

# UGACO EYE

Uganda Country Office



**NEWSLETTER**  
**6th Edition**

September – December 2025

# Table of Contents

FCA Finn Church Aid



<b>03</b>	Foreword	<b>07</b>	FCA Uganda Supports Refugee Students begin Master's Studies in Italy
<b>05</b>	FCA Uganda hosts Finnish Parliamentarians for high-level visit	<b>08</b>	FCA at Africa Skills Week 2025
<b>05</b>	FCA Uganda at the 5th Stanbic Development Partners Roundtable	<b>08</b>	FCA and Teachers Without Borders (TWB) at the Global Education Forum
<b>06</b>	Icelandic Delegation Visits FCA Uganda Projects	<b>09</b>	FCA at Refugee & Host Community Innovation Exhibition
<b>06</b>	Supporting Children with Disabilities	<b>09</b>	FCA Uganda Strengthens Learning Infrastructure
<b>07</b>	Honouring Outstanding Teachers		
<b>07</b>	Taking a Stand Against Gender-Based Violence		



# Foreword



**A**s we come to the close of 2025, this has been a year that tested the resilience of Uganda's humanitarian sector. Amidst funding cuts and tightening resources, our commitment to serving refugees, host communities and vulnerable populations has remained firm, guided by a strong focus on impact, accountability and partnership.

Despite these challenges, FCA delivered important results across our priority areas during the year. We strengthened access to education and livelihoods, improved learning infrastructure and advanced initiatives in women's empowerment and youth skills development. Central to this progress was our commitment to localisation, working closely with local partners, community structures and authorities, to ensure locally led and context-responsive solutions.

Throughout the year, our emphasis has been on quality and sustainability, ensuring that our interventions create meaningful opportunities and lasting value for the communities we serve.

In October, we were honoured to welcome Finnish Members of Parliament, providing an opportunity to showcase FCA's work in Uganda and our collaborations with partners. The exposure visit enabled the MPs to gain deeper insight into development cooperation efforts supported by the Finnish government through civil society.

As we reflect on the year's achievements, I extend my sincere appreciation to our programme participants, partners and FCA staff whose dedication made these results possible.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season and a prosperous New Year, and I look ahead to 2026 with confidence in our shared commitment to continued progress.

**Wycliffe Nsheka**  
Country Director - FCA Uganda & Ethiopia



**FCA Uganda supported 307,697 learners to access education, equipped 3,770 youth with vocational, entrepreneurship and financial management skills, and constructed over 100 school infrastructure facilities.**

## Chief Editor

**Linda Kabuzire**

Communications Specialist



# Marking Finland's Independence Day



Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka with Finnish Ambassador H.E. Riina-Riikka Heikka.



H. E. Sari Multala Finland Minister of Climate and Environment

On 10th December, FCA Uganda Country Director, Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka, at the invitation of the Finnish Ambassador, H.E. Riina-Riikka Heikka, and Dr. Taneli Heikka, joined other delegates to mark Finland's Independence Day and the visit of Finland's Minister of Climate and Environment, H.E. Sari Multala. The event was held at the Embassy of Finland residence. Key note addresses by both the Ambassador and Minister highlighted discussions on the environment, climate and the circular economy.

# FCA Uganda Hosts Finnish Parliamentarians for High-Level Visit

FCA Uganda hosted a high-level delegation of Finnish Members of Parliament for an immersive visit to our programmes. The delegation included Ms. Olga Oinas-Panuma, Ms. Karoliina Partanen, Ms. Fatim Diarra, Mr. Vilhelm Junnila, Ms. Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Ms. Sari Tanus and Mr. Henrik Wickström. They were joined by Mr. Leo Svahnäck, Head of Mission at the Embassy of Finland in Nairobi; Ms. Katri Suomi, FCA's Director of External Relations and Fundraising; Mr. Jussi Ojala, Executive Representative to the Gulf; and Mr. Juha Rintamäki, Director of the Helsinki Parish Union.

The MPs led by the FCA Uganda Country Director Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka visited key project sites, engaging program participants with staff, partners and communities to deepen their understanding of our interventions in education, livelihoods, youth empowerment and refugee response.

They also had high-level meetings with the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, European Union Ambassador, UN Resident Coordinator, UNHCR Country representative and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education & Sports, highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts to strengthen education and refugee support in Uganda.

