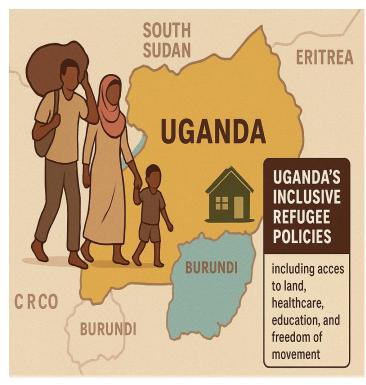


Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Refugees and Migration in Uganda: Context	4
3. Legal and Policy Frameworks	7
4. Key Ethical Principles	9
5. Conflict-Sensitive and Trauma-Informed Reporting	12
6. Interviewing Refugees: Do's and Don'ts	13
7. Language and Framing	17
8. Data Use and Privacy	20
9. Working with Humanitarian Actors	22
10. Gender and Intersectionality in Reporting	24
11. Case Studies from Uganda	27
12. Resources and Contacts	29
13. Appendices	31



1. Introduction

Uganda hosts over 1.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, making it Africa's largest refugee-hosting nation and a global leader in progressive refugee policies. People fleeing conflict, persecution, and environmental crises from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia, and Eritrea have found refuge in settlements across the north, west, and southwest. Uganda's inclusive model—granting access to land, healthcare, education, and freedom of movement—has received international recognition. Yet, the country continues to face resource constraints and the challenge of sustaining support for both refugees

and host communities.

Within this context, journalists play a critical role in shaping narratives and influencing policy on migration and displacement. Media coverage can either reinforce stigma and misinformation or foster empathy, cohesion, and justice.

This guide was created to equip journalists, editors, and media trainers in Uganda and the wider region with tools, frameworks, and examples to improve reporting on refugee and migration issues. It emphasizes the importance of accurate, ethical, and inclusive storytelling that reflects diverse perspectives and lived realities.

The guide seeks to support journalists to:

- Report sensitively by grounding stories in evidence and context, while reflecting voices of both refugees and host communities. Balanced coverage avoids alarmist or dehumanizing portravals.
- Uphold ethical standards, including informed consent, confidentiality, and non-exploitative interviewing. Trauma survivors, in particular, require sensitive and respectful engagement.
- Challenge stereotypes and misinformation by moving beyond simplistic portrayals of refugees as either victims or threats. Instead, stories should highlight dignity, complexity, and human agency.
- Strengthen public understanding and policy advocacy by spotlighting rights, services, innovations, and contributions of refugees and migrants. Media can hold institutions accountable, address protection gaps, and amplify neglected stories of resilience and hope.

Ultimately, the guide calls on the media to serve as both watchdog and bridge-builder. Journalists are encouraged to approach refugee reporting with humility, curiosity, and a commitment to justice. Through accurate and ethical coverage, the media can advance peace, inclusion, and shared development in Uganda and beyond.

2. Refugees and Migration in Uganda: Context

Uganda has long been recognized as a regional safe haven for people fleeing violence, persecution, and instability. Its progressive refugee policy—often hailed as one of the most open in the world—has allowed over 1.5 million refugees and asylum seekers to seek protection and rebuild their lives within its borders. The country continues to uphold a strong commitment to humanitarian principles, even amidst its own socioeconomic and climate-related challenges.

Understanding the broader context of Uganda's refugee and migration landscape is crucial for journalists seeking to report responsibly and informatively on these issues.

Key Facts (as of 2024)

- **Top Countries of Origin:** The majority of refugees in Uganda come from **South Sudan**, **the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, **Burundi**, **Somalia**, **Eritrea**, and **Rwanda**—countries that have experienced prolonged conflict, political instability, or persecution based on ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Top Hosting Districts and Settlements:
 - Yumbe District home to Bidi Bidi Settlement, one of the largest refugee settlements in the world.
 - o **Kyegegwa District** hosts **Kyaka II Settlement**.
 - Isingiro District home to Nakivale Settlement, Uganda's oldest and most diverse settlement.
 - o Kikuube District site of Kyangwali Settlement.
 - Adjumani District hosts multiple settlements including Maaji, Ayilo, and Nyumanzi.
- **Settlement Structure:** Uganda does not place refugees in camps. Instead, refugees reside in *settlements* where they are allocated plots of land for shelter and farming. This approach supports greater self-reliance and integration with host communities. Refugees are free to move within the country and may reside in urban areas, although urban refugees face distinct challenges such as limited access to services and higher living costs.
- **Right to Work, Education, and Land:** Under Uganda's Refugee Act (2006) and related regulations, refugees have legal rights to:
 - Work and start businesses
 - Enroll in national schools and access vocational training
 - Access public health care
 - Receive small plots of land for farming
 This framework promotes inclusion and resilience and has enabled some refugees to make significant contributions to local economies and social life.

MIGRATION DYNAMICS IN UGANDA

Uganda's migration context extends beyond refugees. Several other dynamics shape oopulation movement within and across its borders:

ECONOMIC MIGRANTS



Individuals from neighboring countries also migrate to Uganda for work or trade.

Some settle in urban areas or border towns.

RETURNEES AND CIRCULAR MIGRATION

Some refugees return to their home countries during periods of relative calm but may be forced to re-enter Uganda due to renewed conflict or insecurity.

CLIMATE-DISPLACED PERSONS

Climate change is emerging as a major driver of internal and cross-border displacement.



INTERNAL MIGRANTS

Urbanization is accelerating in Uganda. Both Ugandan citizens and refugees are increasingly moving from rural settlements to cities like Kampala, Arua, Mbarara, and Gulu in search of better economic opportunities, education, and health

Migration Dynamics in Uganda

Uganda's migration context extends beyond refugees. Several other dynamics shape population movement within and across its borders:

• Economic Migrants:

Individuals from
neighboring countries also
migrate to Uganda for work
or trade. Some settle in
urban areas or border towns,
engaging in informal or
small-scale economic
activities. These populations
often lack formal legal status
and face unique
vulnerabilities.

Climate-Displaced

Persons: Climate change is emerging as a major driver of internal and cross-border displacement. Floods, droughts, and land degradation—especially in regions like **Karamoja**, **West Nile**, and **Eastern DRC**—push people to seek safety and resources elsewhere. This has led to new patterns of migration and growing pressure on shared natural resources.

- **Returnees and Circular Migration:** Some refugees return to their home countries during periods of relative calm but may be forced to re-enter Uganda due to renewed conflict or insecurity. This cyclical pattern complicates resettlement planning and humanitarian response.
- **Internal Migrants:** Urbanization is accelerating in Uganda. Both Ugandan citizens and refugees are increasingly moving from rural settlements to cities like **Kampala**, **Arua**, **Mbarara**, and **Gulu** in search of better economic opportunities, education, and health services. Urban refugees often lack adequate documentation, housing, or access to aid.

