resolution mechanisms. Capacity building targeting local actors.	DRC

III. Evaluating needs on the ground

The camp hosts a young community: refugee respondents were on average 17 years old, hosts were slightly older (19). The proportion of females in the sample was over half for both groups. Refugees are less likely to be married than their host peers (19% vs 32%), and refugee households' dependency ratio is higher as measured by the number of typically nonworking-age members (e.g. children and elderly) relative to working-age members. Refugee households are considerably more likely to be female- or single-headed than host community households.

The refugees encountered in Rhino camp mainly originate from South Sudan, and most arrived in 2016 driven by the country's lack of basic necessities and livelihood opportunities, conflict and insecurity. Almost all are registered with UNHCR and hold official documentation to reside in Uganda.

Along with their hosts, refugees live in a context which has seen a shift from sole emergency programming to an increasingly development and integrated solutions-focused approach through frameworks and agendas ranging from ReHoPE to the Settlement Transformative Agenda and the National Development Plan. At the same time, protection needs remain high.

The following sections present baseline data across a range of relevant indicators. Covering both humanitarian ('basic needs') as well as development-oriented dimensions, some categories are directly addressed by RDPP-funded activities in Uganda (this is the case for livelihoods, Water and sanitation, social cohesion); while others are introduced to provide information about context and with a view to facilitating comparison to other country chapters in this regional research project.

a. Basic needs

Table 2 - Key indicators for monitoring – Basic needs

		Hosts	Refugees
Food security	Not had food to eat in the house in past month	14%	10%
	Did not worry about not having enough food in past month	3%	2%
Housing	Owens or rents shelter	96%	81%
	Owens or rents land	78%	20%
Water and wash	Tap as primary water source	43%	46%
	Borehole as primary water source	47%	44%
	Access to private pit latrines	27%	60%
Waste and infrastructure	Does not find that there is a lot of garbage outside	97%	92%
	Does not throw garbage outside dwelling for disposal	83%	97%
	Has grid access	0%	0%
	Has access to a generator (government, private, community)	0%	0%
	Has solar (private)	34%	31%
Health	Children having received vaccinations (full or partial)	95%	97%
	Covered by health insurance	2%	12%
	Sought out treatment after suffering serious illness or injury***	97%	97%
	Judged treatment to be of high quality	62%	43%
Safety and protection	Feel completely or mostly safe	80%	76%
	Sought out protection after a legal problem***	97%	95%
	Content with the protection received	64%	57%
	Feel they can turn to the local authorities in case of need	89%	85%

The WFP hands out **food aid** to refugees, prioritising recent arrivals. Food aid is slowly phased out over time (a system which was under review at the time of research). Some refugees reported receiving cash handouts along with their food rations, and it is common for at least half of the amount to be used on food. WFP rations have been cut in the past due to shortages for refugee interventions.

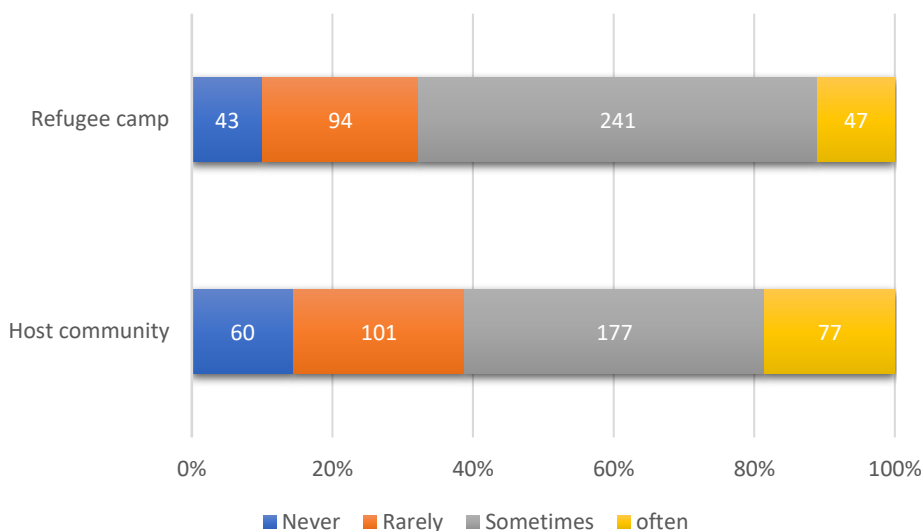
The phasing out of food aid over the course of five years has meant that some of the more vulnerable long-term residents of the camp found themselves without any means to afford food on their own:

“There are some families who have lived in the refugee settlement for over five years. They no longer figure in the WFP food ration database. Most of the families we encountered who fall into this category were living in abject poverty. In a few cases, when asked about food aid, they became hostile. Some simply broke down in tears”.

Field leader observations

Food security is a serious issue for both refugees and hosts in and around Rhino Camp. The overwhelming majority of both groups expressed concern about not having enough food and having recently found themselves without any food due to a lack of resources.

Figure 3 - In the past four weeks, was there ever any food to eat of any kind in your household because of a lack of resources?



SHIFTING FROM DIRECT TO INDIRECT NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

The provision of direct nutrition assistance to refugees as included in the DRC-led RDPP project component remains relevant to the well-being of local populations. At the same time, given that food aid appears to have somewhat supplanted local food suppliers since the arrival of the refugees, a (slow) shift to a cash voucher system may prove more sustainable. This appears to have commenced, with some refugees reporting that they started to receive cash handouts. Half of this cash is used to purchase food. However this nutrition assistance is provided only to refugees, limiting the possibility of equitable and integrated food support and increasing tensions with host communities. The potential upwards effects of cash transfers on prices, and its effect on community cohesion, is something which will be further explored at the endline stage.

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Figure 4 - Shelter in Rhino Camp

Refugee and host community households do not differ greatly in terms of physical **housing**. Both groups are likely to reside in temporary housing like a makeshift shelter or tent (85% and 90%, respectively). Land ownership is much lower for refugee households (6% vs 75%).

Those who do not own land, however, benefit from the government's land allocation. Half of the interviewed refugee households were allocated land on a seasonal basis for farming or other purposes. These plots, 50mx50m in size,⁶ can be used for agriculture and / or settlement. The

allocated plots may be a long distance from the recipient's primary residence, making them not only hard to reach but also prone to looting. Another challenge is that some areas of farming land provided to refugees are infertile and cannot support subsistence agricultural activities, with refugees struggling to harvest a sizable yield and unable to afford fertilizer. This is reflected in land use: 70 % of refugees and 90% of hosts interviewed only grow food for their own consumption, with no further income generation.

COMMUNITY LEARNING THROUGH FARMER'S GROUPS

Farmers' Groups effectively fill a gap in the RDPP, they lead to shared learning on agriculture as a business, on the most appropriate crops and their use both for nutrition, further processing, replanting and sale. This aspect will be further explored in the livelihoods section.

