

Guidance for a Landscape Approach In Displacement Settings (GLADS)

Uganda case study:

Lessons from literature review,
fieldwork, and local and
national consultation

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Introduction and background

Landscape approach in displacement settings

Refugee influxes and their dependence on natural resources for construction materials, fuelwood and livelihood activities frequently exceed the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystem. This can lead to forest, land and soil degradation, and biodiversity losses, which can cause tensions with host communities. With refugees often staying for long periods, long-term support to livelihoods for both refugees and host communities has increasingly been considered critical during humanitarian interventions (Schure et al. 2022). GLADS is a European Union-funded initiative, led by CIFOR-ICRAF in partnership with key stakeholders, to develop guidelines for implementing an integrated landscape approach (ILA) in displacement settings. Despite its relevance, ILA has not been systematically applied or adapted to a refugee-hosting or displacement setting (Schure et al. 2022).

Assessments of environmental impacts and options for environmental and land management in displacement settings do often address landscape scale. This includes planning of sites and settlements and certain services like water supply. However, most documented cases do not integrate the wider socio-ecological context and engage with stakeholders. The targeted interventions aim to improve living conditions of refugees in the short term. At the same time, they also help address longer-term sustainability of livelihood options of both refugees and host communities, and the resilience of natural ecosystems. However, the five principles advanced for the landscape approach could strengthen interventions by targeting key economic, social and environmental sustainability outcomes in displacement settings:

- Complexity of socio-ecological systems is coming to the fore in many refugee-hosting landscapes. The influx of people in a certain area puts pressures on ecological services and creates new social relations and renegotiation of claims with host communities and other stakeholders.
- The need for interdisciplinarity and trans disciplinary approaches in planning and management across various sectors is acknowledged for addressing longer-term needs and sustainability in displacement settings.
- The multiple functions and trade-offs principle is illustrated through the reported multiple livelihood activities, and socioeconomic dynamics between refugees and host communities.
- Participation and stakeholder engagement appear crucial in most cases, with many different stakeholders identified: refugees; local population; local, subnational and national governments; humanitarian, international, donor and research organizations; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); universities; and the private sector. Effectiveness of this participation and engagement contributes to management and monitoring and requires capacity enhancement and understanding of stakeholder perceptions.

A review of tools and guidelines identified relevant instruments, most of which are targeted to environmental planning and management. Two separate frameworks focus on overall governance and coordination for multisectoral planning and stakeholder engagement. Figure 1 summarizes core elements from the review that proposed guidelines should reflect. This framework offers guidance on components to be further conceptualized when co-developing guidelines with key stakeholders on how to apply the approach for sustainable development and resilience at landscape level.



Figure 1. Integrated landscape approach in displacement settings (conceptual framework). Source: Schure et al. 2022, based on ILA principles by Freeman et al., 2015.

Background

Overview of Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement

Opened in 1980, Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement (hereafter “Rhino camp”) is in the northwestern region of Uganda in the districts of Madi-Okollo and Terego (both formerly part of Arua district, spreading over parts of Odupi, Omugo and Uriama sub-counties in Terego district).

It extends into Rigbo sub-county in Madi-Okollo district (Figure 2), covering an area of approximately 225 km² (GFA Consulting Group 2021), with a refugee population of 139,781. The settlement is on customary land owned and administered by clan leaders. However, it is leased and administered by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) following negotiated agreements with the landowners.