Implications for Journalists

- **Complexity:** The migration landscape in Uganda is multifaceted, and simplistic or static portrayals can mislead audiences. Reporters should avoid framing refugees and migrants as a monolithic group and instead highlight the diversity of experiences, motivations, and legal statuses.
- Host-Refugee Relations: Journalists should be mindful of the interactions and tensions that may arise between refugee and host communities, especially where

- resources are scarce. However, they should also seek out stories of solidarity, shared development, and peacebuilding.
- **Policy Shifts and Challenges:** While Uganda's refugee policy is inclusive, it is under strain due to funding shortfalls, climate shocks, and shifting donor priorities. Stories that examine the sustainability of Uganda's refugee response and the role of the international community are increasingly important.

Understanding these dynamics provides the foundation for accurate, insightful, and impactful journalism that promotes both public understanding and informed dialogue on displacement and migration in Uganda.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR REFUGEES IN UGANDA



REFUGEE ACT

The National Refugee Act of 2006 guarantees the rights of refugees and outlines their legal status.



POLICY ON REFUGEES

The 2019 Refugee Policy provides a comprehensive national framework for refugee protection and solutions.



REGISTRATION

Refugees are registered upon arrival and receive documentation that is renewable and portable.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Ugandan refugees have access to land, healthcare, education, and other vital services.

3. Legal and Policy Frameworks

Journalists reporting on refugee and migration issues in Uganda must be well-versed in the legal and policy frameworks that govern refugee protection and migration management. These instruments—both national and international—set the parameters for refugee rights, state responsibilities, humanitarian coordination, and long-term planning.

Understanding these frameworks enables journalists to frame policy issues accurately, hold duty-bearers accountable, and report on developments such as repatriation, integration, or access to

services with legal and institutional clarity.

A. National Instruments

1. Uganda's Refugee Act (2006) and Refugee Regulations (2010)

These are the cornerstone legal instruments that govern refugee protection in Uganda. They align with international standards and outline the rights and responsibilities of refugees, the obligations of the state, and the procedures for asylum determination. Key provisions include:

- The right to legal identity and documentation
- The right to move freely within the country
- The right to work and establish businesses
- Access to public education and health care
- Allocation of land for shelter and farming
- Prohibition of refoulement (forced return to danger)

These laws also establish the **Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)** as the lead government agency for refugee management and coordination.

2. The National Development Plan III (NDP III, 2020–2025)

NDP III integrates refugee needs into Uganda's broader development planning through the **Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA)**. This is a progressive move toward **linking humanitarian response with development**. Refugees are included in key sectors like education, health, livelihoods, and infrastructure development, benefiting both refugee and host communities. Journalists can use the NDP III as a lens to explore

Uganda's localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and refugee self-reliance strategies.

3. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

Uganda adopted the CRRF in 2017 as part of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants. The CRRF emphasizes:

- Inclusion of refugees in national systems and development planning
- Support for host communities
- Strengthening the resilience and self-reliance of refugees
- Expansion of access to third-country solutions (e.g., resettlement)
- Enhanced international responsibility-sharing

CRRF coordination in Uganda is jointly led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR, with participation from development actors, local governments, and civil society. Journalists can track CRRF progress through annual reports, budget allocations, and community-level impact assessments.

B. International Commitments

1. 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

Uganda is a signatory to the **1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees** and the **1967 Protocol**, which define who qualifies as a refugee and outline their rights, including:

- Non-discrimination and freedom of religion
- Access to courts, employment, and public relief
- Protection from expulsion and refoulement

The Convention also emphasizes the importance of documentation, non-penalization for illegal entry, and the need for durable solutions.

2. Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention (1969)

This regional legal instrument broadens the refugee definition to include individuals fleeing **generalized violence**, **external aggression**, **occupation**, **or events seriously disturbing public order**—a key provision for many refugees in Africa. It reflects the collective commitment of African states to protect displaced persons and remains particularly relevant in Uganda's context.

3. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR, 2018)

Uganda is a key stakeholder in the implementation of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, which builds on the CRRF and reinforces commitments to:

- Strengthen refugee protection systems
- Promote responsibility-sharing among states

- Invest in education, health, and economic inclusion
- Enhance support for host communities and environmental sustainability

While not legally binding, the GCR is a powerful advocacy tool. Journalists can use it to frame Uganda's progress (or gaps) within a global solidarity agenda.

Implications for Journalists

- **Policy Literacy Enables Accountability:** Journalists who understand the legal and policy frameworks can ask informed questions, investigate whether rights are upheld, and explain to the public the implications of policy shifts.
- Highlight Gaps and Progress: Reporters can track whether Uganda's commitments
 under national and international law are reflected in practice, especially in areas like
 access to justice, livelihoods, or education for refugees.
- Clarify Legal Status: Not all displaced persons are refugees under the law.
 Understanding legal definitions (refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, economic migrants) helps prevent misinformation.
- International-Local Linkages: Journalists can link local challenges—such as funding shortfalls, overcrowded settlements, or climate impacts—to global policy commitments and diplomatic discourse.

4. Key Ethical Principles

Journalists reporting on refugees and migration in Uganda carry a significant responsibility—not just to inform, but to do so ethically and respectfully. Refugees and displaced persons are often among the most vulnerable populations, having experienced war, persecution, displacement, or loss. Poorly handled stories can cause lasting harm, reinforce stereotypes, or even endanger lives.

This section outlines the core ethical principles that must guide refugee reporting in Uganda. These principles ensure that journalism serves the public interest while upholding the dignity, safety, and rights of those featured in stories.

A. Do No Harm

This is the foundational principle of ethical journalism—especially in humanitarian contexts.

• Avoid exposing individuals to stigma, retaliation, or danger through identifiable information, careless language, or the publication of sensitive personal details.



- **Understand the risks** your story may pose—e.g., exposing an LGBTQ+ asylum seeker to discrimination or publishing a survivor's story that reopens community trauma.
- **Use a survivor-centered approach**—prioritizing the well-being of those affected above the urgency to publish.

Example: Do not publish the identity of a refugee activist who fears persecution if returned to their country of origin.



B. Accuracy and Context

Displaced populations are often misrepresented or framed through narrow lenses—such as victims, threats, or burdens. Ethical journalism requires deeper, more nuanced storytelling.

- **Verify facts and figures** from trusted sources such as UNHCR, OPM, or reputable NGOs.
- Avoid sensationalism, stereotypes, or

dehumanizing language (e.g., "waves" of refugees, "illegal immigrants," or "refugee crisis" without context).

