

UGACO EYE

Uganda Country Office



NEWSLETTER
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Foreword

Welcome to this edition of the UGACO EYE newsletter.

As we bring you stories and updates from across FCA Uganda, I would like to warmly welcome colleagues back from the summer break.

I also want to recognise the teams who continued to keep our programmes moving and our commitments to communities on track during this period.

This quarter, we are seeing renewed momentum across our programmes. Through the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises Project, we are supporting refugee and host community women to strengthen their livelihoods and grow their businesses; through the Government of Uganda/China Partnership, we are providing essential food assistance to newly arrived refugees; and through the Education Cannot Wait/Save the Children Partnership we are supporting teachers to strengthen the delivery of quality education in refugee-hosting communities.

Each programme responds to a different need, but together they reflect our broader commitment to helping communities meet immediate challenges while building stronger pathways towards resilience and self-reliance.

These programmes also give us an opportunity to build on our experience, strengthen partnerships and try new approaches to the work we do.

None of this happens in isolation. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our donors, partners, government counterparts and implementing partners for the trust and collaboration that make this work possible.

I also recognise the support of our FCA colleagues in other country offices, as well as our Service and Accountability Centre (SAC) in Helsinki whose collaboration and technical support continue to strengthen our work in Uganda.

Most importantly, I am grateful to every member of the FCA Uganda team for your commitment, teamwork and continued belief in what we can achieve together. Whether working directly with communities or supporting our programmes from behind the scenes, every contribution matters.

As you read this edition, I hope you will see not only the work we are delivering, but also the people, ideas, partnerships and collective effort behind it.

Thank you for being part of FCA Uganda's journey, and welcome to another edition of UGACO EYE.

Wycliffe Nshoka
Country Director, FCA Uganda and Ethiopia



Most importantly, I am grateful to every member of the FCA Uganda team for your commitment, teamwork and continued belief in what we can achieve together.

Upcoming FCA - Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development Partnership

FCA Uganda is finalising the contracting process for collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development under the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) Project.

Funded by the World Bank through the Government of Uganda, the initiative will support more than 4,000 refugee and host community women in Palabek, Kyangwali, Kyaka, Rhino Camp, Adjumani, Palorinya and Kampala.

Women will benefit from support across honey production and processing, maize value chains, artisan parks and digital enterprise hubs. The interventions will provide access to shared facilities, strengthen products and services, improve market access and enable women to build more sustainable businesses.



Mr. Wycliffe Nshoka, Country Director, FCA Uganda & Ethiopia, displays the signed MOUs.

Food Assistance Reaches 8,848 Newly Arrived Refugees



In August 2026, FCA Uganda, in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), provided food assistance to 8,848 newly arrived refugees in Kyangwali and Nakivale Refugee Settlements.

The assistance included essential food items such as posho, beans, sugar, cooking oil and salt, alongside specialised nutritious food for vulnerable groups, including malnourished children, breastfeeding and lactating mothers,

older persons, people on medication and others requiring additional nutritional support.

The response is an initiative of the Government of Uganda and China implemented by FCA to help newly arrived families meet their immediate food and nutritional needs as they begin rebuilding their lives in the settlements.



FCA and OPM staff distribute food in Kyangwali.

From Uganda to Manchester: A New Career Opportunity

In May 2026, FCA Uganda supported Mojahed Abdelrhman Mnzool, a Sudanese refugee and experienced electrical engineer, to take up an international employment opportunity in Manchester, UK.

With support including CV preparation and interview guidance, Mojahed

secured a position as a Power Linesman with Infrastructure Support Solutions Limited.

His journey demonstrates how complementary labour mobility pathways can enable refugees to use their existing skills, access decent employment and rebuild their careers beyond humanitarian assistance.

Read more: <https://www.finnchurchaid.ug/articles/news/when-i-saw-the-ticket-to-manchester-it-all-felt-real/>



Mojahed Abdelrhman Mnzool

FCA education colleagues from across country offices met in Nairobi from 1-4 June 2026 for a global education meeting focused on learning, capacity sharing and adapting to the changing education funding landscape.

The meeting brought together education teams to reflect on emerging challenges and identify ways to strengthen FCA's education programming and influence in humanitarian and development settings.

FCA Uganda was represented by Filbert Idha, Education Technical Lead, and Glory Angeyo, BRIGHT Project Manager.

Key discussions focused on how FCA can better demonstrate that education is a lifesaving intervention, strengthen evidence and data to show impact, and integrate child protection and other sectors into education programming. Participants also explored stronger engagement with donors and partners, including the private sector, as traditional education funding continues to decline.

