

# UGACO EYE

Uganda Country Office



**NEWSLETTER**  
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FCA Finn Church Aid



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### NOTE:

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# Foreword



**As we move forward, we remain focused on strengthening partnerships and ensuring that every investment translates into meaningful change for the communities we serve.**

Uganda's humanitarian and development sector is at a critical juncture, hosting Africa's largest refugee population of over 2 million people. Despite the country's progressive open-door refugee policy, funding continues to decline, placing increasing pressure on already stretched resources and services.

Despite these challenges, Finn Church Aid Uganda remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering timely, effective, life-saving, and accountable support to refugee and host communities.

It is encouraging that even within this constrained funding environment, we continue to build new partnerships and secure projects that strengthen our collective impact. These collaborations reflect the trust

placed in FCA Uganda and our shared determination with partners to respond to urgent needs while investing in long-term resilience.

This newsletter highlights key milestones achieved through joint efforts with government, donors, and implementing partners.

As we move forward, we remain focused on strengthening partnerships and ensuring that every investment translates into meaningful change for the communities we serve.

**Mr. Wycliffe Nshoka**  
Country Director, FCA Uganda & Ethiopia

# Launch of the China-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Grant Project to Support New Refugee Arrivals



L-R: Mr. Wycliffe Nshema, Country Director, FCA Uganda & Ethiopia; Mr. Wang Jianxue, Embassy of China; Mr. Fan Xuecheng, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of China; Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Prime Minister of Uganda; Hon. Lilian Aber, Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness; Hon. Eng. Hilary Onek, Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees; and Hon. Okello Oryem Henry, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, During the Project Launch.

The Government of the People's Republic of China has, for the first time, contributed USD 1 million to support humanitarian response efforts for refugees in Uganda.

The funding is channelled through the Government of Uganda – Office of the Prime Minister and the project will be implemented by Finn Church Aid (FCA) Uganda.

The project will support new refugee arrivals in Nakivale and Kyangwali refugee settlements in South-Western Uganda, strengthening emergency response services for vulnerable families.

It will prioritize protection, psychosocial wellbeing, and child-friendly services at reception points, including immediate assistance such as hot meals, dignity kits, play materials for children, and strengthened child protection systems.

The project was launched on 22nd April 2026 at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala, and officiated by Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Prime Minister of Uganda, alongside other key government officials and partners.

**Read more:** <https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/finn-church-aid-government-of-uganda-launch-china-funded-humanitarian-assistance-grant-project-chap-to-support-new-refugee-arrivals/>

## Chief Editor

Linda Kabuzire  
Communications Specialist



# Empowering Women Entrepreneurs through the GROW Project

In April 2026, FCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) to support women entrepreneurs through the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) Project.

The 18-month project, valued at UGX 795,000,000 (approximately USD 210,000), is aimed at supporting women-led businesses to scale, improve productivity, and achieve sustainable growth.

Through this partnership, FCA Uganda will establish and operationalise a common-user production facility in Lamwo District within Palabek Refugee Settlement.

The facility will provide women with access to shared production spaces, modern equipment, storage facilities, childcare services, and sanitary amenities, enabling them to grow and scale their enterprises in a safe and supportive environment.



Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka displays the MOU.

# FCA Uganda & ATC Commissions Digital Community Centre at Butabika Hospital



ATC Uganda CEO Dorothy Ssemanda and FCA Uganda Country Director Wycliffe Nsheka after signing an MOU on Digital Community Centres.

FCA Uganda, in partnership with the American Tower Cooperation (ATC) Uganda and the Rotary Club of Butabika Royals, on 6 March 2026 commissioned a Digital Community Centre at Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital, Uganda.

The centre, equipped with computers and internet connectivity, will offer digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and financial skills training for patients, youth, and the surrounding community, while also supporting healthcare workers with digital tools.