Water is a long-standing challenge in the area, with shortages presenting a fundamental dilemma for any approach centred on a self-reliance strategy through farming. Northern Uganda has repeatedly suffered outbreaks of WASH related diseases due to poor access to safe water and sanitation. Water also has the potential to trigger disputes between hosts and refugees. The water sources are not numerous and boreholes not easy to pump. Fetching water is time-consuming and keeps refugees and hosts from other productive activities. The situation is worse during the dry season when alternative water sources such as springs and streams dry up. The ground water is of poor quality, meaning expensive piped water networks have to be constructed (with the settlement dependent on water provisioning through trucking as construction is ongoing). The quality of water from the tanks is also poor, with reports of occasional contamination. Yet change is underway:

⁵ ReDSS (2018): *Are integrated services a step towards integration?*

⁶ Plot sizes have decreased in recent years with the arrival of large numbers of refugees.

“Lots of new developments are taking place. We initially had few boreholes but now we have a lot more. The boreholes are also powered by solar energy and therefore obtaining water doesn’t require lots of effort”.

Host respondent

This observation corresponds to the survey results, where 73% of host community respondents cite an improvement in the travel time to access water since the camp was established or grew in size, and 92% say the quality has improved.

Concerning **sanitation**, the refugee camps are better equipped with toilet facilities as 85% of refugees use private or shared covered pit latrines compared to 36% of hosts. Conversely, host respondents are more likely to have no access to toilet facilities: one respondent in five resorts to open defecation.

POTENTIAL FOR INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

Given drastically increasing demand, ADA’s intervention is a welcome contribution, inscribing itself in a logic of close collaboration with the MWE’s implementation of the Joint Water and Environmental Sector Support Programme (JWESSP) and the National Development Plan. Perhaps due to the need for coordination on this front, activities slated for the inception phase of the project had not yet been completed at the time of the baseline data collection.

Not many interviewees noted lack of **electricity** as a challenge affecting their livelihoods although 60% of refugee and host respondents in the survey report not having any source of electricity. Only one third use private solar energy. This appears to pale in importance compared to other priorities.

One refugee respondent household in two, and one host household in three, has faced serious illness and injury in recent times. With very few exceptions, everyone concerned sought out treatment, most commonly (73%) at Government Health facilities. There is a consensus that **health services** have improved over time. In spite of a number of newly opened health centres and private clinics, the distance to cover was often large. This puts the elderly and people with disabilities at a disadvantage. The cost of services provided at private clinics is pointed out. People do receive treatment on credit with a promise that they will pay their bills later. Health centres are the destination of choice for those in need of medical support, yet they face limited staffing and inadequate supplies.

“Medication at the clinics is expensive for sure: If I get sick or a member of our household gets sick, for us, the health centre is the first choice. It is only when we fail to get medicine from the health centre that we go to the private clinics. But if there are medicines in the health centre, I do not want anyone to visit the private clinics”.

Refugee respondent

Security has improved in recent years. Most interviewees expressed satisfaction about the security within Rhino camp and the work of the police. The majority of refugee and host respondents feel mostly or completely safe in their communities (75% and 80%). Yet, qualitative interviews revealed that some zones are perceived as less safe. Siripi, where most of the qualitative interviews took place, was described as more peaceful. Those who do not feel safe have more to fear from members of their own community than those of the other. Women are deemed to be particularly at risk by 39% of refugee and 21% of host respondents.

“There used to be insecurity, but now, due to the reinforcement of the police stations, crimes have reduced greatly”.

Refugee respondent

b. Education and livelihoods

Table 3 - Key indicators for monitoring – Education and Livelihoods

		Hosts	Refugees
Education	Regular school attendance	70%	84%
	Integrated school attendance	96%	99%
	Fewer than 50 children per teacher	0%	1%
	Quality of education judged high or very high	34%	28%
	Assistance to attend school (uniform, shoes, books...)	49%	38%
	School feeding programme	64%	75%
Livelihoods	In paid work or self-employed	52%	24%
	Earned redundancy (more than one income earner)	48%	11%
	Among working population, hosts working inside and refugees working inside camp	26%	24%
	Among working population, formal contract	11%	14%
	Among working population, holds skill certification	10%	12%
	Among working population, working five or more days per week	19%	34%
	Average monthly expenditures*	\$20.41	\$27.33

*exchange rate March 2019

Education is not directly targeted by RDPP activities, but it is one domain in which the presence of refugees has had beneficial effects on their hosts.

“Before the arrival of the refugees, we didn’t have schools. This area now boasts several schools, and it’s thanks to them”.

Host respondent

Education has long been a clear need for host community members who are less likely to have formal schooling than the refugees, who present a higher rate of primary and secondary school completion. Self-reported literacy differs considerably across the two groups with 70% of refugees indicating the ability to read and write in comparison to 44% of host community members. This discrepancy is generational, with 84% of refugee children attending school regularly, compared to only 70% of host children. Almost without exception, children attend school with those of the other group. School fees were cited as a factor preventing parents from being able to keep their children in school. Furthermore, the quality of education is generally judged to be poor, at least partly due to the very high student/teacher ratio.

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMME

The DRC-led RDPP workstream targeting out-of-school children and enrolling them in accelerated learning programmes is of particular relevance to the host community. Based on the latest available figures, targets were met early, implying there might be scope to develop more ambitious plans. The fact that more refugee children than host children were enrolled in ALPs as of June 2017 indicates that further efforts could be made to reach out to hosts.



Figure 5 - A promising career choice?

RDPP's Arua **livelihoods** intervention is implemented in a context where agriculture is the main activity of four households out of five. The limited non-agricultural activities include general retail and wholesale trade, metal and wood fabrication, art and crafts production, fish farming and livestock farming. Honey production and trade is also a known income-generating activity. Generally, the context of Rhino camp is one of small villages, remote from larger settlements such as Arua, Koboko and Mbale. This means there are fewer opportunities, but also certain gaps that can be filled by entrepreneurs:

Employment and underemployment are rampant, particularly for local youth and refugees.

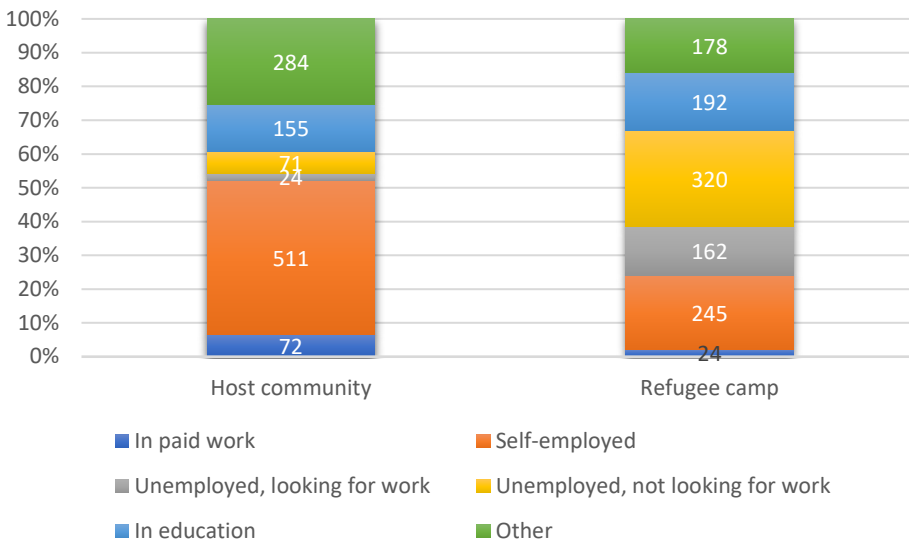
“As a tailor, I can make more money here than in town. There are few tailors around here – demand outstrips supply!”