FCA Education Team Strengthens Regional Learning and Partnerships



A major focus was the Rapid Education Action (REACT) package, which is designed to help FCA prepare for and respond quickly to education needs during crises. The package brings together existing tools and approaches while providing a common framework that can be adapted to different country contexts. For Uganda, this is particularly relevant given the recurring arrival of refugees and the pressure on education services

in settlements.

The meeting also underscored the importance of stronger, evidence-based and human-centred communications to demonstrate FCA's impact and clearly communicate what makes its education work distinctive. The discussions will inform continued learning, advocacy, partnerships and the rollout of REACT across FCA country offices.

Creative Arts Open New Opportunities for Youth



Mashimongo
Bienfort
showcases his
guitar skills

More than 100 refugee and host community youth in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement are turning their creative talents into skills and potential livelihoods through a three-month Creative Arts Training programme under the Digital and Creative Economy (DICE) Project.

The programme is equipping participants with practical skills in music, dance, drama, singing, rap and instrumental performance, alongside digital marketing, personal branding, content creation and entrepreneurship.

By combining creative and business skills, the training aims to help young people explore pathways to employment and income generation.

The programme will culminate in a public performance in September 2026, giving participants an opportunity to showcase their work and connect their talents with wider audiences and opportunities.

<https://www.kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/en/ajankohtaista/blogi/creative-arts-training-opens-new-opportunities-for-youth-in-rwamwanja/>

Refugee Youth Gain Automotive Skills



FCA Uganda, in partnership with UNHCR, is equipping refugee youth with industry-relevant automotive skills through the Train-to-Hire Programme in Automotive Mechanical Engineering under the Complementary Pathways Initiative.

Eight young refugees from Kyaka II, Rhino Camp, Kiryandongo, and Palabek refugee settlements are currently undertaking a 12-month programme at CFAO Mobility Uganda (Toyota), combining six months of technical training with six months of apprenticeship.

Participants are gaining hands-on experience in automotive mechanical engineering, body repair, panel beating, vehicle protection techniques, and other in-demand skills. Alongside technical competencies, they are strengthening workplace skills such as teamwork, communication, professionalism, and

collaboration.

“When I told people I wanted to become an automotive mechanic, many said it was a job for men. But I chose to follow my passion. Every day at CFAO I learn new skills, and I’m proving to myself and to others that women can succeed in this field too,” says trainee Moseka Kaseske Egeunie.

“I’ve always been curious about cars and how they work. Before this programme, I only admired them from a distance. Now I’m learning to repair them myself, and that has given me confidence that I can build a career in this field,” adds Maliyamungu David.

By connecting skills training directly with employer needs, the Train-to-Hire approach is creating tangible pathways to decent work, labour mobility, and long-term economic inclusion for refugee youth.

134 Youth Graduate from ITEME Preparatory Programme

In July 2026, 134 refugee and Ugandan youth graduated from the ITEME Preparatory Programme, implemented through a partnership between FCA Uganda and Kepler.

The programme equips young people with practical foundations in English, soft skills and basic technology, strengthening their readiness to pursue further education and employment opportunities.

For the graduates, completing the programme marks more than the end of a training cycle. It is a step towards accessing new opportunities, building confidence and developing pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

Through the ITEME programme, FCA and Kepler continue to support young people to gain the skills and preparation needed to navigate education and the world of work.



It is a step towards accessing new opportunities, building confidence and developing pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

Safeguarding Training Strengthens Teachers' Capacity

Between June and August 2026, FCA Uganda, with funding from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) through Save the Children, conducted safeguarding and Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM) trainings for teachers across refugee settlements in West Nile and South West Uganda.

The trainings equipped 544 teachers with practical knowledge on child safeguarding, prevention of abuse and exploitation, safe reporting and referral pathways, inclusive education,

alternative discipline, digital safety and the use of available complaints and feedback mechanisms.

The sessions also reached more than 3,000 learners in 10 FCA/ECW-supported schools, raising awareness of their rights, safeguarding concerns and safe channels for reporting complaints.

The trainings strengthened teachers' commitment to creating safe, inclusive and accountable learning environments, while reinforcing their responsibility to uphold FCA's safeguarding, Code of Conduct, PSEAH, anti-fraud and anti-corruption standards.



FCA Uganda Safeguarding Focal Point Winnie Kutamba during a safeguarding training in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.

Bringing Climate and Peace Conversations Closer to Communities

Climate change is increasingly affecting livelihoods and community relations in Kasese District, where droughts, floods, landslides, water shortages and human-wildlife conflicts are placing additional pressure on communities.