• **Provide context**: Instead of simply reporting that a refugee stole food, explore the conditions—food insecurity, aid shortfalls, or unemployment—that drive such actions.

Tip: Use human-centered language. Refer to people as "refugees," "asylum seekers," or "displaced individuals"—not as "illegals" or "infiltrators."



C. Informed Consent

Consent is more than a verbal "yes." It is an ongoing, transparent process that ensures individuals fully understand what their participation entails.

- Clearly explain who you are, the purpose of your interview, where the story will be published, and how the content may be used.
- Use accessible language or qualified

interpreters if there are language barriers.

• Respect the right to decline, pause, or withdraw at any point.

Best Practice: For sensitive interviews (e.g., SGBV survivors, unaccompanied minors), seek verbal and written consent. If the person is emotionally distressed, consider postponing or cancelling the interview.



D. Confidentiality

Protecting privacy is crucial, especially in situations where identification could endanger lives or livelihoods.

- Avoid publishing names, photographs, locations, or distinguishing features of vulnerable individuals without their explicit and informed consent.
- **Blur or omit identities** in reports involving children, survivors of violence, or those with asylum claims under review.
- Anonymize stories if disclosure might lead to backlash or stigmatization in refugee communities or host areas.

Reminder: Refugees may not fully grasp the reach of online publications. Take extra care when using digital or visual content.

E. Non-Discrimination

All individuals deserve equal respect, voice, and representation—regardless of their background or legal status.

- **Avoid bias or preferential treatment** based on nationality, tribe, religion, gender, disability, or refugee status.
- **Amplify underrepresented voices**—such as women, youth, LGBTQ+ refugees, elderly, or persons with disabilities.
- **Be culturally sensitive** and inclusive in your representation of diverse communities.

Ethical Focus: Challenge narratives that frame refugees as a burden. Highlight their agency, contributions, and resilience.

Ethical Reporting in Practice: Questions to Ask Yourself

Before publishing a refugee or migration story, ask:

- Have I double-checked the facts and contextual accuracy?
- Have I secured truly informed consent from the people featured?
- Could this story expose anyone to risk or stigma?
- Have I taken steps to ensure privacy and confidentiality?
- Have I fairly represented people from all backgrounds and statuses?

Conclusion

Ethical journalism is not only about what is right, but about what is responsible. In the refugee and migration context in Uganda—where tensions, vulnerabilities, and humanitarian challenges intersect—it is crucial that journalists uphold these ethical principles. Doing so protects individuals, strengthens community trust, and contributes to informed, constructive public discourse.



5. Conflict-Sensitive and Trauma-Informed Reporting

Reporting on refugees and migration in Uganda often involves navigating sensitive and emotionally charged contexts. Many refugees

have fled armed conflict, ethnic violence, persecution, or sexual and gender-based violence. Others have experienced forced displacement due to climate shocks or political instability. Journalists must approach such stories with care to avoid deepening tensions or causing harm to those already affected by trauma.

This section provides practical guidance on how to report in a **conflict-sensitive** and **trauma-informed** manner—ensuring that stories are responsible, ethical, and do not further marginalize or harm individuals or communities.

A. Conflict-Sensitive Reporting

Conflict-sensitive journalism is the practice of reporting on conflict or conflict-affected communities in ways that promote understanding, reduce harm, and avoid reinforcing divisions. In Uganda's diverse and politically complex environment, this is especially important.

Key Principles and Practices:

- Recognize the Root Causes of Conflict Without Inciting Tension:
 Refugee displacement is often the result of long-standing structural inequalities,
 - ethnic rivalries, political repression, or historical grievances. Journalists should contextualize these root causes clearly and calmly, avoiding sensationalism or oversimplification.
- Understand Tribal, Political, and Regional Sensitivities:

Uganda and its neighboring countries have ethnically diverse populations with deep histories. Reporters must be aware of how certain words, references, or framing can be interpreted or misinterpreted. For example, linking violence to ethnicity without careful context may unintentionally fuel stereotypes or spark hostilities.

- Avoid Inflammatory or Biased Language:
 - Use neutral and accurate terms. Avoid labels such as "illegal migrants" or "flood of refugees" which can dehumanize individuals or imply threat. Always verify information before publishing, especially in volatile environments. Steer clear of partisan narratives that can stoke division.
- **Highlight Stories of Peace and Coexistence:**While it's important to report on conflict, it's equally vital to showcase examples of inter-community cooperation, peacebuilding initiatives, and resilience. These stories counterbalance negative stereotypes and support constructive dialogue.

B. Trauma-Informed Reporting

A trauma-informed approach centers on the emotional safety and dignity of individuals who have experienced serious harm. Refugees often carry stories of loss, violence, torture, separation, or displacement. Mishandling interviews or images can cause further distress or retraumatization.

Core Principles:

Do No Harm:

Before reporting on a trauma survivor's experience, ask: *Is this story necessary? Could it harm the person or their community?* Prioritize informed consent, confidentiality, and the right to refuse participation.

• Avoid Re-traumatizing Survivors:

Asking someone to relive painful memories can trigger emotional breakdowns or mental distress. Frame questions gently, avoid probing for graphic details, and stop the interview immediately if the subject shows signs of discomfort.

Respect the Right to Pause or Withdraw:

Survivors should feel empowered to end or pause the interview at any point. Make it clear from the start that their participation is voluntary and that they can decline to answer any question.

• Ensure Informed Consent:

Always explain the purpose of the interview, how their story will be used, and where it will be published. Use culturally appropriate language, and when needed, work with trained interpreters who respect privacy and sensitivity.

• Offer Resources for Support:

While journalists are not therapists, they can provide contact information for local NGOs, counselors, or refugee support groups. This gesture signals care and responsibility.

Protect Identity When Necessary:

In some cases—especially involving survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child refugees, or political dissidents—it is essential to anonymize individuals to prevent retaliation, stigma, or psychological harm.

Special Considerations for Uganda

- **Gender Dynamics:** Be aware of gender-based vulnerabilities and barriers to expression. Interviewing female refugees may require the presence of female staff or safe spaces to encourage openness.
- **Language and Interpretation:** Use professional interpreters who are trained in trauma sensitivity and confidentiality. Avoid using fellow refugees or community leaders who may breach trust or influence responses.
- **Children and Youth:** Always seek parental or guardian consent when interviewing minors. Use child-friendly language and avoid leading questions.

Implications for Ethical Journalism

Practicing conflict-sensitive and trauma-informed journalism enhances the **credibility**, **impact**, and **humanity** of your reporting. It strengthens relationships with communities, upholds journalistic ethics, and contributes to peace, healing, and social cohesion—rather than harm or sensationalism.