Read more about the visit: <https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/fca-uganda-hosts-finnish-parliamentarians-for-high-level-visit/>  
<https://www.kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/en/latest-news/articles/it-was-great-to-see-with-my-own-eyes-how-the-system-works/>



L-R: Finnish MPs Olga Oinas-Panuma, Karoliina Partanen, Fatim Diarra; Wycliffe Nsheka, Country Director FCA Uganda; MPs Vilhelm Junnila, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri and Henrik Wickström. Photo: Bjorn Udd

## FCA Uganda Participates at the 5th Stanbic Development Partners Roundtable

On 16th September 2025, FCA Uganda, represented by the Country Director Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka, participated in the 5th Stanbic Development Partners Roundtable. The event, held under the theme “Adapting to Shifting Global Priorities in Development Finance,” brought together government officials, development partners and private sector representatives.

During the session, Mr. Nsheka delivered a keynote address, sharing insights on innovative resource mobilization and strategies for promoting self-sufficiency beyond traditional aid. FCA remains committed to sustainable development and empowering communities across Uganda.

Stanbic Bank

Speaker  
**Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka**  
Country Director, Finn Church AID Uganda

5th Stanbic Development Partners Round Table

The future of development lies in local solutions that include investing in SMEs, women, and youth while building partnerships that create mutual benefit and sustainable impact in our communities

#StanbicDPOForum

# Icelandic Delegation Visits FCA Uganda Projects



Icelandic delegation engages with children at a Mobile ECD centre in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement. Photo: FCA Uganda

In September 2025, FCA Uganda, in partnership with UNICEF Uganda, hosted a high-level delegation from the Embassy of Iceland in Uganda and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland at our projects in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, Western Uganda.

The delegation included Hildigunnur Engilbertsdottir, Head of Mission; Sveinn H. Gudmarsson, Head of Cooperation; and Pálína Björk Matthíasdóttir, Director of Bilateral Development Cooperation.

The team observed disability screenings at Kyangwali Health Centre IV and toured FCA's Mobile Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres bringing early learning opportunities to children in the settlement.

Supported by the Embassy of Iceland and UNICEF Uganda, FCA's work continues to promote early identification of disabilities, early childhood development and inclusive education for refugee and host community children.

## Supporting Children with Disabilities



Wheel chair race during the CoRSU walk. Photo: FCA Uganda

On 5th October 2025, FCA Uganda joined CoRSU Hospital and partner organizations for the 2025 CoRSU Walk, a major fundraising event under the theme "Bring Hope to Children with Disabilities." Over 2,000 participants, including corporate partners, families and community members, walked 5 km and 10 km routes to help provide life-changing medical care for children.

Through its participation, FCA Uganda reaffirmed its commitment to disability inclusion, particularly in refugee and host communities supported under the Intervention for Disability in Early Childhood (IDEC) programme. Through the program, FCA identifies children with special needs, refers them for surgeries and rehabilitation and supports their enrolment in inclusive early childhood education centres.



FCA Head of Humanitarian Response Lilian Musoki hands over a certificate of excellence to a teacher. Photo: FCA Uganda

## Honouring Outstanding Teachers

On 13th November 2025, FCA Uganda recognised the dedication and excellence of 42 top-performing teachers in Kyangwali refugee settlement, awarding them certificates of excellence under the BRIGHT Project. Six schools also received UGX 30,250,000 to support teacher savings groups, and an additional UGX 80,800,000 has been transferred to 16 more schools to further strengthen this initiative.

Read more: <https://www.finnchurchaid ug/articles/news/fca-recognizes-outstanding-teachers-in-kyangwali-refugee-settlement/>

## Taking a Stand Against Gender-Based Violence



FCA Mityana field office staff. Photo: FCA Uganda

FCA Uganda joined the rest of the world from 25th November to 10th December to mark the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. FCA staff in Mityana field office wore black as part of the global Thursdays in Black campaign, showing solidarity against violence.

Through the Contract Farming project, supported by Women's Bank Finland, FCA supports women in Mityana District strengthen their income and build safer, more resilient homes.

## FCA Uganda Supports Refugee Students Begin Master's Studies in Italy

Read more: <https://www.finnchurchaid ug/articles/news/ugandan-refugee-students-arrive-in-italy-to-pursue-higher-education/>

In November 2025, FCA Uganda and UNHCR Uganda supported 50 refugee students to travel to Italy to begin their Master's degree studies under the UNICORE Scholarship Programme. FCA Uganda assisted the students with pre-departure orientation, travel arrangements and guidance to ensure a smooth transition into higher education.