Host respondent

“The land is not fertile. It is full of rocks. There is no way to earn money in this settlement. I do not have a job. Some people sell daga fish in small stands or other small items, and this generates an income for them. The food we are given cannot last us a month, so some refugees have a trick, KUBU ARIJA [registering in more than one camp] in order to get enough food. Other people migrated from South Sudan with their business, and this helps them here in the camp. I sometimes sell part of the food that we have received. (...) if there is nothing at all, I go ask my friend for help. If my friend cannot help, I will go look for small jobs in the host community, digging and the like”.

Refugee respondent

Figure 6 - What was this person's primary daily activity during the past 12 months?



Host community members active on the labour market are more likely to be involved in paid work and self-employed, whereas refugees are much more likely to be unemployed and looking for work. Waged labour is uncommon for both groups.

For self-employment, the majority of refugee and host community members are involved in agriculture or herding (61% and 87%, respectively). Farming (either on one’s own farm or someone else’s) is the main source of income and is used for both subsistence and commercial purposes. It is common to work on the farm in the morning and sell products in the trading centre in the evening. Bartering is a frequent mode of exchange. Small-scale business activity like trading or services (e.g. restaurants, beauty and barber shops) is also common for refugees (29%), but to a much lesser extent for hosts (10%).

“The most profitable businesses here are hawking essential commodities, operating a roadside stall, and vending vegetables like onions in the market”.

Refugee respondent

Host community households are more likely to have more than one employed household member in comparison to refugee households. Host community households are found to have a higher monthly expenditure on all items including, but not limited to, food, housing, medical expenses, debt repayment, water, and electricity.

More specifically, host community households on average spend 25,700 UGX (~7 USD) more per month in comparison to refugee households. Livestock ownership similarly differs across the two groups with host community households having higher rates of ownership.⁷ Beyond livestock, we also found that asset ownership is lower for refugee households compared to hosts, indicating that they occupy a worse relative socio-economic position.⁸

A regression analysis confirms that residing in Rhino camp will, while controlling for individual characteristics such as age, gender, marital status and education of the head of household, result in lower expenditure and employment prospects. Regardless of place of residence, females are not less likely to be employed than their male peers.⁹

⁷ Animals considered include poultry, goats, camels, cows and donkeys.

⁸ Asset ownership is measured using a standardized index that incorporates a range of common items (see quantitative survey report).

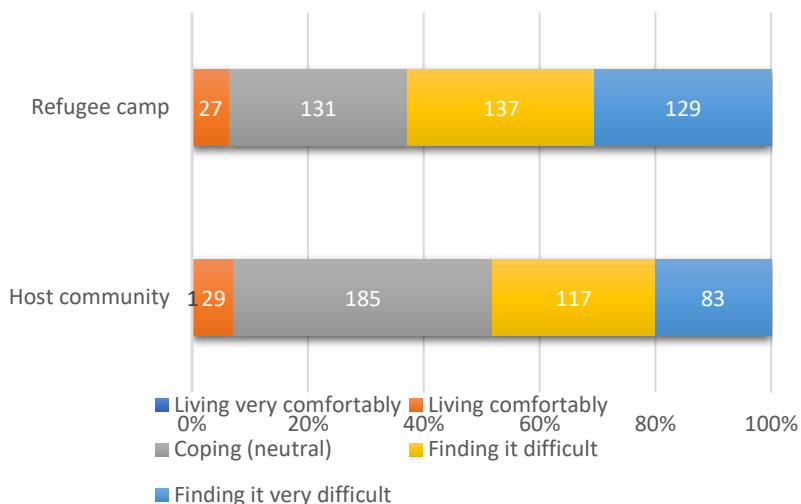
⁹ Given that effect sizes / coefficients are not easily interpretable for non-scalar response variables, they are not presented in this report.

Beyond objective indicators of welfare, subjective measures also vary considerably among respondents.

Figure 7 - How do you see this household's current economic situation?

A higher share of host community households views its current economic situation positively, whereas most refugee households view their situation negatively (e.g. difficult or very difficult).

This results from respondents' view of local economic opportunities: 41% of refugee respondents perceive opportunities as poor or very poor compared to 33% of host respondents.



RDPP programming represents the first time that the 'Skilling Uganda' strategy is executed in an emergency setting with vulnerable populations and where trainees are recipients of short-term humanitarian interventions. Enabel's vocational skills component has based its activities on assessments of the labour market and existing training providers. It aims to mainstream the national BTJET reform strategy in a context of displacement. This component has scored some early successes: trainees interviewed for this project felt that the RDPP-supported vocational training courses correspond to their interests,¹⁰ have high market relevance and provide good job prospects afterwards. There was a clear demand from beneficiaries and local authorities to scale up such opportunities.¹¹

Some of the skills offered provide larger returns in Arua town, compelling young people to move there after graduation (e.g. catering/hospitality), whereas other skills are more relevant for the settlement (e.g. construction).

“There are many jobs for BCP [Building and Concrete Practice Training] graduates around here in the camp. When construction work start, workers are usually recruited from this community. Some are constructing structures in the nearby refugee camps such as Imvepi, Omugo and Bidi Bidi. Since the refugees are still coming to Uganda and aid agencies are helping to construct social amenities for them, I'm sure that I won't be unemployed after doing BCP”.

Refugee respondent

The greatest challenge that the Enabel skills training component has faced is that demand greatly outstrips supply, both in terms of training centres and available supplies. Formal accreditation is rare. Despite the fact that opportunities on the labour market are (even) scarcer for refugees than for hosts, more hosts have been admitted to the training than refugees. Accusations of nepotism in this regard were voiced on several occasions.

Given that the start-up support funding is scarce, those trained in activities which do not require a large amount of capital may fare better in terms of labour market outcomes. This will be verified at the endline.

¹⁰ The research team interviewed 30 current trainees from the Siripi training Center in Rhino Camp attending a training by Welthungerhilfe.

¹¹ Part of the Enabel approach is to provide funding for training institutes to scale up.