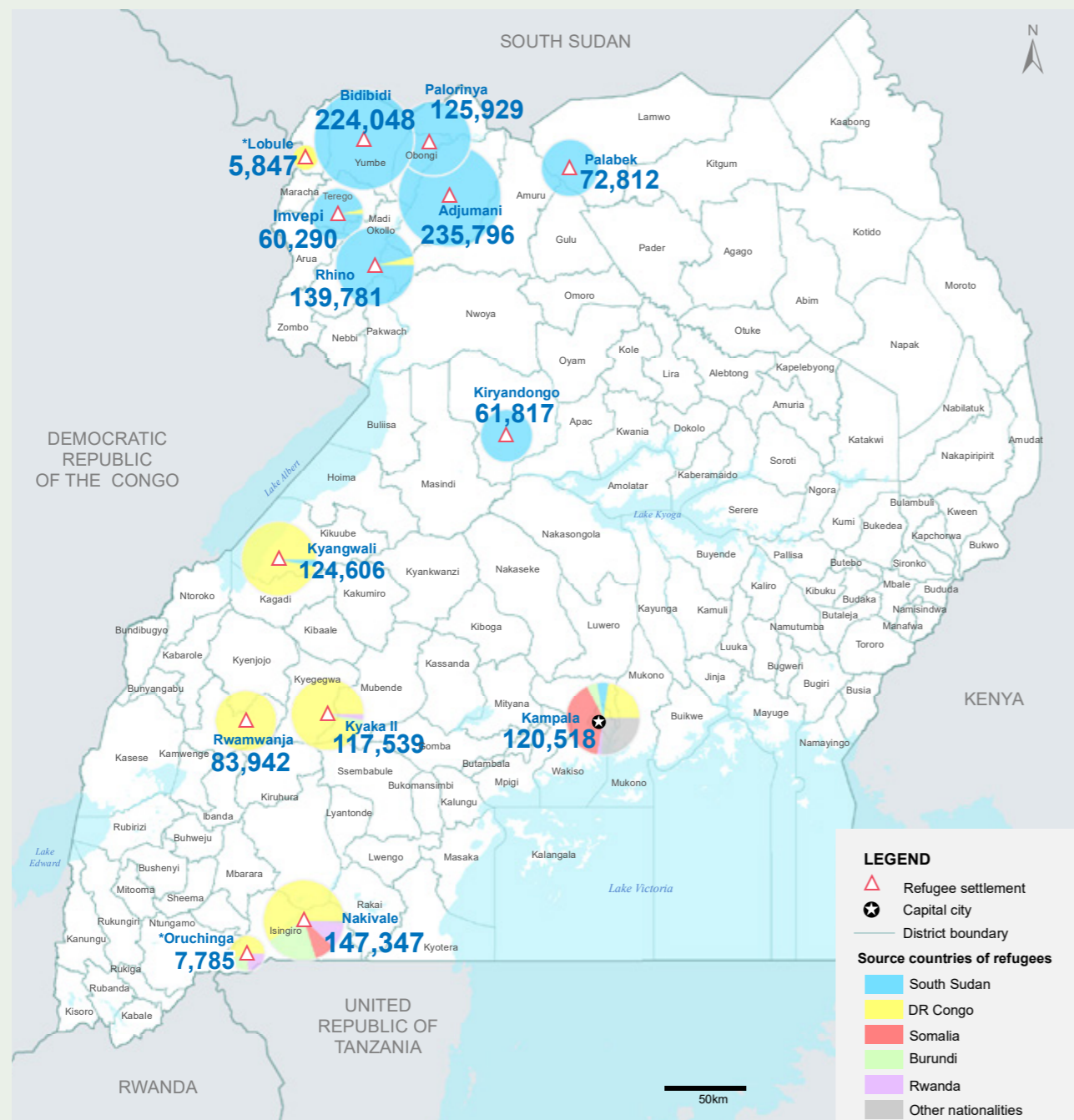


Figure 2. The distribution of refugee settlements in Uganda and the relative populations of refugees in them. Source: UNHCR 2022.

The Rhino camp hosts 13% of Uganda’s total refugee population in Terego and Madi-Okollo districts. Most refugees in Uganda originate from South Sudan (Figure 3) and many are hosted in the Rhino camp.

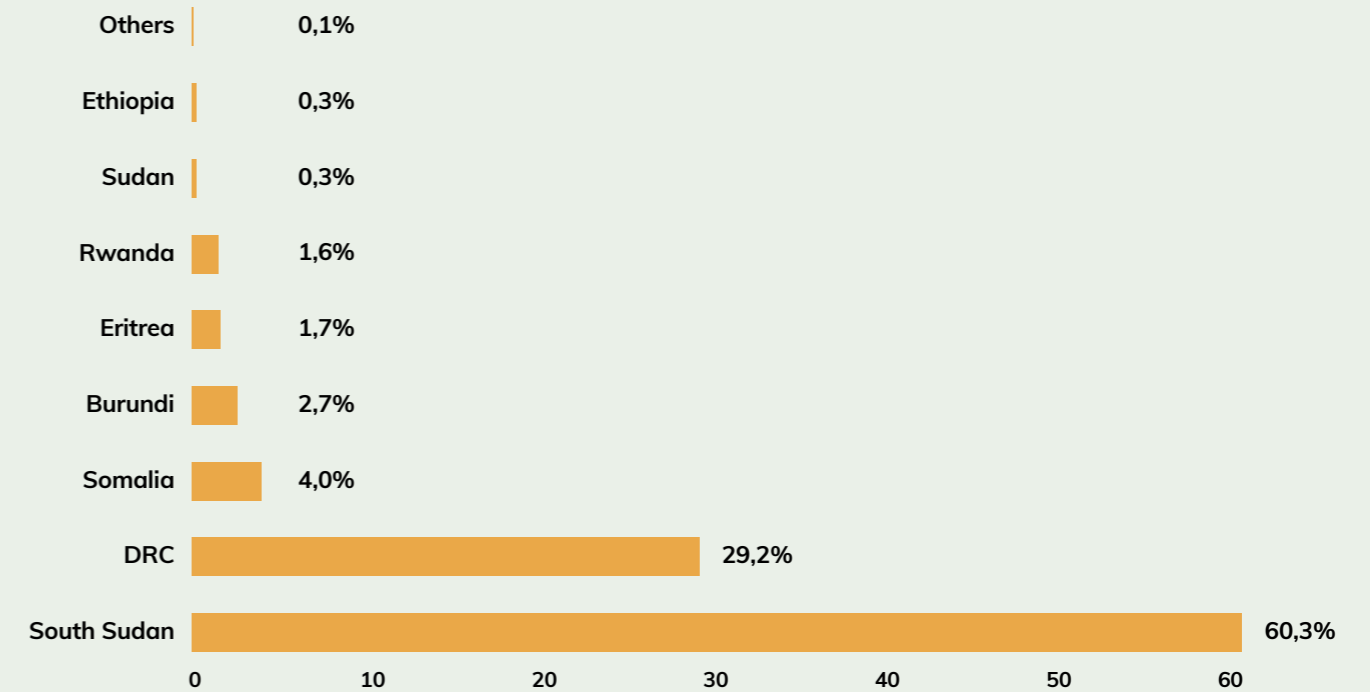


Figure 3. Proportion of refugees in Uganda by country of origin. Source: UNHCR 2022.

Madi-Okollo and Terego districts are located in the West Nile region of Uganda, originally under Arua district.¹ The communities are predominantly from the Nilotic ethnic group who speak Lugbara. Recent precipitation records have shown that rainfall is unreliable, erratic and difficult to predict. The region has a bi-modal rainfall pattern with light rains between April and October.

In the dry season (December–March) temperatures remain high. The main economic activities in the region are fishing in the Nile, peasant farming of sesame and cotton, and goat and cattle keeping (ILO 2020). The two districts are drained by seasonal tributaries of the Albert Nile such as the Enyau River. Land holdings in the region vary generally from 0.2–1.2 ha per household. Land in the region is held under four tenure systems: customary, communal, lease hold and rent.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terego_District

Status and governance of refugees in Uganda

The OPM manages refugees in Uganda under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) launched in 2017 in collaboration with UNHCR. As of June 2022, Uganda hosted 1,529,272 refugees (UNHCR 2022). The Water and Environment Sector Response Plan (WESRP) for refugees and host communities anchored in the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) guides interventions in the environment sector. WESRP is designed to provide comprehensive planning for both refugees and host communities within the context of the Water and Environment Sector Development Plan.

