



WORLD DAY OF REFUGEES (2022)

As of 2021, Uganda was hosting [almost](#) 1.5 million refugees, making it the top refugee-hosting country in Africa and one of the top five hosting countries in the world. Our longstanding ‘open-door’ policy has benefited it both politically and financially, with hundreds of millions of donor funds provided each year for humanitarian and development projects. These target both refugees and locals. While Kenya, for example, has received Euros 200 million in humanitarian aid from the European Union [since 2012](#), Uganda has received this much from the EU in [just over four years](#).

Of concern to us is the fact that worldwide women form the greatest percentage of the refugee community. Here in Uganda, they form 52% of the total refugee population of 1,529,904 according to the United Nations High Commission on Refugee report: March 2022. While Uganda has undertaken several initiatives to ensure the safety of refugees, many especially the more vulnerable groups like women, children, and the PWDs continue to suffer violations by virtue of their status, gender, physical, emotional, and psychological abilities. These challenges include; Gender-Based Violence (GBV) which stems from harmful cultural practices and the overwhelming responsibility that society expects them to perform.

The situation of refugees especially women, children, and PWDs therefore, continues to be an issue of concern. While Uganda has had a strong commitment to hosting refugees for over 70 years, Like Refugee expert Dr. Evan Easton-Calabria shares “... *no country should host refugees without significant international support. Many refugee response plans, such as Uganda’s, remain significantly underfunded even as displacement rises and challenges – such as the COVID-19 pandemic – remain. Even though Uganda receives a significant amount of money, it’s not enough to support the number of people arriving as evidenced by a funding [appeal by refugee response actors](#) in June this year(2021).*”

Our call this World Refugee Day is to the international community, including developing partners, to step up to provide support provided to host countries like Uganda to enable them to support the socio-economic and cultural rights of refugees.