BALANCING OPPORTUNITIES, DELAYS, AND RELEVANCE OF LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMMING

The DRC-led RDPP action in Rhino Camp also addresses livelihoods gaps through the formation of 330 (at the time of the baseline) livelihood groups, most of which had received training in a Participatory Enterprise Development approach (PAED). Hoes, watering cans, planting lines and forked hoes were distributed to livelihoods groups, as well as seeds and seedlings, and, in some cases, livestock enterprises. This component aims for the active participation of the private sector in the provision of goods and services, as well as mentors and coaches. The action’s reporting documents indicate that the inception phase of this project appears to have been plagued by delays and some degree of overlap with the activities of other development partners. This component will be addressed in more detail in follow-up visits to Rhino Camp.

c. Social cohesion

Table 4 - Key indicators for monitoring – Social cohesion

	Hosts	Refugees
Deem living conditions of refugees to be better than those of hosts	76%	27%
Think that authorities treat refugees better than hosts	79%	30%
Have not experienced conflict with the other group in the past month	80%	82%
Believe economic integration is on the rise	84%	74%
Believe social integration is on the rise	91%	82%
Have a positive or very positive opinion of the other	76%	55%

Overall, hosts and refugees coexist rather peacefully in and around Rhino Camp:

“The communities around were sensitised about how to live (with the refugees). The police are also around; they do sensitise people. Generally, the behaviour in the community is okay”.

Key informant

This was not always the case. The sudden influx of refugees led to tensions, which occasionally still resurface. But the development which accompanied this influx, along with ongoing sensitisation activities in the communities, led to a more welcoming outlook by the hosts.

Host community members voiced frustrations about their resources being used by refugees and about programming benefiting refugees more than them, despite ambitions of “integration”.¹² Ethnic tension is a rare but present risk. But the majority of both refugee and host respondents have positive views of each other, at different rates (56% vs 76%, respectively). Few refugees and hosts say they have ever experienced conflict with the other (19% and 20%, respectively).

Conflicts do occasionally arise, mainly due to limited resources and ethnic strife, partly rooted in the pre-existing tensions originating in South Sudan.

Anecdotes of incentive workers being harassed by locals, as well as the cutting of trees for firewood, animals destroying fields, and disputes at water points were reported. More than half of refugees in our

¹² Examples include hygiene sensitisation activities by Oxfam and mosquito net distributions in Imvepi.

sample and a quarter of host community respondents reported concerns or disputes due to natural resources. In cases of disputes over access to water, Water Committees mediate solutions. Refugees and host communities find solutions to their problems collectively and coexist peacefully in the camp. Local governance structures are also involved in mediating and resolving conflicts and appear to do so fairly successfully.

“When there’s chaos at the borehole, I’m the one who helps to resolve it. We make sure that the queue at the borehole is equally representative of both refugees and nationals. [In the committees], we arrange the jerrycans in the order of arrival. We also gather people to sweep the compound before pumping water. When the enclosure is damaged, we ask people to come with poles to repair it. Also, we collect money for maintaining the borehole. When the pump mechanics come, we use the money to buy meals for them”.

Secretary of borehole committee

“The refugees and the nationals have different leadership structures. The refugees have their own LC 1 (local council one) chairman and so do the natives. The two leaders jointly arbitrate issues that straddle both the local and refugee communities. If they fail to resolve an issue, then they refer it to the police”.

NAVIGATING THE PATH TOWARDS INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

According to NGOs and community members, the 50/50 target of services to refugees and hosts and the creation of joint groups have been beneficial to foster understanding and reduce tensions. Partners note that this rule has brought visible benefits, with communities who work in groups more inclined to share resources peacefully. If programming is based on the premise “that all of them are vulnerable, and that things should be shared equally, [the beneficiaries] adapt a similar view”. Recent research, however, suggests that equity of programming is not as well realised as some partners may hope, as host community frustrations at being seen as ‘secondary’ to refugees when it comes to accessing services in certain areas.¹³ Local communities are on the whole more welcoming when they can see and feel the benefits refugees bring to their own immediate lives.¹⁴

DRC and its consortium partners focus on conflict and community dialogue and are training the Refugee Welfare Council and the national counterpart to the Local Council to adequately handle minor disputes. Their actions are based on a conflict analysis assessment. Multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions on land conflict, training in conflict management and mediation sessions are also part of the action. Context specific tensions, perceptions of injustice and remedies to unequitable programming need to be acknowledge in order for this programming to be effective.

d. Migration intentions

Table 5 - Key indicators for monitoring – Migration intentions

	Hosts	Refugees
Would like to migrate, but no concrete plans	1%	11%
Plan to migrate	2%	9%
Of those who plan to migrate, plan to use formal channels	40%	70%
Have been provided information about the risks of irregular migration	60%	17%

¹³ ReDSS (2018): *Are integrated services a step towards integration?*

¹⁴ Bohnet et al. (2019): *Uganda: A role model for refugee integration ?*

Most refugees and hosts did not declare concrete aspirations to move on, whether internally or abroad: only 20% of refugees surveyed would like to leave their current location and only 9% actually plan on doing so. One refugee household in three reports contact with family and friends back home. One refugee household in ten has a member who has moved away (usually returning to South Sudan). 14% of host households report family members that moved elsewhere in Uganda. The majority of those who left Rhino Camp do not send money and goods to those who stayed behind.

Some refugees decide to stay in the camp because they consider life easier there as they have access to free land, schooling, water and food. A refugee also reported that he had more opportunities in the camp village than in town:



“You can make money anywhere in the world. It doesn’t matter where you live—money is everywhere. But there are cases where the village is the outright winner”.



Those who do aspire to migrate lament the absence of schooling and employment opportunities. One local emphasised that opportunities were greater in the cities, but only for those with the appropriate skillset. Without skills, the higher cost of living is prohibitive. Some refugees are also drawn to the cities, particularly those who are used to urban life, for instance in Juba.

Finally, there is relatively little desire to migrate abroad. Refugees dream of resettlement overseas, but the general sentiment is that those opportunities are reserved for refugees from the DRC. For those who do harbour migration aspirations, the USA is the preferred destination (30%), followed by Europe and Australia. A third of refugees surveyed had concrete plans to return home soon.

IV. How are the needs on the ground being met

As of March 2018, a Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) reported ADA’s intervention outputs:

- 318 people reached by information campaigns on resilience- building practices and basic rights.
- 76 people participating in conflict prevention and peace building activities.
- 11 planning, monitoring, learning, data-collection and analysis tools set up, implemented and / or strengthened.

DRC’s intervention had led to:

- 27,462 people receiving nutrition assistance.
- 9,840 people assisted to develop economic income-generating activities.
- 5,693 staff members from governmental institutions, internal security forces and relevant non-state actors trained on security, border management, CVE, conflict prevention, protection of civilian populations and human rights.
- 5,177 people receiving a basic social service.
- 1,754 jobs created.

Lastly, Enabel’s intervention led to:

- 1,480 people assisted to develop economic income-generating activities.
- 216 people participating in conflict prevention and peace building activities.
- 94 people benefiting from professional trainings (TVET) and / or skills development.
- 14 planning, monitoring, learning, data-collection and analysis tools set up, implemented and / or strengthened.