6. Interviewing Refugees: Do's and Don'ts

Interviewing refugees requires compassion, preparation, and a commitment to ethical standards. Many refugees have endured trauma, separation from family, or persecution, and may be reluctant—or even afraid—to speak to journalists. Others may misunderstand your role or fear that sharing their story could affect their legal status, aid access, or community relations.

This section provides practical **Do's and Don'ts** to help journalists conduct respectful, safe, and meaningful interviews that uphold the dignity and rights of refugees, while ensuring responsible journalism.

DO: Responsible Interview Practices

- Prepare Questions in Advance and Explain Your Role
- Be clear about who you are, the media outlet you represent, and the purpose of the interview.
- Let the interviewee know how their story will be used (e.g., online, radio, print).
- Keep questions open-ended, respectful, and culturally appropriate.

Example: "I'm a journalist writing about how refugee youth are contributing to their communities. May I ask about your experience and whether you'd like to be identified or remain anonymous?"

- Build Trust and Ensure Privacy During Interviews
- Choose a quiet, safe, and private location for the conversation.
- Spend a few minutes building rapport—don't jump straight into sensitive questions.
- Be patient. Some refugees may need time to open up or may decline to participate, and that's okay.

Tip: Avoid conducting interviews in front of groups or aid distribution lines, which can be intimidating or lead to misinterpretation of intent.

- Use Interpreters Sensitively and Professionally
- Use trained interpreters who are neutral and bound by confidentiality, especially in sensitive cases.
- Avoid using family members, children, or community leaders as interpreters, as this
 can compromise privacy or distort the message.
- Brief interpreters in advance about trauma-informed and ethical practices.

• Respect Cultural and Gender Dynamics

- Be aware of gender norms: some women may not feel comfortable speaking to male journalists, and vice versa.
- Consider having a colleague or interpreter of the same gender present, especially for interviews involving sensitive issues like gender-based violence (GBV), menstruation, or motherhood.
- Be sensitive to religious customs, greetings, and body language.

X DON'T: Harmful Interview Practices to Avoid

- Don't Pressure Anyone to Share Traumatic Experiences
- Never push someone to describe experiences of violence, rape, torture, or loss. Respect their boundaries and mental health.
- Avoid intrusive or voyeuristic questions such as, "How did it feel to see your family killed?"
- Accept "no" as an answer without prying or guilt.

Reminder: Survivors are not obligated to relive their trauma for a story.

- Don't Promise Help or Aid in Return for Stories
- Make it clear you are a journalist—not an aid worker or donor.
- Do not offer or imply that sharing a story will lead to resettlement, food aid, or legal assistance.
- If asked, gently redirect people to humanitarian agencies working in their area.

Ethical Note: Offering aid in exchange for a story is exploitative and undermines trust.

- Don't Publish Identifying Details of Children or Survivors of GBV Without Consent
- Always anonymize children unless explicit and informed consent is given by a guardian.
- For survivors of GBV, human trafficking, or persecution, avoid publishing real names, photos, or any identifying details—even if consent is given—unless safety is guaranteed.
- Consider using silhouettes, pseudonyms, or voice alterations when reporting audio or visual content.

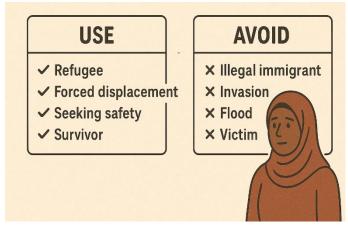
Example: "14-year-old Amina (not her real name), a survivor of gender-based violence, now attends a girls' support group..."

Extra Tips for Ethical Interviewing

- **Use a trauma-informed lens**: Be gentle, affirming, and observant of emotional cues.
- **Close respectfully**: Thank participants, let them know how they can follow up or withdraw consent, and provide your contact if appropriate.
- **Debrief with interpreters or fixers afterward** to ensure everything was culturally appropriate and to check on their well-being too.

Conclusion

Interviews are a powerful way to center refugee voices—but they must be conducted with care, respect, and ethics. When journalists follow trauma-informed, culturally sensitive practices, they not only protect vulnerable individuals but also build trust and credibility in refugee communities and with their audiences.



7. Language and Framing

The words journalists use matter. Language shapes public perception, influences policy debates, and either reinforces or challenges harmful stereotypes. In the context of refugee and migration reporting in Uganda, it is critical to choose words that are accurate, dignified, and

empowering—especially when covering communities that have experienced trauma, discrimination, or displacement.

This section guides journalists on how to use appropriate, respectful language and offers alternatives to harmful or dehumanizing terminology. It also highlights common narrative "traps" to avoid.

X Avoid Problematic Terms and Tropes

Certain terms may be common in political discourse or international headlines but are **inaccurate, dehumanizing, or sensationalist** in journalism. These words strip people of their dignity and imply threat, criminality, or loss of control.

Avoid Words Like:

- "Illegal" (e.g., "illegal migrant"): Suggests criminality and ignores the complexity of forced migration.
- "Flood," "swarm," "wave," or "influx": Implies refugees are natural disasters or uncontrollable masses.
- "Burden," "strain," or "threat": Reinforces the myth that refugees deplete host communities, ignoring contributions and resilience.
- "Invaders" or "aliens": Often used in xenophobic rhetoric.
- "Victim," when used as a label: Reduces individuals to their suffering and overlooks agency.

Example: Instead of "Uganda faces a flood of refugees from DR Congo," say "Thousands of people fleeing violence in DR Congo have sought protection in Uganda."

∜ Use Inclusive and Accurate Language

Use language that reflects legal status, personal dignity, and the diversity of experiences among displaced populations.

Use Instead:

 "Refugee community", "asylum seekers", "displaced persons", or "persons of concern"

- "Host community members" (not "locals" vs "foreigners")
- "Migrant workers," "climate-displaced persons," or "returnees"
- Refer to people **first as individuals**, not by status: e.g., "a mother living in Nakivale Refugee Settlement," rather than "a refugee woman"

Note: The term "refugee" is a legal designation under international law; use it precisely and respectfully, not generically.

Highlight Resilience and Agency

Instead of focusing only on trauma, portray **strengths**, **talents**, **and aspirations**:

- "A skilled carpenter rebuilding homes"
- "A youth leader mentoring others in her settlement"
- "Entrepreneurs using innovation to support their communities"

▲ Frames to Challenge

Journalists should be aware of—and avoid reinforcing—problematic narratives, even unintentionally. These include:

1. The "Victim-Only" Narrative

- Refugees are often portrayed only as helpless victims in need of aid.
- While suffering should not be ignored, this framing can erase agency, dignity, and the diverse identities of displaced people.