To strengthen understanding of these connections, FCA and Prospect Initiative, took climate, peace and security conversations directly to communities through a Community Awareness Caravan across Bwesumbu, Rukoki, Rugendabara and Muhokya communities.

Using mobile public address systems, community dialogues, question-and-answer sessions, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, and radio outreach, the campaign created opportunities for residents to share their experiences and discuss practical solutions.



Community members gather during the Climate-Peace-Security Awareness Caravan in Kasese.

Community members highlighted how climate-related challenges can affect food production, livelihoods and access to natural resources, potentially increasing competition and tensions. The discussions also encouraged communities to identify solutions that respond to their local realities.

In Rugendabara, for example, a community member proposed prioritising fruit trees in reforestation initiatives because of their environmental,

food and economic benefits—demonstrating the importance of communities contributing to solutions rather than only receiving information.

The caravan demonstrated that addressing climate change is also about strengthening peaceful coexistence, protecting livelihoods and ensuring that community voices are part of efforts to build climate resilience and peace.

SPOTLIGHT

FCA Uganda Hosts Humanitarian Practitioner for Cross-Border Learning Experience

FCA Uganda hosted Muneer Quhry for a three-month summer internship. Muneer is a Master's student in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies.

Originally from Yemen, Muneer brings nearly seven years of humanitarian experience, including work with the Danish Refugee Council.

His internship with FCA offered an opportunity to explore Uganda's refugee response and gain practical insights from a context different from his experience in Yemen.



Muneer Quhry engaging with FCA program participants

During his placement, Muneer engaged with FCA's Complementary pathways, DICE and ITEME programmes, and visited Rwamwanja and Kyaka refugee settlements and protection desks.

He interacted directly with refugees and FCA teams to better understand how education, livelihoods and protection interventions contribute to resilience and social cohesion.

He also facilitated a workshop on Conflict, Peace, Inclusion and Exclusion for DICE participants.

"This context offered me the opportunity to expand my humanitarian expertise beyond Yemen, allowing me to engage with a different post-conflict environment."

The experience also strengthened Muneer's understanding of the importance of community participation in humanitarian programming.

"Humanitarian action must be participatory, context-sensitive, and designed to empower communities, rather than treating them solely as aid recipients."

For FCA Uganda, the internship provided an opportunity to share field experience while also learning from Muneer's professional and academic perspective. His engagement with teams and communities highlighted the value of cross-border learning in strengthening humanitarian practice and exploring how humanitarian action can contribute to longer-term peace and sustainable outcomes.



Humanitarian action must be participatory, context-sensitive, and designed to empower communities, rather than treating them solely as aid recipients

Strengthening Teachers



The Enhancing Learning Environments through Value-Added Teaching and Education Resources (ELEVATE) project began in June 2026, with FCA Uganda implementing activities to strengthen education in refugee-hosting communities. The project is supported by Education Cannot Wait (ECW) through Save the Children.

Activities include teacher recruitment and onboarding, safeguarding, Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CRM/FRRM) sessions, teacher capacity strengthening, and the provision of teaching and learning materials.

A total of 681 teachers were recruited and deployed across the project locations by 15 August 2026. The teachers received trainings on safeguarding, child protection, teaching in crisis settings, professionalism, the Teachers' Code of Conduct, accountability and national education standards.

In addition, teaching and learning materials were distributed to at least 76 schools, providing teachers with resources to support lesson preparation and classroom teaching.

Story Highlight

Read how a Refugee in Uganda found her footing and went on to help others find theirs.

<https://www.kirikonulkomaanapu.fi/en/latest-news/articles/a-refugee-in-uganda-found-her-footing-then-helped-others-find-theirs/>

Quarter in Pictures



FCA Leadership team at the Leadership forum in Helsinki, Finland. (Back row, L-R): FCA Country Directors for the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ukraine. FCA Executive Director Tomi Järvinen; FCA Kenya Country Director; and Dr. Mohammed Elsanousi the ED of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers secretariat. Front row (L-R): FCA Myanmar Country Director, FCA Board Chair, FCA Nepal Country Director, FCA Uganda and Ethiopia Country Director Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka and FCA Middle East Regional Director.



Scholastics distribution in Kiryandongo refugee settlement.



FCA Uganda Deputy Country Director Mr. Stephen Ssenkima during his mission to West Nile, meeting with district leaders to strengthen collaboration and support programme implementation.



Wellness Session at FCA Uganda. Country Director Mr. Wycliffe Nsheka takes part in the staff wellness screening

THAT'S A WRAP!

Thank you for being part of the work. See you in the next UGACO EYE.

Chief Editor

Linda Kabuzire
Communications Specialist



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