The following section contextualises these figures and seeks to shed light on RDPP activities in Rhino Camp following the evaluation criteria of relevance, coordination, sustainability, adaptiveness and capacity.

a. Relevance of programme activities

The components of the SPRS-NU have mechanisms built into the programmes for the interventions to be based on the demand of refugees and host communities, as well as being aligned with national and local plans adopted by ADA when it intervened in response to a drought. DRC and its partners in several consortia conducted a conflict analysis assessment as a basis for selecting methods of intervention.

Consultations with **local authorities** to inform programming in a highly complex governance context of refugee settlements are a challenge as they often throw up the question of *'relevance for whom?'*. At times tensions exist between political actors and the administration at the district level on the most relevant outcomes. For implementing partners there is no simple answer as to how to find a balance.¹⁵ The district government and the sector offices at the district level seem to be prepared to take on more responsibilities for integrated approaches. Offices such as the District Agriculture Forestry Office proactively participate in existing coordination structures and get involved in sensitisation and outreach in refugee settlements, including as part of RDPP activities. They are also consulted with specific technical questions in relation to RDPP programme development.

Yet, the district government and sector offices often lack the time and resources to engage more substantially. According to interviewees, for many existing projects in Rhino Camp insufficient efforts are made to engage, in a timely manner, governance levels below the district or RC-5 level, where much of the coordination and efforts strengthen integrated approaches take place.

RDPP implementing partners in Rhino Camp noted, however, that they have engaged a range of stakeholders at different levels in order to ensure relevance of interventions to target groups:

“We are consistently working with the local leaders in the settlement. This has worked well for the programme. This goes beyond the coordination meetings at the district level in Arua. [...] We work with RWC structures and the sub-county officials and community development officers, then we also do joint monitoring. They gave us new ideas how to do the programs as well as environmental protection – this is how we collaborate with them and they bring us insights”.

RDPP activities in Uganda strive to remain relevant to **local beneficiary** needs. The DRC consortium partners have designed their actions based on participatory methodologies, while Enabel has based skills training curricula on market assessments, and the demands of locals and refugees.¹⁶ A 2016 needs assessment commissioned by Enabel was used to provide feedback to selected grantees on how to improve their skills development (e.g. updating courses, reviewing curricula, inviting private sector actors).

¹⁵ Although outside the RDPP context, a story of UNHCR illustrates this: *“through Re-Hope we came up with guidelines that align to the Arua District Development plan. But then we got an accusation from LC5 level that UNHCR is forcing the project without consultation. To us this is a challenge because we based it on the Arua district development plan. Now it becomes an issue between the political versus the administration in Arua [...] and between the two there are tensions [...]. So we get complaints that what we propose is not acceptable”.*

¹⁶ The Enabel component is relevant to the ‘Skilling Uganda’ Strategy and adapted to the capacities of the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The selection process of sub-grantees has been rigorous, time-consuming, and is geared to ensure that training institutes selected have the capacity to scale up.¹⁷ In March 2018, Enabel commissioned another labour market study for northern Uganda to “*identify priority training needs of the youth, women and girls in the refugee settlements and host communities*” (Lakwo, 2018).

Table 6 below lays out the different types of assistance received by respondents (overall, including but not limited to RDPP), their subjective assessment of the quality of assistance and stated need in terms of (further) aid in that domain. It emerges that food in-kind assistance, received by the majority of refugee respondents, is requested by over half of the interviewed host households. Non-food in-kind assistance remains a frequent need. Although business grants are not a common type of assistance from which respondents have drawn benefit, they are clearly very popular with all of those who did have access expressing their full satisfaction. Similarly, TVET is judged positively, particularly by host beneficiaries (less so by refugee beneficiaries). Finally, about half of the respondents in both groups have benefited from agricultural inputs. Again, the hosts appear to appreciate these more than the refugees.

Table 6 - Are the services offered in Rhino Camp in line with the needs of the beneficiaries?

		hosts	Refugees
food in kind assistance	% received	1%	83%
	% happy with	40%	51%
	% requesting	52%	10%
non-food in kind assistance	% received	3%	34%
	% happy with	86%	55%
	% requesting	27%	31%
cash	% received	0%	12%
	% happy with	100%	55%
	% requesting	27%	17%
supplementary for pregnant women / children	% received	33%	42%
	% happy with	82%	84%
	% requesting	4%	4%
business grants	% received	4%	16%
	% happy with	100%	100%
	% requesting	33%	63%
VSLA	% received	18%	37%
	% happy with	82%	62%
	% requesting	3%	3%
TVET	% received	24%	20%
	% happy with	93%	60%
	% requesting	9%	16%
legal	% received	3%	5%
	% happy with	66%	90%
	% requesting	1%	9%
agricultural inputs	% received	49%	50%
	% happy with	74%	50%
	% requesting	14%	4%

¹⁷ The Selection Committee included private sector and government actors, government, donors and implementing partners.

b. Adaptiveness of programme structures

The programme as a whole reacted flexibly to a changing context of renewed South Sudanese refugee influx in 2016 by signing an addendum with additional funding of EUR 10 million in 2017, increasing the timespan from 3 to 4 years and adding Yumbe as an additional district.

At a lower level, adaptiveness is needed to account for increased demand. For instance, ADA's intervention targeting water and WASH, has had to account for four new refugee settlements since the start of the project. This is noted in the project's Inception Report, but no specific strategy has yet been devised to account for the change in circumstances.

DRC and Enabel components are based on needs assessments that, at least in the case of Enabel, appear to be repeated on a regular basis in order to ensure activities continue to reflect the current demands in the field. And while several delays were encountered in the inception phase of the project, reporting documents do not indicate any changes to circumstances or consequent adaptations.

c. Coordination

The RDPP activities in Northern Uganda have to coordinate with a range of other actors and initiatives.

- ✓ The RDPP and its underlying narrative fit into the overall logic of the **CRRF**. The processes in which the EU and its member states are invested (RDPP, EU Humanitarian-Development nexus, CRRF) have created several **layers, frameworks and coordination needs which seem to distract rather than rally behind the CRRF efforts**. We are *“speaking to different frameworks with the same words”* as one official put it. At the level of SPRS-NU sub-components, some of the RDPP implementing partners have played a role in CRRF coordination structures. For instance, the Enabel Skilling Uganda intervention took the lead on advocating for skills development as part of the CRRF and the Education Response Plan for refugees by providing context analysis and expertise. In the skills sector, coordination with the World Bank as another important player seems to be working well. DRC has a direct link to the CRRF Secretariat through the secondment of one staff member.
- ✓ At the macro-level, the exchange of information between the EU and the **Ugandan government** on RDPP was insufficient at first. Some partners reported a lack of information provided by the EU to the OPM, and subsequently line ministries, about the initial stages of the project. This created minor issues but did not impact on the overall implementation of the project or its sub-components.¹⁸ Interviewees noted that the complex set up of the RDPP and connections to other frameworks (such as Enabel and Skilling Uganda) created confusion with government actors and partners. The SPRS-NU has since engaged in outreach around the consortium and the integrated approach.

¹⁸ At the RDPP launch event, the Ministry of Education was not present.