The legal regime for the protection of refugees in Uganda comprises three essential dimensions: international conventions and declarations, regional agreements, and national legislation and regulations. Internationally, following its admission to the United Nations, Uganda began agreeing to a number of international and human rights instruments. For example, in 1976, it acceded to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (UNHCR 2011). The Refugees Act, 2006 (Uganda 2006), a more comprehensive and progressive law, replaced the 1960 Control of Alien Refugees Act. The key provisions of the 2010 regulations include rights and obligations of refugees, such as freedom of association, non-discrimination and equality, freedom of movement and access to employment.

The refugee settlement governance and administrative units in the Rhino camp consist of seven zones, further divided into villages and blocks (DRC 2018). Blocks are the smallest entities, comprising approximately 200–1,000 households; villages, the next unit, consist of 4–8 blocks, while the largest entity — zones — have 4–6 blocks. The OPM Department of Refugees has representation at the settlement level, led by the camp commandant and a team of assistants. The local refugee governance structure is made up of Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs). Each RWC has 11 elected positions (Allen and Muturi 2020).

Socioeconomic and livelihoods dimension

The refugee and host communities in the Rhino camp are in remote rural areas, relying on natural resources for much of their subsistence. Most refugees obtain food rations from the World Food Programme (WFP). A 2017 report on livelihoods in Imvepi and Rhino camp for UNHCR (World Vision 2017) found that 58% of the refugees did not engage in any economic activity while 24% were engaged in crop cultivation on land leased from host community owners. Most refugees have limited livelihood options (World Bank 2019; Allen and Muturi 2020). The few refugees who were offered casual labour on farms owned by nationals earned between UGX 0–10,000 (1 USD=UGX3,750).

Most host community members (75%) are engaged in crop production as their main economic activity, while 10% are involved in petty trade. Cultivation of crops such as cassava and sesame is the main economic activity (World Bank 2019; ILO 2020). Sand harvesting, artisanal stone crushing, brick making and charcoal production are other livelihood activities undertaken by a few members of both the refugee settlement and host community.

Environmental dimension

Uganda hosts Africa's largest refugee population (over 1.5 million), and the third largest in the world. Refugees are mainly immigrants escaping armed conflict from neighboring countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. Refugees in Uganda live primarily in remote rural settlements, in communities adjacent to their hosts (Ugandan nationals). Both refugees and hosts are poor, relying on the environment and natural resources for sustenance. A rapid assessment report on natural resource degradation showed a drastic increase in tree cover loss from 1,919 ha (2010–2013) to 34,112 ha (2014–2018) (World Bank & FAO 2019). With the influx of refugees, degradation also rose in-and-around refugee settlement boundaries from 5,664 ha to 29,604 ha during the same periods. With increased degradation, the settlement has grappled with wood fuel shortages and increased sexual and gender-based violence against girls and women who move longer distances in search for fuel wood; food insecurity; and increased inter and intra communal conflicts. The situation is compounded by the unprecedented, protracted stay of the refugees.

Modern energy cooking and lighting in displacement settings

Energy-related service delivery in refugee settlements is addressed in the UNHCR Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (SAFE) Strategy for Uganda. SAFE is implemented in partnership with the OPM Department of Refugees (UNHCR 2016). In 2018, GIZ and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) piloted an integrated approach to create sustainable solutions for improving access to energy for refugees and host communities in the Rhino camp (Butele et al. 2018). The pilot project sought to address the question whether and to what extent market-based approaches can be successfully implemented in the refugee context to facilitate sustainable access to modern energy services. Key interventions in the host and refugee communities included raising awareness on the benefits of improved cook stoves and training local stove artisans. In addition, they supported local vendors of energy products with start-up capital and set up of energy kiosks. The vendors sold high quality cook stoves and PicoPV products and also offered related services like phone and lantern charging (Butele and Mitschke 2017; Butele et al. 2018).

Private energy actors are also tapping into this market to provide affordable products and services. This includes solar energy to meet the energy needs of households and enterprises in the Rhino Camp and host communities. These enterprises respect the '30/70 principle', which ensures the hosting community receives one-third of energy supplies (UNHCR 2018). One of the key private sector actors is the Uganda Off Grid Energy Market Accelerator (UOMA). It focuses on scaling off-grid energy access through research and insights, coordination of energy industry actors and resources to increase efficiency, and direct interventions to reduce access barriers in refugee settlements (UOMA 2020). Studies on energy technology complementarity aim to reduce pressure on woodlands and increase energy self-sufficiency of refugee-hosting landscapes. Such studies have helped enhance modern energy cooking and lighting in displacement settings (Kay et al. 2021). For example, a recent study among refugees in northwestern Uganda found that efficient use of wood fuel combined with solar energy could reduce primary energy demand for basic needs by up to 37% and up to 50% for productive use (Kay et al. 2021).



Sustainable water supply in refugee settlements

There is no evidence that landscape approaches have been applied within the water, sanitation and water supply sector. However, humanitarian and development partners do use sectoral approaches to ensure sustainable water supply in the Rhino camp. Water access has shifted significantly towards sustainable water systems; water trucking has been reportedly reduced to 7% (UNHCR 2018). Similarly, the management of water supply is transitioning from humanitarian actors to national and regional utilities to improve long-term sustainability (Allen and Muturi 2020). To ensure sustainability, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation and regional umbrella authorities (UAs) are now key actors in the delivery of water supply services in the Rhino camp. The MWE has mandated regional UAs to run day-to-day operations of utilities, including revenue collection. However, the transition could risk increasing inequality and pushing water services out of reach for an already vulnerable population.

Water governance within the settlements is a hybrid. The community water governance structures in the Rhino camp are composed of the Refugee Welfare Council 3 (RWC3), water use committees (WUCs) and the water and sanitation committees (WSCs) (Allen and Muturi 2020). The RWC3 represents the interests of refugees in the settlement, including on issues related to water supply, reporting directly to the OPM. The WUCs represent end users and are responsible for the day-to-day running of a given water point. Finally, the WSCs support management of piped water supply systems.