Better: Include stories of innovation, resilience, daily life, and leadership within refugee communities.

2. The "Good Refugee" vs "Bad Refugee" Binary

- Some stories reward "model refugees" who conform to host expectations, while others blame those who struggle or challenge systems.
- This binary fosters unrealistic expectations and social division.

Better: Acknowledge the complexity of refugee experiences—displacement is a spectrum of resilience, trauma, adaptation, and survival.

3. Passive Dependency Tropes

- Phrases like "waiting for handouts" or "relying solely on aid" suggest that refugees are not trying to improve their situations.
- In reality, many refugees are actively seeking employment, education, and self-reliance, often against tremendous odds.

Better: Show how systems limit opportunity, and how refugees navigate or challenge these barriers.

Q Words That Humanize and Empower

Instead of	Use
Illegal migrant	Undocumented person / Person without regular status
Flood / wave /	Movement of people / Influx / Arrival
swarm	
Victim	Survivor / Person affected by conflict
Locals	Host community members
Foreigners	Refugees / New arrivals / Migrants (as appropriate)
Aid-dependent	Aid-receiving while seeking livelihoods / Limited by policy
	barriers

Tips for Constructive Framing

- **Center voices** of refugees—quote them, not just officials or NGOs.
- **Diversify representation**—include youth, women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ refugees.
- **Contextualize stories**—link personal stories to broader issues (e.g., land policy, regional conflict, climate migration).
- **Avoid generalizations**—speak about individuals and communities, not masses.

Conclusion

Ethical storytelling starts with language. As a journalist, your word choices shape not only public opinion but also the policies and social attitudes that affect refugee lives. By avoiding dehumanizing terms and challenging harmful narratives, you contribute to a more informed, inclusive, and compassionate public discourse on migration in Uganda and beyond.

8. Data Use and Privacy

Reporting on refugees and migrants requires careful handling of data—not only to ensure **accuracy** and **credibility** but also to protect **individual privacy** and avoid unintended harm. Journalists must strike a balance between informing the public and safeguarding vulnerable individuals and communities.

This section outlines responsible practices in the **collection**, **verification**, **use**, **and protection of data** related to refugee populations in Uganda.

∀ Verify Data with Reliable Sources

Before using statistics, demographic information, or humanitarian data in your reporting, ensure it comes from verified and reputable sources.

Recommended Sources Include:

- **UNHCR Uganda**: Primary source for refugee statistics, protection updates, and camp/settlement data.
- Office of the Prime Minister (OPM): Coordinates refugee response; often collaborates with UNHCR and NGOs.
- **Reputable NGOs and Research Institutions**: Look for peer-reviewed studies, field assessments, and situation reports.
- **Government Documents**: Such as the National Development Plans or refugee regulations.
- Local Authorities and Humanitarian Coordination Platforms: Especially useful for contextual data from district and settlement levels.

Protect Personal and Sensitive Data

Displaced populations are often at risk of **retribution**, **discrimination**, **trafficking**, or **stigmatization**. Misuse of personal information can expose individuals to serious harm.

Key Principles for Data Protection:

- Anonymize personal details unless individuals give explicit, informed consent.
- Avoid publishing:
 - o **Full names** of children, survivors of SGBV, or political asylum seekers
 - o **Precise locations** of shelters or informal settlements
 - o **Faces in photos** without consent (especially for children or at-risk groups)
- Blur or crop images if consent cannot be confirmed.
- Avoid including identifiers that, when combined, can trace a person's identity (e.g., age + village + family background).

● Photo Use Tip: Even a smiling portrait can be harmful if it reveals a survivor's location to abusers, authorities in their country of origin, or traffickers.

⚠ Handle Sensitive Topics with Care

Information about legal status, ethnic background, religion, political affiliation, or previous trauma can be extremely sensitive for displaced individuals.

- **Do not publish** stories that could:
 - o Expose someone's asylum claim or migration route to scrutiny
 - o Incite hostility or backlash from host communities
 - Lead to profiling or surveillance

If your story involves such sensitive issues, discuss anonymization and editorial safeguards with your editor.

Reporting Discrepancies and Gaps Responsibly

Journalists play a key role in **exposing humanitarian gaps** and holding actors accountable. But this must be done without undermining protection efforts or endangering communities.

When highlighting service gaps or data discrepancies:

- **Verify** information with humanitarian responders and affected communities.
- **Use aggregate data** to illustrate trends rather than exposing specific individuals.
- **Avoid blame-shifting language** that could inflame tensions between host and refugee communities.
- Frame stories constructively: What's missing? Who's stepping up? What's needed?

Example: Instead of saying "Refugees in Nakivale are neglected and starving," say, "Food rations in Nakivale have been reduced due to funding shortfalls—residents say they are skipping meals."

Practices Checklist Practices Checklist

Do	Don't
Use verified data from UNHCR,	Rely on unverified social media or hearsay
OPM, and NGOs	
Anonymize or blur identities when	Publish photos/names of children or survivors
needed	without consent
Explain why a statistic or data set	Overload with numbers without context
matters	
Ask consent when collecting	Extract personal information without
primary data	transparency
Report trends and gaps responsibly	Sensationalize or incite panic/conflict with data

In humanitarian journalism, data is not just information—it can be a matter of life and death. Always approach data with the **same care, ethics, and accuracy** you bring to interviews and storytelling. Upholding privacy and data protection is not only a legal obligation under Uganda's Data Protection and Privacy Act (2019), but also a moral responsibility when covering vulnerable populations.

9. Working with Humanitarian Actors

In Uganda's complex and dynamic refugee response environment, collaboration with humanitarian actors is critical for journalists seeking to produce accurate, ethical, and insightful reporting. These actors—ranging from UN agencies and government bodies to NGOs and refugee-led groups—hold vital knowledge, resources, and lived experience that can enrich media narratives and ensure responsible coverage.

This section provides guidance on **who to engage**, **how to engage**, and **why collaborative journalism matters** in refugee and migration reporting.

2 Key Humanitarian Partners

Journalists can strengthen their reporting by engaging with the following key actors involved in refugee protection and service delivery:

₱ 1. UNHCR Uganda (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

- **Role**: Lead agency for refugee protection and coordination.
- What they offer: Data, protection briefings, field access, expert interviews, multimedia assets.
- Contact: Communications or external relations officers based in Kampala or field offices.

♦ 2. Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) – Department of Refugees

- **Role**: Government body managing refugee affairs, including settlement allocation and coordination with partners.
- **What they offer**: Policy updates, access to national and local refugee management officials, refugee response strategy insights.