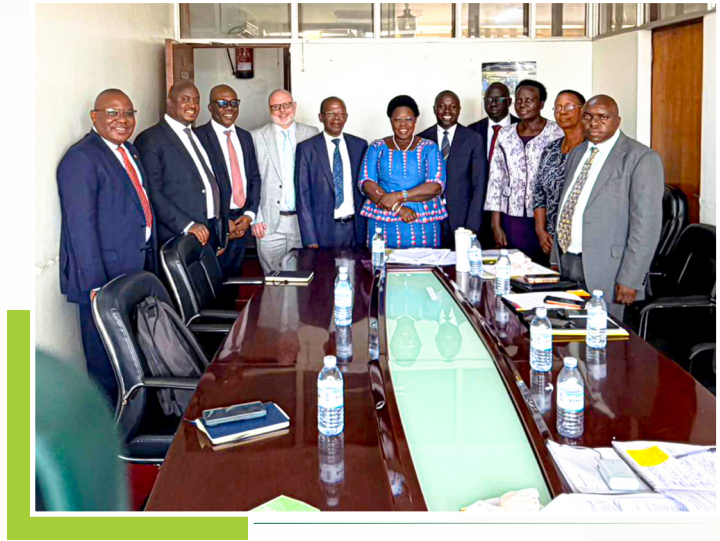
Earlier this year, FCA Uganda was awarded a contract by ATC Uganda, a leading provider of telecommunications infrastructure, to establish and manage 19 Digital Learning Centres (Digital Communities) across nine districts in Uganda, including Bugiri, Kampala, Jinja, Wakiso, Pallisa, Mbale, Mukono and Soroti.

# ACER and FCA Uganda Engage Ministry of Education & Sports on Strengthening Learning Assessments

**O**n April 14–20, 2026, FCA Uganda hosted the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) team for a strategic engagement visit focused on strengthening collaboration in assessments for foundational learning.

The ACER delegation, including Colin Watson and Yayra Dzakadzie, together with the FCA Country Director and Deputy Country Director, held discussions with the Ministry of Education and Sports leadership on improving education quality and assessment systems in Uganda.

The team met Hon. Dr. Kedrace Turyagyenda, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports, Hon.



Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, Minister of State for Primary Education, Hon. Peter Ogwang, Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi Muyingo, Minister of State for Higher Education, and Mr. Brighton Barugahare, Commissioner for Policy and Research in the Ministry of Education and Sports.

## Addressing Secondary Education Accommodation Challenges in Nakivale Refugee Settlement

FCA Uganda on March 30th, 2026, commissioned new dormitory blocks at Rubondo Community Secondary School in Nakivale Refugee Settlement to increase access to secondary education, support learners to stay in school, and improve completion rates.

The facility comprises two boys' dormitory blocks with a combined capacity of 112 beds.

It is furnished with 224 mattresses and equipped with a solar lighting system to enhance safety and learning conditions for students.

The infrastructure was constructed with funding from Université de Sherbrooke (University of Sherbrooke).



L-R: FCA's Simon Wakiibi & Stephen Ssenkima, Deputy Settlement Commandant of Nakivale James Mugume, together with Prof. Jean Gabin Ntebutse and Prof. Nathalie Roy, cutting the ribbon to officially commission the new dormitory block.

**Read more:** <https://www.finnchuraid.ug/articles/news/fca-uganda-addresses-secondary-education-accommodation-challenges-in-nakivale-refugee-settlement/>

# Launch of Peacebuilding and Climate Action Project in Kasese and Kiryandongo



Stakeholders during the launch event in Kasese

FCA Uganda, in partnership with Prospect Initiative and with funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, launched a Peacebuilding and Climate Action project in April 2026 to address the intersection of climate change and conflict in Uganda.

The four-year project, running from 2026 to 2029, seeks to build peaceful and climate-resilient communities by strengthening the role of youth and women in conflict prevention, mediation, and climate adaptation processes.

The launch was marked by stakeholder engagement meetings

held in Kasese District and Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. The meetings brought together district officials, humanitarian actors, civil society organisations, refugee leadership structures, and community representatives.