Integration of development in humanitarian response

Integration of humanitarian response and development is well anchored into Uganda's Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP). DRDIP is inclusive and provides for bottom-up generation of interventions within the refugee landscape. However, sustaining this integration requires cross-sectoral collaboration, including with the private sector. In the Rhino camp, the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) brings together different stakeholders in various sub-sectors. These comprise refugee registration, education, child protection, peaceful co-existence and community-based organizations, psychological support, legal and community-based protection, and environment and livelihoods (UNHCR and WMU 2020). UNHCR and OPM facilitate the working group with humanitarian and development partners that meet quarterly to review progress and jointly plan refugee and host interventions.

In 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted an integrated enterprise and market systems assessment in Arua district. This sought to identify local sectors and value chains with potential for growth, profitability and employment for refugee and host communities (ILO 2020). The analysis then determined how the identified value chains could be developed to include both refugees and host communities in the labour market. The study developed an ILO-UNHCR Approach to Inclusive Market Systems (AIMS) for refugees and host communities. AIMS assumes that humanitarian assistance at the onset of displacement should be followed by a transition towards sustainable economic development. The approach therefore works at the humanitarian-development nexus by strengthening local market systems and enabling refugee and host communities to seize the economic and employment opportunities therein. AIMS generally uses a 'push-pull approach' that works both demand and supply sides of the labour market (ILO 2020). Rather than intervening in local markets through direct delivery of goods and services, AIMS focuses on strategic facilitation that enables local actors to support the market system in a sustainable manner.

Overview of case study methodology

The landscape approach is one of continual learning and adaptive management. It expects that actions take place at multiple scales and that landscapes are multifunctional. In other words, actions supply both goods (such as timber and food) and services (such as water and biodiversity protection). In this approach, multiple stakeholders are involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases. It assumes that every stakeholder has a common concern about the landscape. They negotiate change with each other and their rights and responsibilities are clear or will become clear. The development of the 'landscape approach' dates to the 1980s, but the term was not used until 1992. Again, several organizations have been involved in shaping the shift from integrated rural development to ILA frameworks. These organizations include CGIAR, Worldwide Wildlife Fund, World Resources Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and The Nature Conservancy, among others. Most recently, Sayer et al. (2013) identified 10 principles of landscape approaches:

1. Continual learning and adaptive management
2. Common concern entry point
3. Multiple Scales
4. Multifunctionality
5. Multiple stakeholders
6. Negotiated and transparent change logic
7. Clarification of rights and responsibilities
8. Participatory and user-friendly monitoring
9. Resilience
10. Strengthened stakeholder capacity

The development of guidelines for landscape approaches in displacement settings (GLADS) is a component of the Governing Multifunctional Landscapes (GML) project. GML is a European Union-funded initiative, led by CIFOR-ICRAF in partnership with key stakeholders. The guidelines aim to support humanitarian actors and local stakeholders in landscape-level planning and implementation that contribute to livelihood resilience of refugees and host communities.

The development of the case study was informed by a review of available tools and guidelines (Annex 2) used and consultation with key stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa, nationally and particularly in the Rhino camp. Between September 2021 and January 2022, the GLADS team covered general literature on the topic. It also reviewed documentation of the selected refugee hosting areas in Cameroon (East region near Garoua Boulai), Kenya (Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement in Turkana County) and Uganda (Rhino camp in Madi-Okollo district, formerly part of Arua district). This review identified available information on landscapes in these displacement settings (as well as what is lacking).

The draft conceptual framework, principles and tools/guidelines distilled from review work guided the field consultations. This review identified available information on landscapes in these displacement settings, as well as gaps.

The draft conceptual framework and principles distilled from review work guided the field consultations, according to guiding questions: what experiences from the landscape can we share regarding the conceptual framework as shown in Figure 1?

Principles

1. The appropriate landscape scale(s) and boundaries have been determined to address sustainability and resilience in displacement setting.
2. The main sectors and interlinkages between these sectors within displacement setting are known
3. Different stakeholders acknowledge the complexity of socio-ecological systems, including the range of different processes and scales and hybrid governance structures
4. Multifunctionality, synergies and trade-offs within displacement settings have been identified.
5. Approaches transcend traditional sectoral and disciplinary boundaries.
6. Stakeholders within displacement settings can participate and engage meaningfully in designing, implementation and decision making.
7. Outcomes (social, environmental and economic, socio politico) are sustainable in displacement settings.

Data obtained through literature review were presented to stakeholders at the landscape- and national-level workshops. Landscape-level consultation and field ground-truthing took place in the Rhino camp, Madi-Okollo and Terego districts from 27 March to 2 April 2022. The workshop was attended by participants from various organizations representing state and non-state actors, including local government technical officials from Madi-Okollo and Terego districts, RWC leaders, humanitarian organizations and local NGOs (see Annex 1). The workshop sought to validate the results of the literature review, explore the scope and experiences on application of ILAs, reflect on the design of the integrated landscape guidelines/tools for displacement settings and identify more sources of information.

A national stakeholder workshop was held on 21 July 2022 to reflect and learn on the application of ILAs in displacement settings in Uganda and help develop GLADS. Thirty-one people participated, representing state and non-state actor organizations (see Annex 1).

The landscape of Rhino Refugee Camp Settlement

The literature review, case study and local stakeholders' engagement in the Rhino camp suggested ILA concepts were not fully applied. Most interventions in the refugee settlement were sectoral (Figures 4 and 5). However, some aspects of ILAs were applied, especially in the three major sectors of water and sanitation, and hygiene; environment and energy; and humanitarian coordination and governance.