## FCA at Africa Skills Week 2025 in Addis Ababa.

FCA Uganda participated in Africa Skills Week from 13th to 17th October 2025 in Addis Ababa, taking part in a discussion on Inclusive TVET for Refugees – From Pledges to Practice. During the session, FCA shared insights and lessons from its Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E), Digital Inclusion & Creative Economy (DICE), and Complementary Pathways programmes, which support youth in Uganda to develop skills that translate into real livelihood opportunities.



FCA Uganda Livelihoods Technical Advisor Joseph Odumna (left) participates in a panel discussion at Africa Skills Week.

## FCA and Teachers Without Borders (TWB) at the Global Education Forum



Pauliina Holm (TVET Expert), Joseph Odumna (Livelihoods Technical Lead, FCA Uganda), and Salla Ruh (TWB Coordinator)

In November 2025, FCA participated in the Global Education Partnership Forum in Helsinki, organised by FinCEED and Education Finland. The event brought together thought leaders, educators and stakeholders to explore, discuss and showcase the latest advancements in education sector development and commercial cooperation.

Represented by Joseph Odumna (Livelihoods Technical Lead, FCA Uganda), Pauliina Holm (TVET Expert), and Salla Ruh (TWB Coordinator), the team highlighted the inspiring partnership that combined Finnish and Ugandan expertise to strengthen vocational training, green entrepreneurship, and inclusive education in refugee settlements

## FCA Kampala Solutions Hub



On 24 October 2025, FCA Uganda celebrated the graduation of more than 60 refugee and host-community youth who completed four months of intensive training in Digital and Creative Economies, and Functional Carpentry and Woodwork under the DICE Project. The programme equips marginalized youth with market-relevant skills and supports their transition into income-generating opportunities through incubation, business acceleration and links to employers.

Read more: <https://www.finnchurchaid ug/articles/news/over-60-refugee-youth-graduate-from-fca-creators-hub-in-uganda/>

## FCA Joins Prospect Initiative (Local Partner) for Graduation Ceremony

In December 2025, over 200 youths graduated from the Katwe Skills Centre, completing a six-month hands-on training programme. Participants gained skills in marketable trades such as domestic wiring, tailoring and fashion, alongside entrepreneurship and peace education. The youths, from violence-affected communities in Kampala including Kisenyi and Katanga, have now earned professional certification from the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB), equipping them for employment

and income-generating opportunities.

Delivered under the Strengthening Youth Voice and Civic Action for Peacebuilding in Uganda project, in partnership with Prospect Initiative (formerly Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum) and supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the initiative equips graduates with technical skills, confidence, discipline and non-violent conflict resolution abilities, preparing them to become self-reliant and active citizens.



**Graduation at Katwe Skills Centre**

## FCA at Refugee & Host Community Innovation Exhibition



**FCA Uganda Head of Humanitarian Response® during the exhibition.**

From 12–14 December 2025, FCA Uganda participated in the Refugee and Host Community Exhibition at MOTIV Grounds, Bugolobi, Kampala. The event, organised by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives in partnership with development actors, brought together refugees and host communities to showcase innovative, value-added products and businesses. Through the Kampala Creators Hub, FCA supported several participants to display their products, connect with buyers and investors, and share their entrepreneurial stories, highlighting the creativity and economic potential of refugee-led businesses.

## FCA Uganda Strengthens Learning Infrastructure

In 2025, FCA Uganda made significant strides in improving learning infrastructure across refugee settlements in Uganda. With support from Education Cannot Wait (ECW), European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA), FCA commissioned new permanent classrooms, rehabilitated existing classroom spaces and constructed safe, accessible, inclusive and gender-segregated Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines. Additionally, 432 three-seater desks were supplied to 24 newly constructed classrooms, enhancing the learning environment

for students.

» **Kiryandongo refugee settlement (ECW support):**

- 24 new classrooms
- 8 classroom spaces rehabilitated
- 40 latrine stances

» **Palabek, Rhino, Palorinya refugee settlements (ECHO support):**

- 12 new classrooms
- 11 classroom spaces rehabilitated
- 40 latrine stances

» **Palorinya refugee settlement (MFA support):**

- 6 new classrooms
- 10 latrine stances

These efforts aim to enhance the learning environment, promote hygiene, and support inclusive education for refugee children.



## Funded by:



## Finn Church Aid (FCA) Uganda Location

 Plot 1495, Roche Close,  
Off Tank Hill Road - Muyenga  
P.O. Box 21826, Kampala - Uganda

 Tel: +256 392 177 266

 [www.finnchurchaid.fi](http://www.finnchurchaid.fi)