Participants included local government officials, security agencies, cultural and religious leaders, as well as actors working under the coordination of the Office of the Prime Minister and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**The four-year project, running from 2026 to 2029, seeks to build peaceful and climate-resilient communities by strengthening the role of youth and women in conflict prevention, mediation, and climate adaptation processes.**

# Strengthening Complementary Pathways through mission to Italy and Spain



FCA Uganda's Diana Berocwiny and Dennis Wamimbi meet with Cerceda Mayor Juan Manuel Rodriguez and the team from the Association of Rural Businesswomen.

FCA Uganda in partnership with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) and under the UNHCR Complementary Pathways framework, with support from Kepler and the DICE project, conducted a strategic mission to Italy and Spain from 27 January to 06 February to strengthen its Complementary Pathways programme aimed at expanding education and labour mobility opportunities for refugees.

The mission focused on deepening partnerships with academic institutions, employers, and key stakeholders to enhance safe and regular pathways for refugees to access higher education and skilled employment in third countries.

During the mission, the team met with municipal authorities, universities, vocational training centres, employers, and humanitarian actors in both Italy and Spain to explore models that link refugee inclusion with local labour markets and regional development priorities.

Read more: <https://www.finnchurchaid ug/articles/news/fca-uganda-strengthens-complementary-pathways-through-mission-to-italy-and-spain/>

# Distribution of Irrigation Pumps to Women Farmers in Mityana



Farmers receive irrigation pumps in Mityana.

**O**n 24 March 2026, in partnership with KickStart International, FCA Uganda handed over irrigation pumps to women under the contract farming project in Mityana.

The pumps will support smallholder farmers to irrigate their crops, improve productivity, and ensure more reliable harvests.

The contract farming project, funded by Women's Bank Finland, aims to improve the livelihoods of women through enhanced agricultural productivity and income opportunities.

## Four Years. One Breakthrough. Germany Awaits.

**F**or years, Christine Ayen and Awein Lina lived in uncertainty, their dreams of higher education put on hold. Today, that waiting has ended.

Through the Malengo Uganda-Germany Program, and with support from Finn Church Aid (FCA) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the two sisters are now preparing

to travel to Germany to pursue degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

“This is a dream come true for us,” Ayen says. “After everything, we finally have a chance to continue our education.”

The South Sudanese

refugee sisters, living in Kampala, Uganda had always been high-performing students. But financial hardship nearly forced them to

Click the link to read more: <https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/four-years-one-breakthrough-germany-awaits/>

## FCA Uganda Contributes to Global Gender Justice Dialogue at CSW70 in New York



FCA Uganda's Lilian Maate (R) with ACT Alliance colleagues Irene Anena and Vincent Mayega on the sidelines of CSW70 in New York.

FCA Uganda, represented by Musoki Lilian Maate, Humanitarian Response Manager, participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) in New York from 9-19 March 2026, contributing to global dialogue on gender justice.

During the sessions, FCA engaged in multi-faith panels on justice in humanitarian settings and supported the launch of the

Women and Migration Policy. Lilian also served as a panelist in a multi-faith side event, contributing insights on justice in humanitarian contexts.

The outcomes of CSW70 directly inform FCA Uganda's programming by strengthening Education in Emergencies (EiE), livelihoods, and peacebuilding work through safeguarding, community justice

systems, and gender-responsive approaches. They also reinforce efforts on partnerships and localization to advance access to justice for refugees and host communities.

# FCA Releases EUR 25,000 from Disaster Fund to Support Learners Affected by Dormitory Fire in Rwamwanja

FCA on 9 March announced the release of EUR 25,000 from its Disaster Fund to support learners affected by a fire outbreak that destroyed a boys' dormitory at Ntenungi Secondary School in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, South West Uganda.

The fire, which occurred at the FCA-supported school, resulted in the loss of students' personal belongings, including uniforms, scholastic materials, beddings, and other essential items.

Beyond the physical damage, the incident has caused significant psychosocial distress among learners, with many experiencing trauma following the sudden loss of their living space and possessions.