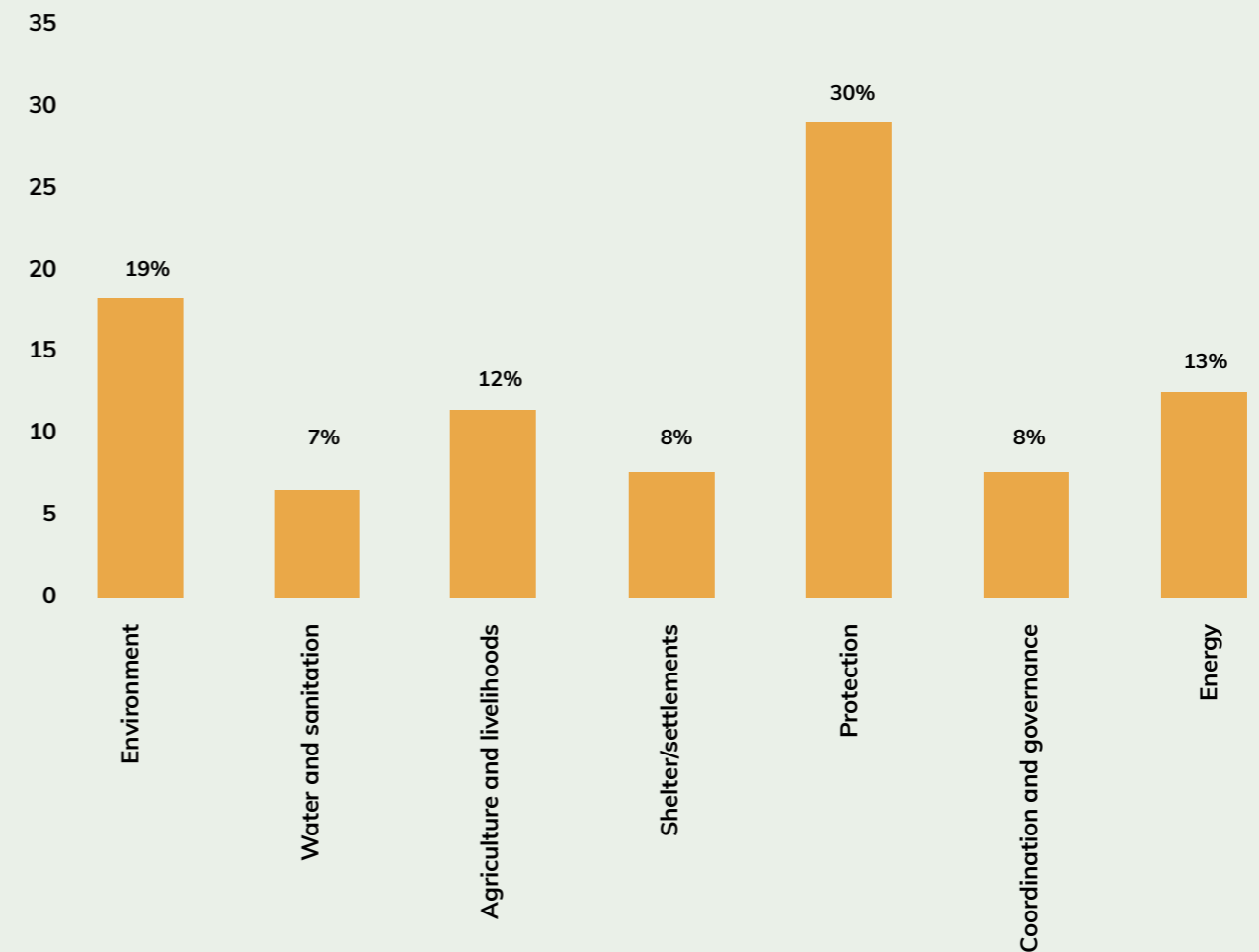


Figure 4. Sectors within the refugee settings of Uganda that applied some concepts of integrated landscape approaches.

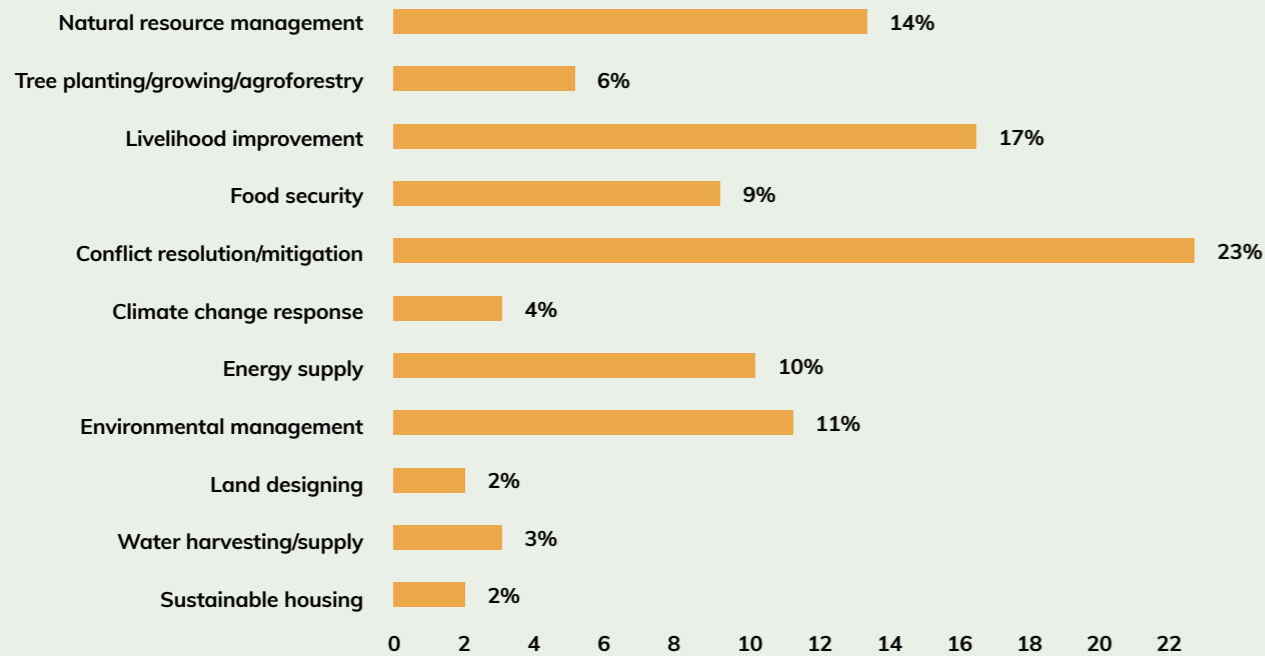


Figure 5. Intervention areas implemented by the different organizations involved in providing solutions to refugees.