- ✓ The SPRS-NU Steering Committee provides a formal opportunity for the **Government** to input into SPRS-NU activities and meets twice a year. The role played by the government in the overall SPRS-NU Steering Committee, however, received mixed reviews. According to some, the Committee “reviews, discusses and advises – and this works well”.¹⁹

Other interviewees noted that the RDPP **Steering Committee’s government actors do not make strategic use of the RDPP components or provide strategic oversight**.²⁰ According to one interviewee, discussions revolve around details and not wider aspects of strategic relevance. There is further room for government actors to make use of the programme for their own strategic purposes.

Interviewees point to the need for more proactive communication for individual activities. These individual activities have different counterparts: the Ministry of Water and Environment is the implementing partner for the ADA action under a grant agreement. The DRC-led consortium works closely with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and liaises with the district education officer. The Enabel component aims to ensure ownership and coordination with national government actors through being embedded in the Ugandan TVET and national skills reform.

However, a recent discontinuation of the Reform Task Force for the Skilling Uganda Strategy has led to a stop in direct support by Enabel and unclear institutional relations as well as fragmented and irregular involvement in and commitment to the national BTJET strategy.

- ✓ Some of the RDPP components have found it difficult to fully involve the **local authorities** in and around Rhino Camp and encourage ownership. The local district sector offices are happy to receive support that fits the district development plans. **Yet district planning does not (yet) adequately consider refugees and there is little emphasis on refugee populations in the implementation of service delivery**.²¹

Although according to the EU Monitoring Report, district education officers “actively support the project and the paradigm shift” of the ‘Skilling Uganda’ Strategy, the staff interviewed for this research was not aware of the specific Enabel skills development component. A further challenge to coordination with the government has been that the relevant department (DIT) has no direct presence in Arua. The district education office focuses on primary and secondary education rather than vocational training:

“From our office, most of our resources go towards the primary and secondary education – only then can we look at tertiary education and technical training”.

District education officer

Overall, the cooperation with the district governments, for instance to map local labour market needs, rests in preliminary stages given their staffing, priorities and capacity. At the time of the research, their role was limited to taking part in the coordination platform, attending graduation ceremonies and maintaining a checklist focused on minimum standards.

¹⁹ The Committee has met twice so far but has no contractual or decision-making mandate through which it can make recommendations.

²⁰ The Steering Committee is made up of EUD, ADA, DRC, the project SSU experts and the OPM.

²¹ This has purportedly been a reoccurring challenge. So, for example, in the case of the Accelerated Learning Process (ALP) administered by Save the Children. The idea is to coordinate at the district level with the District Council for Education, which in turn should include refugees in its planning. Yet this has been referred to as “a continuous struggle”.

- ✓ Bringing **private sector actors** on board – in order to, for example, connect sellers and buyers to boost market activities – has been difficult as private sector structures are not developed in the West Nile and much of it is informal and small scale. In the project documentation, private sector involvement is limited to implementing construction works and supervision. Larger traders feel that it is not profitable to target Rhino Camp for the purchase of farm produce supported by the RDPP.

The DRC-led NGO consortium is trying to find creative solutions to pool producers and improve quality. More could be achieved if NGOs were to find ways to overcome these difficulties through acting as ‘middlemen’ or support possibilities of transport in order to connect the settlements to bigger markets in Arua or other towns.

Through the Skills Development Fund grant, Enabel has encouraged the establishment of public-private partnerships and joint ventures, in addition to creating new networks and strengthening existing ones. It is too early to say how sustainable and beneficial these links will be in the long-term and the LET research team will aim to follow-up on these aspects in the future.

d. Capacity building and local ownership

One of the evaluation questions asked how the RDPP strengthens the capacity of partners as well as local and central authorities to develop and implement an integrated approach towards refugees. Given the many layers, components and activities of the SPRS-NU in Rhino Camp, this takes place in various ways.

- ✓ On the ground and in the case of Rhino Camp, the overall logic of the RDPP, as well as the EU’s emphasis on process, has taken root in the way the **implementing partners** operate. For some NGOs to whom we spoke, the RDPP funding is more long-term and process driven as compared to other funding received. The need to interact with new actors is well understood and efforts are made in this regard as some of the RDPP funded projects include the establishment of learning sites (e.g. agricultural demonstration sites) to showcase integrated approaches. For some IPs, the RDPP objective to have a 50/50 focus on refugees and hosts has resulted in adjustments in terms of programming; for others it represents a continuation of prior efforts. The SPRS-NU consortium setup has thus partly contributed to strengthening approaches to and developing capacity for integrated programming of implementing partners.
- ✓ The complex governance setup in Uganda does not make capacity building towards integrated approaches for **local authorities** an easy task. Aside from some power politics between OPM and line ministries, whether different sector ministries and district governments are prepared to take on greater responsibility and effectively lead refugee response depends on the interest and incentive structure but also on their ability to do so. RDPP actors have been struggling with the lack of capacity of government actors. Given their limited resources, the line ministries are often occupied with catching up on their own agendas. Encouraging line ministries to become more strongly involved therefore cannot be easily divorced from a question of allocation and availabilities of finances. There is great interest from host community structures and governance actors to understand what the changes towards integrated planning means in terms of financial or other benefits.

e. Sustainability and effectiveness

Sustainable operation and maintenance structures for the new piped water supply systems are a specific objective/outcome to be achieved through community mobilisation and sensitisation. The same applies to sanitation and hygiene campaigns, which are meant to ensure community ownership of the facilities. ADA recognises the need for long-term functionality of the water supply and sanitation infrastructure to put in place, even if achieving this is a challenge for complex technical, political, and social reasons.

Under the livelihoods component of the project, Innovations Committees (ICs) were envisioned to be established within the inception report. These would be responsible for learning, further investigation and dissemination of project actions. The RDPP SPRS-NU Enabel-led skills development component also contains sustainability considerations. The innovative element lies in applying a structural support to skills development in contexts of displacement where it is usually not a priority.

First, it is implemented as part of a broader support to the 'Skilling Uganda' strategic plan using the Skills Development Fund (SDF) as a financing modality. The focus on supporting structures of both government actors, as well as training institutes and the private sector, can help ensure that high quality TVET provision for refugees and host communities is sustained in the longer-term.

It is unclear how much ownership will remain on the Government side following the handover of the SDF and the disbanding of the Reform Task Force. Given the absence of interest in vocational training, a sustainable handover will require continued engagement, lobbying, dialogue and follow-up with the private sector. Given that demand for vocational training greatly exceeds supply, placing trainees directly with the private sector and agricultural groups might be the most sustainable and effective way forward.

V. What's next?

The findings provide a snapshot of the situation of RDPP Uganda in 2018, with a focus on activities in Rhino Camp, Arua. Different actors have roles to play in building capacity and implementing RDPP. The following recommendations set out actionable points.