Inside the burnt dormitory at Ntenungi Secondary School, where students' belongings and study materials were reduced to ashes

The allocated funds will support improved temporary accommodation conditions for affected learners, as well as the provision of essential scholastic and personal supplies. It will also address urgent protection and psychosocial needs to strengthen emotional well-being, resilience,

and continuity of learning for both learners and staff.

The intervention will directly benefit 215 affected male learners, while also contributing to the safety and wellbeing of 972 boarding students and teaching staff at the school.

## Strengthening Inclusive Education Through the ECHO-Funded TOGETHER Project



Over the past two years, FCA Uganda under the TOGETHER Project (Towards Greater Effectiveness and Timely Humanitarian Education Response) funded by the European Union (DG-ECHO) has achieved significant

progress in improving access to inclusive, safe, and quality education across refugee and host community schools.

Key achievements in the last two years include the construction of 12 permanent classrooms in four schools across Rhino Camp, Palabek, and Palorinya refugee settlements, with each school receiving a three-classroom block, as well as the renovation of 11 classrooms.

The action also constructed 40 gender-sensitive latrine stances, improving hygiene, dignity, and sanitation for learners.

To strengthen teaching capacity, 244 teachers were recruited and supported across Palabek,

Rhino Camp, Palorinya, and Kiryandongo, enhancing learning delivery in targeted schools and settlements.

Access to education was further improved through the establishment of three education information desks in Kiryandongo, Palorinya, and Ocea Reception Centres, supported by trained Return to Learning facilitators.

Inclusion was reinforced through the provision of assistive devices to 1,808 children with disabilities,

enabling better participation in education.

Additionally, 8,893 menstrual hygiene management kits were distributed to adolescent girls across 21 schools, supporting dignity, attendance, and retention.

Overall, the project has strengthened inclusive, resilient, and equitable education systems for both refugee and host community learners.

**To strengthen teaching capacity, 244 teachers were recruited and supported across Palabek, Rhino Camp, Palorinya, and Kiryandongo, enhancing learning delivery in targeted schools and settlements.**

## FCA Itebe Program

Itebe, a program of Kepler implemented in partnership with FCA, empowered 108 students between January and March 2026. Drawn from urban communities and refugee settlements in Kampala and Kyaka II, participants were equipped with skills in English proficiency, ICT, professional development, and critical thinking to support their transition to higher education and employment.

FCA also supported 10 students to travel and commence their studies at Kepler College, marking a significant milestone in their academic journeys.

Through strong partnerships, the program



continues to expand access to higher education and sustainable livelihood opportunities for vulnerable yet talented youth.

FCA also supported 10 students to travel and commence their studies at Kepler College, marking a significant milestone in their academic journeys.

## Other success stories: Click the links below:

When a truck passed by inviting youth to learn a skill for free, Niyigena's future changed forever: <https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/when-a-truck-passed-by-offering-youth-a-skills-training-niyigenas-future-changed-forever/>

Small miracles grow in the shade of mango trees; <https://www.kirikonulkomaanapu.fi/en/latest-news/articles/small-miracles-grow-in-the-shade-of-mango-trees/>

No child should be neglected because of a disability: <https://www.kirikonulkomaanapu.fi/en/ajankohtaista/blogi/no-child-should-be-neglected-because-of-a-disability/>

[child-should-be-neglected-because-of-a-disability/](https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/how-a-training-opportunity-changed-sifas-life/)

How a training opportunity changed Sifa's life: <https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/how-a-training-opportunity-changed-sifas-life/>

## 2025 Impact in Numbers



**5,995**

youth skilled



**10,328**

reached through  
Linking Learning to  
Earning



**261,984**

reached through  
formal education  
(Primary and  
Secondary)



**22,066**

Reached through non-formal  
education (Vocational Skills  
training and Accelerated  
Education program)



**1,338**

teachers trained



**1,246**

duty bearers  
engaged



**5,061**

persons with disabilities  
supported

### Funded by:



**SUOMI  
FINLAND**



Funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



**EDUCATION  
CANNOT  
WAIT**

The global fund for education in emergencies



for every child



**Women's  
Bank**

Finn Church Aid



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