The WESRP for refugees and host communities in Uganda is aligned with the National Development Plan III (NDP III). The NDP III adequately provides for refugee inclusion in the MWE planning process. This, in turn, aims to promote rational and sustainable use of water and environmental resources for socio-economic development in refugee-hosting districts. The Rhino camp made efforts to ensure sustainable water supply. The review also found a shift from water trucking to the use of solar water pumps. In addition, the settlement was shifting from a reliance on humanitarian actors to national utilities management in water supply. There was also participation and capacity building of community water governance structures. These structures were ensuring that water was adequately distributed to the different reservoirs spread across the settlement. In addition, Water Mission Uganda (WMU) conducted community dialogues and house-to-house social mobilization about safe water chain management and sanitation (Allen and Muturi 2020).

Within the environment and energy sector, modern energy cooking and lighting in the Rhino camp were promoted through various tools and approaches. These included UNHCR Safe Access to Firewood; Alternative Energy (SAFE) strategy; provision of start-up capital to local vendors to set up energy kiosks; and popularizing use of alternative fuels. The review identified private sector players as key stakeholders in supporting management and administration of the settlement. Companies like UOMA, an intermediary of Uganda's Electricity Regulatory Authority, have focused on scaling off-grid energy access (UOMA 2020). Other private sector players in the energy sector included Massachusetts Institute of Technology Design Laboratory (MIT D-Lab), Kulika Uganda and the Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT) focusing on promoting solar photovoltaics and electronics, heat conservation methods and carbonization of biomass to make briquettes (Energypedia n.d.).

Reflections by stakeholders on the scale, scope and potential of the application of ILAs in the Rhino camp provided further insights. These are summarized below under each GLADS principles.

Socio-ecological systems

Under the Uganda CRRF, refugees are integrated into host communities. They have freedom of movement, opportunities for employment, access to markets and user rights to allocated plots of land. The CRRF aims to foster self-reliance in the refugee community. However, this has created a complex socio-ecological system in the long term as refugees and hosts compete for social and economic resources. Land initially owned and administered by the hosts' social clan system was leased to the OPM under a negotiated agreement. The OPM in collaboration with UNHCR subdivided the land for refugees to meet their daily subsistence needs. While refugee settlements are generally intended for short-term stays and emergency aid, the average duration of major refugee situations has increased from 9 to 17 years (UNHCR 2004). The protracted stay eventually demands creation of a hybrid nature of humanitarian governance. This would entail, for example, RWCs and the equivalent of local government councils. Both populations rely on natural resources on the land to meet subsistence needs, but they use them differently. The high demand has increased pressure on resources, leading to degradation.

The FAO Forest Landscape Management Plan for Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement is a land suitability assessment through geospatial analysis. It provides information on status and changes in tree cover, land use and land cover (FAO 2020). Its specific objectives are to guide implementation of site-specific forestry interventions and support a joint resource mobilization strategy to address environmental degradation and energy needs. It also incorporates soil suitability classes and species matching for tree growth and land suitability for woodlot establishment. In addition, it facilitates comprehensive stakeholder consultations during land allocation and benefit-sharing arrangements.

Recently, UNHCR has been implementing a strategic framework for climate action. It recognizes that climate change is a risk multiplier, driving displacement and protection needs around the world (UNHCR n.d.). The framework supports international commitments related to climate change, disasters and environmental degradation under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR); the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM); and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-border Displaced Persons. This is complemented by the strategic partnership for environmental restoration aimed at improving planning, coordinating and elevating the environment to a priority sector.



Photo: Axel Fassio

Multifunctionality and trade-offs

In Rhino camp, OPM and UNHCR primarily drive the question of achieving multiple objectives, particularly for social development and environmental management. Although the core focus is sustaining the lives of refugees, the protracted stay of refugees and the resultant impact on the landscape has necessitated increased engagement in environmental management. Given the various needs and interests of hosts and refugees, the OPM and UNHCR have to find win-win solutions within the landscape. OPM and UNHCR have together put in place mechanisms to advance social and environmental management to achieve goals for landscape restoration, ecological services and livelihoods. For example, UNHCR manages working groups on environment and energy; protection; health and nutrition; and livelihoods under the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism. The OPM has also instituted and coordinated a number of peace building platforms within the community.

Generally, there has been integration of development into humanitarian response in the Rhino camp. This was anchored in Uganda's Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE), now replaced by the DRDIP. ReHoPE was a transformative strategy that ensured that humanitarian action was embedded in a long-term development approach (GoU et al. 2017; UNHCR 2018). The PSWG was formed to bring together different stakeholders in the sub-sectors of refugee registration, education, child protection, peaceful co-existence and community-based organizations, psychological support, legal and community-based protection, and environment and livelihoods (UNHCR and WMU 2020).

Interdisciplinarity/transdisciplinary approaches

ILA requires multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral collaboration, cooperation and engagement to achieve interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinary approaches. Thus, the process must engage stakeholders and implementers with different views and expertise. In the Rhino camp, like most areas, most organizations operate independently to implement interventions in their mandated field. Several humanitarian aid organizations provide relief and protection services for refugees. These include the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision and CARE. Historically, they focused more on providing humanitarian assistance. However, there is now a deliberate shift to integration of environmental management -and climate smart production. For, instance, Danish Church Aid, DRC, Mercy Corps and World Vision are now involved in environmental restoration projects. Still, the two components (humanitarian and environmental management) are usually implemented as independent projects.

The World Agroforestry (ICRAF, an international research and development organization that harnesses the benefits of trees on farms for human and environmental well-being, is involved in the refugee landscape. It collaborates with other humanitarian organizations to restore the degraded landscape in West Nile. ICRAF is collaborating with Save the Children, ENABEL and Joint Energy and Environment Projects under the Response to increased environmental degradation and promotion of alternative energy sources in refugee-hosting districts.