Structural recommendations for implementing partners

NEED OR CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION
Lack of information sharing leading to gaps in awareness of activities/resources available.	Strengthen information sharing: Overall, the RDPP SPRS-NU should emphasise sharing information and increasing collaboration among RDPP partners and beyond, especially with regard to assessments on labour markets, livelihoods and value chains. Referrals (for instance from ALP to skills training activities) could be a good way to maximise impact. However, these have not been prioritised to date.
Lack of investment on the part of local authorities.	Incentivise local government involvement: District government / sector offices could take on more responsibility for integrated approaches, but do not consider it their role yet. Their inclusion must be prioritised to increase ownership and ensure sustainability, and possible incentives to this effect range from capacity building to the sponsoring of staff or other financial contributions.
Disparate and disconnected monitoring and evaluation goalposts and objectives.	Agree on a common monitoring framework: The activities falling under RDPP in Uganda are vast, and each has its own results framework. At the same time, they all fall under a common RDPP agenda / theory of change which ultimately drives the efforts. A common monitoring framework should reflect synergies and the interlinked nature of desired outcomes. A common gauge of 'success' beyond outputs can improve coordination and accountability. The outcome metric proposed on this report may serve as a starting point for further reflection in this regard.

Activity specific recommendations for implementing partners

NEED OR CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION
Food security levels are alarmingly low.	Prioritise food security: Findings show that some vulnerable individuals, including host community members, fall through the cracks of the self-reliance strategy. It is thus imperative to cater to humanitarian needs prior to / while also focusing on development-oriented initiatives. While this is the responsibility of humanitarian actors rather than RDPP stakeholders, it threatens RDPP outcomes and should factor into planning and strategies. DRC's inclusion of a direct food assistance component into its development programming reflects this consideration.
Disproportionate focus on agriculture in livelihoods trainings.	The settlement approach should not be the basis for the skills training: Although access to land has been granted to refugees, insufficient plot size, poor quality of soil and lack of water mean that land does not equal self-sufficiency. Skills imparted through vocational trainings should thus not focus on agriculture alone, nor should they assume that trainees will remain in Rhino Camp. Given the general lack of enthusiasm for returning home, it is also not clear that the skills must be directly applicable upon return to South Sudan, rather than elsewhere in Uganda.
Difficulty to gauge long-term impact of programming on migration aspirations.	Implement tracer studies: Tracer studies can provide evidence of outcomes, expected and unexpected, in a context of displacement. Based on anecdotal evidence, at least some of the skills taught might lead to increased on-migration due to the assumption that these skills would be more useful in an urban context than in and around the camp. This warrants further targeted investigation.
Unmet demand for instant skills training.	Strengthen instant skills training: These are an innovative response in the Ugandan context, and popular with beneficiaries who understand that flexible skills constitute a competitive advantage. Efforts have not progressed as expected and the current set-up does not allow to meet the considerable demand.
Inadequate post livelihood training support and lack of access to savings and loan mechanisms.	Facilitate access to finance: Trainees interviewed over the course of the case study (focusing on the Enabel component) lamented the lack of access to start-up capital and savings mechanisms. The impact of skills training could be enhanced by facilitating access to loans / VSLA.
Lack of connections to existing value chains, employers, and wider markets around Rhino Camp.	Build relationships with private sector actors around Rhino Camp to connect start-up business to larger markets in order to ensure that training responds to practical skills needs. This can increase the relevance of livelihood activities to broader economic objectives of the region and connect beneficiaries with existing value chains.
Delays in implementing WASH activities.	Identify the source of delays in the WASH component: Given the crucial importance of ADA's contribution to the desired RDPP outcomes (ranging from livelihoods to social cohesion), it is imperative that activities commence promptly. Organisational learning, however, should also be drawn from a case study on the reasons progress has been slow, allowing partners and future initiatives to benefit from lessons learned.

Structural recommendations for RDPP Steering Committee and donors

NEED OR CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION
<p>Need for publicly available and widely distributed mapping of all activities that fall under CRRF objectives.</p>	<p>Conduct (and share publicly with all local stakeholders) mappings of activities and programming that fall under the umbrella of CRRF. Mapping CRRF activity can help address coordination gaps, avoid duplication, and identify where efforts are needed to streamline existing structures at both national and local levels. While this exercise should not necessarily be led by RDPP counterparts – and might indeed be more suitable for national government counterparts or UNHCR – the RDPP Steering Committee is in a strong position to initiate this necessary discussion.</p>
<p>Need for unified and streamlined coordination and communications mechanisms.</p>	<p>Avoid an overload of processes and coordination layers: Concerning governance of the RDPP and wider EU activity, it is important to ensure that RDPP lessons learned and activities be supportive of, and in line with, the CRFF (the most important process at national level for integrated planning for refugees and hosts). Creating additional communication and coordination layers may not be constructive to overall efforts but would distract and create parallel efforts.</p>

ANNEX 1: WAY FORWARD: USING AN RDPP OUTCOME METRIC TO GAUGE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMMING

✓ Why an outcome metric?

In order to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of RDPP programming, stakeholders in the field, donors and evaluators should agree on the effects they would expect to see. Focusing only on variables that programming aims to influence, scores can be attributed to individual respondents both along the relevant dimensions and overall. These scores can be used immediately uncover gaps between hosts and refugees and identify the most vulnerable respondents in categories of interest. At the time of the endline, to the extent that the same respondents are identified and re-interviewed, the evolution in the relevant dimensions can be assessed and linked to programming efforts, thus informing implementing partners, donors and the wider community of knowledge.

✓ Which dimensions / quantitative indicators are relevant in the case of Rhino camp and surroundings?

The indicators should focus on the domains of direct relevance to RDPP activities in the field. In Rhino camp, these focus mainly on water, education, education, livelihoods, and social cohesion. Based on these broad categories, the following indicators were selected to form part of the Rhino Camp-specific RDPP outcome metric:

Table 7 - Arua-specific RDPP outcome indicators

Water and sanitation	Access to an improved water source
	Enough water for agricultural production
	Access to some kind of toilet facility
	Garbage-free environment
Education	Regular school attendance
	Integrated school
	Teacher-student ratio of 50 or less
	Quality of teaching judged high or very high
Livelihoods	Working-age individuals in paid work or self-employed
	Individuals working in an integrated setting
	Working individuals with a formal contract
	Individuals who have access to TVET to foster their skills
	Households which have access to credit
	Households which have income redundancy (more than one earner)
Social cohesion	Respondents who find their economic situation (very) comfortable
	Households who judge that economic integration is on the rise
	Households who judge that social integration is on the rise
	Trusting one's own community
	Trusting neighbouring community
	Has not experience conflict with the refugee / host community in the past month
Has a neutral, positive or very positive perception of the refugee / host community	

✓ How is the metric calculated?

For each thematic/programmatic domain, a several binary (true / false) indicators were assembled representing the status of each respondent within the domain. Given the responses of all host and refugee respondents in our sample to these indicators, we used a multiple correspondence analysis to determine a set of weights that would maximize the variance of the weighted sum of these variables among the sample.²² Such empirical indices are often used in the absence of an a priori set of weights based on intimate knowledge of the underlying populations with respect to the relevant themes. These weights were then used to create a thematic index, which was in turn used to compute a score for each respondent household in each dimension.