♣ 3. Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs)

- **Role**: Community-based groups founded and run by refugees themselves, often focusing on protection, livelihoods, youth empowerment, peacebuilding, or education.
- What they offer: Lived experiences, grassroots insights, community trust, innovative solutions, and alternative narratives.

• **Why important**: Engaging RLOs challenges the passive victim narrative and highlights refugee agency and leadership.

♣ 4. National and International NGOs

These organizations work across sectors such as:

- **Health**: IRC, MTI, MSF, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)
- Education: Windle International Uganda, Finn Church Aid
- Livelihoods: AVSI, BRAC, DRC
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention**: CARE, UNFPA partners, World Vision
- WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene): Water Mission, Oxfam, Uganda Red Cross

Engagement Tips for Journalists

To build productive relationships and gain valuable insights, consider the following approaches:

√1. Attend Humanitarian Briefings and Field Visits

- Join **UNHCR-led Inter-Agency Coordination meetings** (when open to media).
- Participate in **field missions**, **donor visits**, or **launch events** to understand on-the-ground realities.
- Take notes, ask questions, and network with field staff and community leaders.

- Interview **technical specialists** from NGOs or UN agencies for background or quotes on topics like malnutrition, resettlement, education policy, or trauma care.
- Ask for **infographics**, **reports**, **or verified statistics** to strengthen your reporting.

✓ 3. Collaborate with Refugee Journalists and Media Advocates

- Partnering with **refugee-led media collectives** or trained refugee reporters adds authenticity and depth to coverage.
- Provide platforms for refugees to tell their own stories—in their own voices and languages.
- Practice ethical co-reporting: ensure joint editorial control and shared credit where applicable.

★ Note: Humanitarian actors often operate under communication protocols and restrictions—be respectful of embargoes, security concerns, and informed consent procedures.

▲ Ethical Considerations When Covering Humanitarian Work

• Do not **sensationalize suffering** or **manipulate vulnerability** for audience engagement.

- Be mindful that **NGO staff may not speak for all refugees**—seek diverse voices.
- Avoid becoming a **publicity arm** for organizations; maintain editorial independence.
- Disclose any **sponsorship**, **partnerships**, **or logistical support** provided by humanitarian actors for transparency.

Amplifying Impact through Collaborative Coverage

Working with humanitarian partners not only enhances the **accuracy and richness** of refugee stories but can also:

- Expose gaps in service delivery and policy blind spots
- Promote constructive public dialogue and counter xenophobic narratives
- Drive **donor attention** to neglected issues or locations
- Elevate **community resilience and solutions**, not just needs

2 Quick Contact Tips

Organization	Contact Channels
UNHCR Uganda	www.unhcr.org/ug, social media, media officers
OPM Refugee	Through UNHCR or district refugee desks
Dept	
NGOs	Website contact forms, in-country comms staff
RLOs	Social media, WhatsApp groups, NGO referrals, settlement-based
	connections

10. Gender and Intersectionality in Reporting

Why It Matters:

Refugee and migration experiences are not uniform. Gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and other identity markers intersect to shape people's vulnerabilities, opportunities, and protection needs. Journalists have a responsibility to reflect this complexity by avoiding one-dimensional portrayals and amplifying diverse voices—particularly those who are often underrepresented or misrepresented.

This section offers guidance on integrating gender sensitivity and intersectional analysis into refugee and migration reporting in Uganda.

& Recognizing Diverse Experiences

⊘ Women and Girls

 Often face higher risks of gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, and economic exploitation.

- May also be **community leaders**, peacebuilders, entrepreneurs, educators, and heads of households.
- Their stories should go beyond victimhood—highlight their **agency**, innovation, and resilience.

⊘Children and Youth

- Include both **unaccompanied minors** and those living with families.
- Youth face barriers to education, limited recreational space, and early responsibility.
- Avoid using images of children without **informed guardian consent**; be cautious with **trauma stories**.

⊘LGBTQ+ Refugees

- LGBTQ+ individuals face **stigmatization**, discrimination, and even violence within refugee communities and host societies.
- Many are **invisible in mainstream narratives**—ethical storytelling must respect anonymity and dignity.
- Collaborate with trusted organizations or LGBTQ+-led groups to ensure **safe and respectful engagement**.

⊘ Persons with Disabilities

- Often encounter barriers to access in WASH, health, education, and protection services.
- Include their voices in discussions on settlement design, service access, and social inclusion.
- Avoid patronizing portrayals or reducing them to their disability.

How to Include These Voices Responsibly

- 1. **Seek out perspectives from marginalized groups deliberately.** Don't rely solely on easily accessible sources—reach beyond male community leaders or aid officials.
- 2. **Use inclusive language.** For example, say "people with disabilities" rather than "the disabled," or "women and girls affected by displacement" rather than "refugee women victims."
- 3. **Highlight leadership and contributions.** For example:
 - o A woman running a clean energy kiosk in a refugee settlement.
 - o A youth-led radio project amplifying refugee voices.
 - o A disability-inclusive education initiative.
- 4. **Respect consent and safety.** This is especially critical for:
 - Survivors of GBV or sexual exploitation.
 - o LGBTQ+ individuals who may not be openly "out."
 - o Children or persons with limited communication capacity.

A Avoid Common Pitfalls

Problematic Framing	Better Practice
"Refugee women are always	Include stories of women as business owners,
victims."	teachers, leaders.
"Child bride rescued by NGO."	Respect the child's voice, avoid dramatizing rescue
	narratives.
"LGBTQ+ refugee reveals	Only report this if it is fully consensual, necessary,
identity."	and safe.
"Disabled refugee can't access	Highlight both barriers and advocacy for inclusion
services."	and solutions.

Q Applying Intersectionality in Practice

Intersectionality helps you examine how multiple forms of discrimination overlap. For instance:

- A **South Sudanese teenage girl with a disability** might face intersecting challenges in education, safety, and mobility.
- An **LGBTQ+ refugee youth** may face layered stigma from both their refugee identity and sexual orientation.

Use intersectionality as a **lens**, not a label—let people define their own identities and experiences, and avoid making assumptions.

★ Practical Reporting Tips

- **Quote women and youth directly**, not just male leaders or NGO staff.
- **Gender-balance your sources.** Ask yourself: are women, LGBTQ+, or persons with disabilities represented in this story?
- Fact-check gender-related statistics through UNHCR, UNFPA, or specialized NGOs.
- **Challenge bias in editing.** Avoid using images or language that sexualize, infantilize, or dehumanize marginalized groups.