Participation and engagement

Cross-sectoral coordination of all partners by the OPM and the involvement of both state and non-state actors in environmental conservation demonstrate a commitment to participation and engagement. Most organizations implementing activities in the Rhino Refugee indicated that without commitment from the host community, landscape approaches are unlikely to succeed. However, the criteria of engaging 30% hosts and 70% refugees seems to create tension between refugees and host communities. Host communities perceive that development partners are not giving them priority.

Sustainability

Sustainability has been understood to include meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It also reflects continued improvement in human well-being and provision of ecological services. The protracted stay of the refugees within the Rhino Refugee settlement has led to calls to address both social and environmental conditions to improve refugee livelihoods. As such, many organizations are promoting the use of energy-efficient cooking stoves to reduce the rate of tree cutting.

In addition, ICRAF has set up an agroforestry training and learning centre with a seedling production capacity of 120,000 annually to support tree planting by refugees and host communities. Furthermore, there is an initiative by ICRAF and partners to promote gender-responsive solutions, including planting 200,000 seedlings, promoting use of greywater for irrigation in kitchen gardens, and uptake of renewable energy options like briquettes.

Conclusion: Landscape approaches in Rhino, Uganda

The relevance of landscape approaches for dealing with sustainability, competing claims and multiple actors in landscapes seems particularly appropriate for refugee-hosting landscapes such as the Rhino camp in northwest Uganda. There is evidence that numerous gaps caused by sectoral approaches can be minimized by co-designing solutions with actors at multiple levels and scales (Ravikumar et al. 2018; Reed et al. 2020).

The assessment of the application of integrated landscape approaches in the refugee displacement setting in northern Uganda highlighted that there are some aspects of ILA being applied. Several organizations had widely adopted the principles of participation and sustainability.

GLADS in Rhino Settlement

Experiences from the landscape regarding the draft principles

UNHCR and FAO shared different experiences that addressed different aspects of livelihood and landscape resilience initiatives in displacement settings in Uganda. For instance, UNHCR has a strategic framework for climate action that recognizes climate change as a risk multiplier, driving displacement and protection needs around the world. It supports international commitments related to climate change, disasters and environmental degradation under the GCR, GCM and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-border Displaced Persons. The WESRP is aligned with the National Development Plan III (NDPIII) to provide comprehensive planning for both refugees and host communities within the context of the water and environment sector. UNHCR also has a strategic partnership for environmental restoration that helps in planning and coordination, de-coupling and leveraging resources in settlements and the host community, as well as in central forest reserves.

One of the initiatives was the Refugee Environmental Protection Fund, which provides financing for UNHCR's environmental programmes, and seedling production, distribution and planting. A Secondly, there was a programme entitled Displaced Communities, Environmental Change and Sustainable Livelihoods in Uganda between 2019–2021 — which aimed at exploring how displacement affects the environmental and livelihoods. In all these interventions UNHCR recognizes that partnerships are vital for long-term success in addition to having a comprehensive refugee policy/legislative framework that recognize the environment and climate change as key issues.

The FAO is in the final stages of developing a Forest Landscape Management Plan for Bid Bidi Refugee Settlement (hereafter “the Bidi Bidi camp”). The plan aims to guide site-specific forestry interventions and support a joint resource mobilization strategy to address environmental degradation and energy needs. It provides for land suitability analysis through geospatial analysis. This, in turn, provides information on status and changes in tree cover, land use and land cover. The plan also facilitates intensive stakeholder consultations during land allocation and benefit-sharing arrangements. In addition, it provides for assessment of soil and land suitability matching tree species, as well as in establishing woodlots in the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement.

Inputs to the principles/guidance

1. Stakeholders raised several key issues with regards to the development and implementation of GLADS. In general, there is need to develop widescale understanding of the displacement settings and that an integrated approach to ensure resilience and sustainability should be applied from the onset. Other key issues raised include:
2. Appropriate landscape scales to be identified to address the needs of both host and displaced communities and ensure outcomes to promote resilience and self-reliance for refugees and host communities.
3. The main sectors and their interlinkages should be identified, assessed and build upon to promote interdisciplinarity. Furthermore, there is need to address sustainability by enhancing social, environmental and economic interventions to improve outcomes in refugee-hosting landscapes.
4. Multifunctionality, within the displacement setting have to be upheld to bring out synergies and trade-offs in any interventions implemented. For instance, provision of food/feed and forage, construction materials, shelter to be considered together with related negative effects such as degradation, shifting of land uses, loss of biodiversity, conflict and displacement, pollution and waste generation, loss of livelihoods, social-economic value of resources and diseases.
5. Create understanding of the multilevel and multiscale governance structures in order to enhance inclusive governance in displacement settings that transcends traditional sectoral boundaries.
6. Facilitate meaningful participation and engagement within displacement settings in all stages of planning, intervention and implementation and monitoring of interventions.
7. Ensure there is always prior and informed consent.
8. Promote joint fundraising by stakeholders to spearhead all these activities.
9. Put in place appropriate Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning to guide uptake and scaling of interventions.

Conclusion and recommendations on development of GLADS

GLADS provide a pathway to scaling interventions at broader scales. Stakeholders expressed interest in applying the guidance notes through multiple objectives across the landscape. However, they pointed out that ILA principles are not easy to apply in displacement settings due to limited, short term and sector based funding predominant in the humanitarian sector. Consequently, stakeholders recommended that additional funding should be sought to overcome this challenge.

Gender mainstreaming does not seem to feature prominently in the concept. Thus, a stand-alone principle could be a deliberate move to ensure gender integration in GLADS. Furthermore, stakeholders suggested several ways to enhance GLADS applicability among displacement settings including leveraging partnerships within these settings; capacity building and advocacy for mainstreaming GLADS to national government policies.

GLADS dissemination could be enhanced through use of social media platforms; online publications; use of social, economic and environment champions in the country; and use of printed fliers and pamphlets. Local dissemination could also be enhanced through training and seminars; use of local media, such as radio and integration of GLADS into existing frameworks that target displacement settings.

