Through our support of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Girl Up has helped:

- 4,414 refugee girls in Uganda attend school
- Construct 39 classrooms to increase school enrollment and quality of learning by addressing overcrowded classes
- Recruit and train 541 teachers, with a focus on female teachers, to improve the quality of learning

What is Girl Up doing in Uganda?

Girl Up is funding UNHCR programs which aim to ensure that displaced girls are enrolled in school and receive a quality education. By providing refugee girls with mandatory textbooks, school fees, and required school uniforms, and by helping to build classrooms, washrooms, and recreational facilities in schools with high refugee enrollment, Girl Up is increasing the number of girls who can attend school. Our funding also helps to hire and train new teachers to increase the quality of education, with a focus on recruiting female teachers and providing gender-sensitivity training. Finally, Girl Up supports many local partners aiming to improve girls’ performance in school and levels of literacy.

About Uganda

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa that shares borders with Kenya, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. Uganda currently has one of the youngest and fastest growing youth populations in the world. Yet schools in Uganda lack the necessary infrastructure, and there exists a shortage of both teachers and teacher training.

Girls living in Uganda face many challenges that can have a significant impact on their well-being and future. Girls attending school often face gender bias and discrimination in both the curriculum and from teachers, and schools often fail to provide them with a safe learning environment. Many are forced to drop out of school due to poverty, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, safety concerns, and lack of parental support. These obstacles are magnified for girls within Uganda’s growing refugee population.

Meet Solome

Solome is a refugee from South Sudan now living in Uganda. She wants to go to school because she wants to be the minister of finance when she grows up, either in Uganda or her home country. Solome dreams of going to university so that she will be able to realize her dream.

To read more stories like Solome’s, visit GirlUp.org/Stories.
The Refugee Crisis

In recent years Uganda has seen a significant increase in the number of refugees crossing its borders, largely as a result of the latest crisis in South Sudan and Uganda's "open door" policy. The refugee population is made up of several nationalities, and refugees live in nine settlements as well as the capital city of Kampala.

Uganda has established a protection-friendly environment that allows refugees to enjoy their rights and to rapidly resume and lead normal lives. The government is legally obligated to grant refugee children access to primary education, and yet the rapid influx of refugees has put an increased strain on Uganda's infrastructure and resources.

More About Our Impact

Girl Up investments to date have helped UNHCR enroll more girls in school and improve learning outcomes through innovative learning techniques that enhance the quality of girls' education and improve their literacy:

- 9 classrooms and 110 latrines have been constructed to-date as a means to expand access to education
- 5,650 desks were distributed to existing primary schools
- 4,600 assorted textbooks (English, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies) were distributed to 27 schools with high enrollment of refugee children
- 200 lesson planning and lesson scheming books were provided to teachers
- 100 teachers were provided with family tents in refugee settlements
- 161 refugees with special needs were enrolled and supported with school fees, including 15 who also received assistive devices such as wheelchairs and eyeglasses
- The "Speak Out Program," which aims to boost self-esteem and identify solutions to the barriers to education, has reached 686 students
- The "Girls Education Movement" is creating girls' clubs to encourage their enrollment and involvement in class
- The "Newspaper in Education" program is providing non-textbook reading material and encouraging a love for reading

Girl Up is continuing to support the work of UNHCR and local partners in Uganda to reach even more refugee girls, and we need your help. Learn more about Girl Up's impact in Uganda and get involved at GirlUp.org.

Investments since:
2016

Girls reached:
7,919

Funding to date:
$450,000 USD

Settlements supported:
Bibidi
Palorinya
Nyumanzi
Pagirinya

Partners:
UNHCR

THE FACTS:

- 35% of girls in Uganda drop out of school because of early marriage.
- In 2016, there were 1,162,715 displaced people living in Uganda – and that number continues to increase.
- 85% of South Sudanese refugees are women and children under the age of 18.
- In Uganda, 73% of refugee children are enrolled in primary school and only 15% are enrolled in secondary school.

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