③ Useful Partners for Gender and Intersectional Reporting

Organization	Area of Focus
UNFPA Uganda	Reproductive health, GBV, youth
CARE International	Gender in emergencies
TPO Uganda	Mental health and psychosocial support (including GBV survivors)
Women's Refugee Commission	Research on women, youth, disability in displacement
Refugee-led Women's Groups	Lived experiences, grassroots perspectives

11. Case Studies from Uganda

To bring the principles of ethical, nuanced, and responsible reporting to life, this section highlights real-world examples from Uganda's refugee contexts. These case studies illustrate diverse thematic angles, storytelling techniques, and engagement strategies that journalists can adopt.

Example 1: Reporting on Education in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement

Focus:

Girls' access to secondary education and menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

Context:

In Kyaka II, many refugee girls face barriers to continuing education due to poverty, early marriage, and lack of access to menstrual hygiene products. These issues impact attendance, performance, and retention rates.

Approach:

- Conduct interviews with adolescent girls to understand their daily challenges and aspirations. Ensure privacy and sensitivity, especially when discussing menstruation and gender norms.
- Speak with local teachers and school administrators about efforts to improve access, such as provision of sanitary pads and girl-friendly spaces.
- Engage refugee-led community-based organizations (CBOs) working on girls' education and health. Their insights reveal grassroots solutions and community dynamics.
- Avoid framing girls solely as victims; emphasize their agency, resilience, and the role of community support.
- Incorporate expert perspectives from NGOs and health workers to provide broader context on policy and program interventions.

Impact:

This approach helps humanize educational challenges, informs public debate on gender and displacement, and highlights promising practices that can be scaled up.

Example 2: Reporting on Climate Migration in Karamoja and West Nile Regions

Focus:

Environmental displacement and the pressures on natural resources driving migration and conflict.

Context:

Karamoja and parts of West Nile have seen increasing movement due to prolonged droughts, floods, and land degradation, which impact livelihoods and create competition over scarce resources like water and grazing land.

Frame:

- Highlight the **climate drivers** behind displacement, avoiding simplistic "conflict-only" narratives that obscure environmental causality.
- Showcase how communities—both refugees and host populations—are adapting through innovations in water harvesting, sustainable agriculture, or livelihood diversification.
- Interview pastoralists, farmers, local authorities, and environmental experts to provide a multi-stakeholder perspective.
- Include youth voices on how they perceive climate change and their role in building resilience.
- Draw attention to humanitarian and government programs supporting adaptation, while critically analyzing gaps and challenges.

Impact:

This framing shifts the narrative from crisis to resilience and underscores the need for integrated climate-migration policies.



Profile:

A refugee entrepreneur launching solar energy kiosks to provide clean, affordable power to households and small businesses.

Context:

Access to reliable energy remains a challenge in refugee settlements, limiting economic activity and quality of life. This entrepreneur's initiative not only improves energy access but also creates jobs and supports community cohesion.

Approach:

- Tell the story through the entrepreneur's own voice, tracing their journey, motivations, and challenges faced in setting up the business.
- Include testimonials from customers—both refugees and host community members—who benefit from the kiosks.
- Highlight collaboration with local NGOs or microfinance institutions that enabled the business model.
- Frame the story around themes of **resilience**, **innovation**, **social entrepreneurship**, **and integration**.
- Use visuals that capture the solar kiosks in operation and the positive community impact.

Impact:

Such stories counterbalance predominant narratives of dependency and vulnerability, showing refugees as active agents of development and change.

* Key Lessons for Journalists

- **Context matters:** Situate stories within broader social, economic, and environmental factors.
- **Diverse voices:** Prioritize perspectives from affected individuals, including marginalized groups.
- **Balanced framing:** Combine challenges with examples of solutions and agency.
- **Ethical storytelling:** Maintain respect, consent, and confidentiality throughout reporting.

12. Resources and Contacts

For journalists covering refugee and migration issues in Uganda, having access to reliable information sources, expert contacts, and emergency support services is essential. This section compiles key organizations, digital platforms, and emergency contacts that provide up-to-date data, policy guidance, legal aid, and protective services.

W Useful Sources for Journalists

UNHCR Uganda

Website: https://www.unhcr.org/ug
 UNHCR is the UN agency mandated to protect refugees and coordinate humanitarian assistance. Their Uganda page offers extensive data on refugee populations, policies, programs, and press releases. Journalists can also find reports on protection issues, livelihoods, education, and health.

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) — *Refugee Desk*

Website: https://opm.go.ug
 OPM oversees refugee affairs in Uganda, including registration, settlement management, and coordination of partner agencies. Their online resources include refugee policies, statistics, and official statements.

Refugee Law Project (RLP)

Website: https://refugeelawproject.org
 RLP provides legal aid, advocacy, and research on refugee rights, asylum processes, and protection challenges. Their resources include reports on human rights issues and practical guidance on legal frameworks.

ACFODE Media Resource Hub

• The Action for Development (ACFODE) Media Resource Hub offers gendersensitive tools, training materials, and research to improve media coverage on women's rights, including refugee women and girls.

The African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME)

Website: https://acme-ug.org
 ACME provides journalism training, ethics resources, and investigative reporting support. They have specialized modules on reporting migration, conflict, and human rights.

Emergency Contacts and Support Networks

OPM Refugee Hotline

• Toll-Free Number: 0800 199 505
The OPM hotline allows refugees and asylum seekers to report urgent protection issues, access information, and seek assistance.

UNHCR Protection Desk

Phone: +256 312 420 100
 A key contact point for protection concerns, including reporting cases of abuse, family reunification queries, and legal assistance.

Refugee-Led Networks

Partnering with refugee-led organizations can provide invaluable insights and on-the-ground perspectives:

- **CIYOTA (Children and Youth in Total Action)** Youth empowerment and education in Nakivale.
- YARID (Young African Refugees for Integral Development) Youth-led initiatives in Kampala and settlements.
- **Refugee Law Project (RLP)** Legal aid and advocacy, with strong refugee community ties.

These networks often serve as trusted intermediaries, help verify stories, and connect journalists with diverse sources.

2 Additional Resources

- Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS): For demographic and migration data.
- **Human Rights Watch Uganda**: Reports on human rights conditions and abuses affecting refugees.
- Media Council of Uganda: Guidelines on media ethics and press freedom.

Social Media and Digital Tools: Follow official Twitter handles and Facebook pages
of UNHCR Uganda, OPM Refugee Desk, and refugee organizations for real-time
updates.

★ Tips for Using Resources Effectively

- Always **cross-verify data** between multiple sources to ensure accuracy.
- Use contacts for **contextual analysis** rather than just quotes.
- Reach out to refugee-led organizations early in the reporting process to build **trust** and collaboration.
- Respect confidentiality and do not disclose sensitive information without explicit consent.