Annexes

Annex 1. List of stakeholders/participants from landscape-level & national consultations

Name	Organization
Magnon Tabule	Terego District Local Government (DLG)
Noel Alabi Anzo	World Vision
Gilbert Acidri	Madi – Okollo DLG
Ronnie Miiro Harold	UNHCR
Frank Peter Ojobile	Water Mission Uganda (WMU)
Nelson M. Odera	International Aid Services (IAS)
Edmund Brett	HYT
Bandu Roy	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Peter Milla Yosua	Refugees Active Peace Building Initiative (RAPBI)
Kadi Jesca	RAPBI
Madri Alex	The Victim Relief Alliance (TVRA)
Erik F. Acanakwo	CIFOR-ICRAF
Acen Eunice	Plan International
Osidi John	CIFOR-ICRAF
Adriko Joel	CIFOR-ICRAF
Alango Concy	Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)
Jacob Manyon	Refugee Welfare Council (RWC)
Wana Moses	RWC
Joel Buyinza	CIFOR-ICRAF
Phosiso Sola	CIFOR-ICRAF
Francis Ngewa	CIFOR-ICRAF
Magezi John Paul	OPM, Kampala
Wokorach Isaac	ICRAF, Mukono
Ngewa Francis	ICRAF, Mukono
Mijumbi Theresa	HADS Kampala
Aggrey Ntakimanye	CARE
Isaac Kiyingi	NaFORRI, Mukono
Fatihah Kobugabe	ICRAF, Yumbe

Name	Organization
Namakanda Sylvia	ICRAF, Mukono
Patrick Byakagaba	Makerere University
Tukahirwa Joy M	Uganda Landa Care Network
Kawawa Serbeet	DNRO-DLG, Yumbe
Ambaga Khemis Omar	DFO-DLG, Yumbe
Emmanuel Ekakoro	UNHCR, Kampala
Shallon Challenge	EMO/NFA
Tonny Ojok	TLR & L World Vision
Businge Zalfa	DNRO, Kiryandongo
Bedijjo Nelly Grace	Pro Assoc./ FAO
Judith Nantongo	NaFORRI, Mukono
Dianah Naluwuge	Joint Energy and Environment Projects
Kaikara Susane	FSSD/MWE
Ronald Kisekka	NaFORRI, Mukono
Acidri Gilbert	DFO, Madi-okollo
Onzima William	DNRO, Madi-okollo
Mary Njenga	ICRAF, Nairobi
Dibo Dubo	ICRAF, Nairobi
Jane Mutune	ICRAF, Nairobi
Joel Buyinza	NaFORRI, Mukono
Issa Katwesige	Ag.AC/FSSD/MWE
Deborah Bryant	Director Eng. & Partnership, SCI
Erik Francis Acanakwo	CR, ICRAF, Mukono
Racheal Kyoziira	Technical Advisor-Climate Change, CRS

Annex 2. Relevant existing tools and instruments applied in Uganda's refugee landscapes

Tool/guideline	Guideline/tool implementation/outcome
Environmental sector-relevant tools/guidelines in displacement settings	
UNHCR 2016 Environmental guideline	Operational guideline drafted to support governments, partners and field staff to better understand and appreciate the need for careful and consistent approaches to environmental management in displacement settings.
Guideline on the management of natural and planted forest and woodlands in displacement settings (FAO and UNHCR 2018)	Guidance on woodfuel demand and supply, land suitability and tenure, livelihood opportunities; prerequisites for sustainable nursery and plantation sites; tree species selection nursery and plantation establishment and management; and monitoring, evaluation and reporting. It aims to provide management interventions in four critical areas: rehabilitation, protection and use of degraded forest lands; plantations for energy; plantations for timber production; and plantations for food/fodder production.
Framework for assessing, monitoring, evaluating the environment in refugee-related operations (FRAME-TOOLKIT) (UNHCR and CARE 2009)	Designed to facilitate assessments, monitoring practices and evaluation of environmental issues, projects and programmes in refugee settings; it has also been used in understanding the environmental conflict nexus between refugees and host communities.
UNDP environmental standards (UNDP 2018)	Used in UNDP programming and in ensuring environmental safeguards are incorporated in its projects and programmes. The scope includes environmental and social impact assessment of land acquisition and use, and of potential impacts on host communities. It also includes developing plans for the displaced (resettlement and livelihood action plans).
Forest management in refugee and returnee situations (UNHCR and IUCN 2005)	The handbook/tool advocate for greater involvement of refugees and host communities in decision making and management roles in forest management. It provides an overview of forest management during refugee and returnee operations; proposes ways of managing forests; enlists practical options and actions; and addresses the need for forestry management plans in displacement settings.

Tool/guideline	Guideline/tool implementation/outcome
Energy sector-relevant tools/guidelines in displacement settings	
Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Framework (UN-FAO and UNHCR 2016)	Toolkit that helps understand how woodfuel is sourced, used and monitored in displacement settings. The desired outcomes of SAFE are food security; sustainably managed natural resources; livelihood diversification; improved health; enhanced nutrition; climate mitigation; empowerment; and social cohesion.
Toolkit for cooking systems in humanitarian settings (Vianello 2016)	Developed by the Moving Energy Initiative coalition, the toolkit offers guidance on the design and implementation of cooking systems in refugee settings. It classifies different categories of cookstoves; reviews available cooking systems; and proposes a market-based approach to energy access and provision in refugee settings.
Assessing woodfuel supply and demand in displacement settings (UN-FAO and UNHCR 2016)	Handbook developed to enhance better understanding of the dynamics of woody biomass extraction and consumption in displacement settings.
Handbook on Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (SAFE) by WFP	<p>Handbook for guidance on fuel-efficient programming in displacement settings. It has been implemented in Uganda with good outcomes, including formation of Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) taskforce on SAFE.</p> <p>Adoption of SAFE aims to reduce vulnerability of women to protection risks through advocating for fuel-efficient stoves, creation of woodlots and tree planting (Bizzarri et al. 2009; Masete 2020).</p>



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