



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

# FACT SHEET

## UGANDA

**HIAS provides services for particularly vulnerable refugees in Kampala, Uganda who left the refugee camps out of fear for their safety. An estimated 50,000 of the approximately 200,000 refugees live in urban areas. Many of them are survivors of torture and/or sexual and gender-based violence.**



### REFUGEES IN UGANDA

Uganda hosts refugees from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

### HIAS IN UGANDA

HIAS has been providing services to refugees in Uganda for 12 years. The HIAS office in Kampala has a staff of 18.

### LEGAL PROTECTION

HIAS operates programs for refugee and host communities to ensure that the right to security is respected by all. HIAS has a particular focus on the most vulnerable refugees. Our clients in Uganda have chosen to live outside refugee settlements because they fall outside of accepted social mores and are at heightened risk. This group includes women who have been separated from the men who usually serve as their protectors. Without international aid, most live on the margins of Kampala without the protections usually afforded refugees. HIAS focuses on providing safety to these individuals and, for those at greatest risk, we facilitate resettlement to a third country such as the United States or Canada.

### PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

HIAS provides therapy in individual and group settings and social assistance that may include emergency safe housing, food assistance, and medical referrals, all of which are





facilitated through home visits from social workers. HIAS is known for our work preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence. In Uganda we also assist men who are survivors of rape and violence, a group that is often overlooked in humanitarian programs.

### LIVELIHOODS

Self-sufficiency is crucial to helping people overcome trauma and regain their dignity. HIAS is expanding our programs to provide vocational training and employment assistance and to help refugees identify opportunities to build small businesses. Helping refugees establish livelihoods gives them the opportunity to heal, stabilize, and rebuild their lives.

### COLLEAGUES AND PARTNERS

- **UN:** *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Organization for Migration*
- **U.S. Government:** *State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration*
- **Ugandan Government:** *Office of the Prime Minister; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Kampala City Council Authority*
- **International NGOs:** *International Refugee Rights Initiative, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service*
- **African and Ugandan NGOs:** *African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, East and Horn Human Rights Defenders Project, InterAid Uganda, Naguru General Hospital, Pan African Development Education and Advocacy Programme, Refugee Hope, Refugee Law Project, Wakisa Ministries, Uganda Red Cross, Xavier Project*