Q Appendices

Sample Interview Consent Form

Title of Interview/Story:	
Interviewer(s):	
Date:	

1. Purpose of the Interview

You are being invited to participate in an interview for a news story/report about refugees and migration in Uganda. The aim is to better understand your experiences and share your story with the public to raise awareness and inform policy.

2. Voluntary Participation

Your participation is completely voluntary. You have the right to:

- Refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer
- Pause or stop the interview at any time
- Withdraw your consent even after the interview is completed

3. Confidentiality and Privacy

- Your identity will be protected according to your wishes.
- You may choose to remain anonymous or have your name/picture used.
- Information you share will be treated with confidentiality and used only for the stated purpose.
- We will not disclose your personal details without your explicit permission.

4. Risks and Benefits

- There are no direct benefits or payments for participating.
- Some questions may be sensitive or evoke emotional responses. You may decline to answer such questions.
- If you feel uncomfortable, you can stop the interview at any time.
- We can provide contacts for support services if needed.

5. Use of Information

- The information you provide may be used in news articles, radio, TV, or online platforms.
- We may use quotes, photos, or recordings, respecting your consent choices.
- You have the right to review the interview material before publication if you wish.

6. Consent

I, the undersigned, have read and understood the information above. I agree to participate in this interview under the conditions explained.

Name of Participant:	
Signature or Thumbprint:	-
Date:	
Interviewer's Name:	
Interviewer's Signature:	
7. Additional Notes (Optional)	
Contact for questions or concerns:	

[Insert journalist's contact details]

Glossary of Terms

Asylum Seeker: A person who has fled their home country and formally applied for protection as a refugee in another country but whose claim has not yet been legally recognized.

Displaced Person: Someone forced to leave their home due to conflict, violence, or disaster.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP): A person who is forced to flee their home but remains within their country's borders. IDPs do not cross an international border.

Refugee: A person who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war, or violence and has been granted legal protection in another country under international law.

Stateless Person: An individual who is not considered a citizen by any country, often lacking basic rights such as education, healthcare, or legal protection.

Returnee: A refugee or displaced person who returns to their home country or area after fleeing.

Host Community: The local population living in or near refugee settlements or areas where displaced persons reside.

Settlement: A designated area where refugees live, often with some infrastructure and services. In Uganda, refugees live in settlements rather than camps, reflecting greater freedom of movement.

Resettlement: The process of transferring refugees from a country of asylum to a third country that agrees to admit them and provide permanent residence.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Individuals who have been forced to flee their homes but remain within their country's borders.

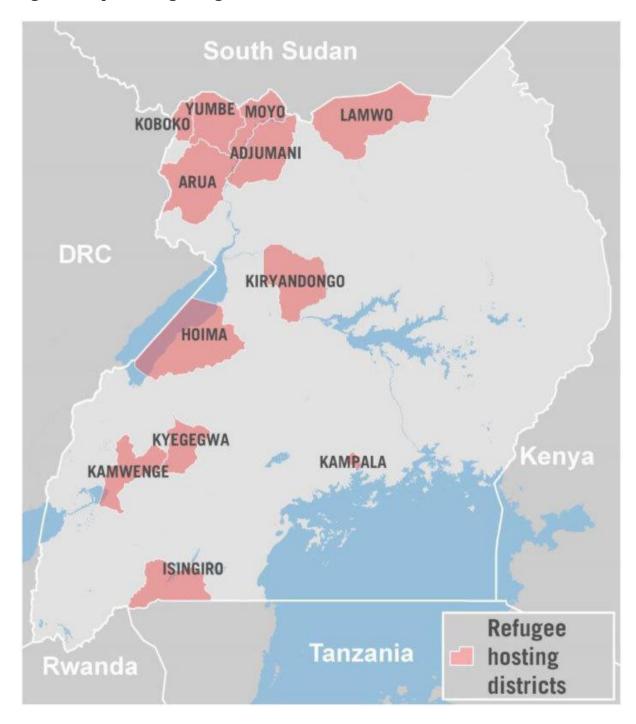
Non-refoulement: A fundamental principle of international refugee law that prohibits returning refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they face serious threats to life or freedom.

Humanitarian Actor: Organizations or agencies (e.g., UNHCR, NGOs, government departments) providing assistance and protection to refugees and displaced persons.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Violence directed at an individual based on their gender or sex, including sexual violence, domestic abuse, and harmful traditional practices.

Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF): An international framework adopted to promote a more predictable and equitable sharing of responsibility for refugee protection and solutions.

Uganda Map Showing Refugee Settlement Locations



Ethical Risk Assessment Template for Field Reporting

e of Assignment/Story:	
ation(s):	
orter(s):	
e(s) of Field Visit:	
-(a) of the table	
e(s) of Field Visit:	

Section 1: Risk to Interviewees

Ethical Risk	Description	Risk Level (Low/Medium/High)	Mitigation Measures
Exposure to stigma or retaliation	Could the story lead to harm, social exclusion, or targeting of the person or group?		Use anonymity; avoid specific locations/names; consult with local actors.
Emotional distress or retraumatization	Might the interview process cause psychological harm?		Use trauma-informed approaches; allow breaks; offer referrals to support.
Misuse of personal data	Will the interviewee's photo, quote, or name be published without proper consent?		Obtain written or verbal informed consent; avoid sharing sensitive data.

Section 2: Risk to Reporter/Team

Ethical or	Description	Risk Level	Mitigation Measures
Physical Risk		(Low/Medium/High)	
Safety in high-	Are there security		Inform local
risk areas	concerns (e.g., conflict		authorities; work with
	zones, hostile		a fixer; have an exit
	community)?		plan.
Cultural or	Are there norms that		Engage community
gender-related	might affect		gatekeepers; respect
risks	interactions or access?		cultural protocols.
Ethical	Are there risks of		Maintain editorial
compromise	being pressured to		independence;
	misrepresent facts?		document all
			interactions clearly.

Section 3: Consent and Participation

•	Have all participants been informed of their rights (e.g., withdrawal,
	anonymity)?
	□ Yes □ No

 Has informed consent been obtained in an appropriate language/form? □ Written □ Verbal □ Not yet Section 4: Story Impact and Framing 		
Concern	Description	Action Taken
Stereotyping	Does the story risk reinforcing harmful narratives (e.g., "helpless victim")?	Use balanced perspectives and agency-focused framing.
Community relations	Could the story damage relations between refugees and host communities?	Highlight coexistence and shared challenges/solutions.
feedback)? ☐ Yes ☐ No Notes or Comm		
Prepared by: _ Signature:	Date:	_
△ Closing Journalists have	Note	

based policy, and inclusive development.