²² Although for binary variables multiple correspondence analysis is functionally equivalent to principal components analysis, the former is a more appropriate term due to the lack of scalarity in the variables.

✓ **What are the preliminary insights?**

The overall assessment of average scores between host and refugee respondents points to a gap, particularly under livelihoods. Closing this gap, and raising the scores towards one, in order to meet minimum standards, will be one of the goals of RDPP programming in the years to come.

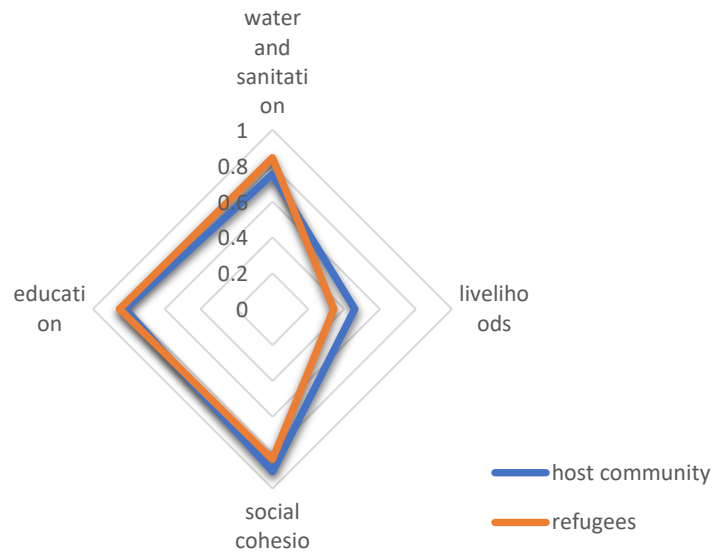


Figure 1 - Average scores of host and refugee respondents

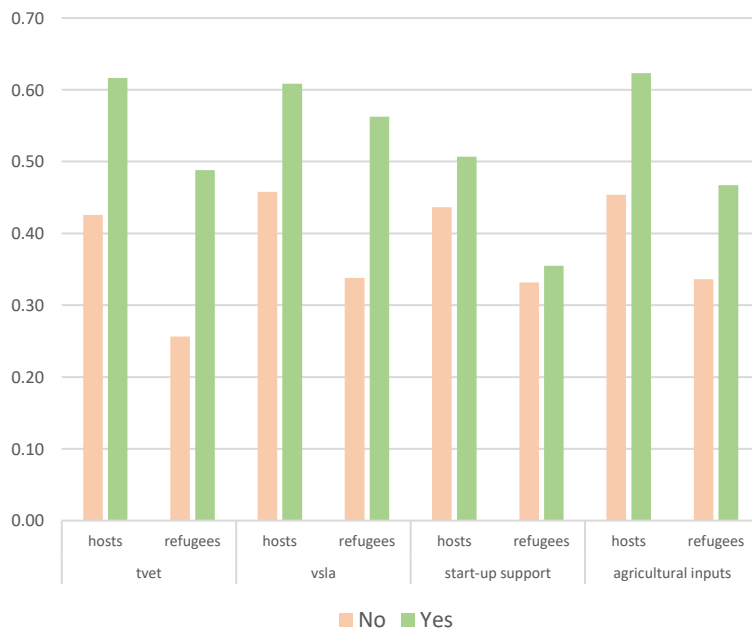


Figure 2 - Livelihoods scores and livelihoods support received

Comparing mean livelihoods scores to different types of livelihoods programming benefited from, it emerges that particularly for host respondents, higher scores tend to go hand in hand with a higher likelihood to have benefited from TVET, VSLA activities and start-up support. It is not possible to ascertain whether this is due to success of programming (aid raises livelihoods scores) or inefficient targeting (those most in need are not necessarily those selected as beneficiaries) - further light will be shed at the link between economic well-being and programming at the endline stage.

✓ **What changes would we expect to see at the time of the endline?**

If targeting is effective, one would expect the lowest quartile of respondents to have improved their scores considerably. The domains where respondents score the lowest should be prioritised. In the case of Rhino Camp, these are the livelihoods domains, with a focus on refugee populations. In line with the goals of the

integrated approach, gaps between hosts and refugees should be minimized. Overall, the population should be 'lifted' towards the goal of a 'perfect score'. This is by no means an ideal score but simply represents minimum standards being met in the context of Arua and in the domains relevant to programming efforts.

ANNEX 2: LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

In what follows, we present the baseline situation of RDPP-related activities in Rhino camp and its surroundings. Located in Arua, this camp was selected in consultation with RDPP stakeholders active in Uganda as the best option for qualitative and quantitative fieldwork for reasons of programming focus, accessibility and permits / authorisations. Lessons learned here are likely to apply also to programming taking place in the regions of Adjumani, Yumbe and Kiryandongo, but should not be generalised without taking into consideration differences in local context.

Uganda was a challenging context in light of the significant geographic spread of Rhino camp, the mix of both displaced and non-displaced individuals living in close proximity, and the variety of languages spoken by the target population (which included, but was not limited to, Dinka, Arabic, Lugbara, English, French, Nuer, Kakwa, Murule and Lingala). In light of this, we recruited a team of 20 enumerators, representing a mix of languages and backgrounds reflecting the diversity of the setting.

The team encountered a number of Ugandans living among the refugees and benefiting from camp services. From the Kakwa tribe which is also present in South Sudan, those Ugandan nationals blend naturally among the refugees in the Rhino Camp area. These households were identified through scouting and consultations with camp representatives, and the team was instructed to avoid sampling the cohort in question, whether as refugees or as members of the host community.

Populations living far from the administrative centre of Rhino camp tended to be greatly disadvantaged in terms of access to humanitarian aid and livelihoods, a phenomenon which might be at least partly attributable to language barriers faced by Congolese nationals among others. After this had been pointed out to, and verified by, the country coordinator, the sampling plan was slightly revised to ensure that those most disadvantaged populations were adequately covered.

Challenges faced by the team included survey fatigue and outright hostility by a number of refugees, which was defused only by the intervention of local community leaders.²³ Team members tended to fall ill after eating at local eateries, a risk which was mitigated by switching to packed lunches. Finally, the team's mobility in difficult terrain was greatly reduced by torrential rains which started during fieldwork.

A final important challenge faced in Uganda was research permissions. On top of the authorisation obtained from the Commissioner for Refugees at the Office of the Prime Minister, these further permissions required additional information to be provided to the Mbarara University of Science and Technology Research Ethics Committee. This process delayed data collection by several weeks.

²³ *The team faced suspicion by refugees in Ariwa. This happened because some individuals had previously approached them posing as data collectors, asking about their belongings... only to return to steal them a few days later. SH RDPP enumerators were only accepted in those neighbourhoods after local leaders vouched for them, and upon presentation of their ID cards and OPM authorization documents. -Field observation, Rhino (Arua).*