



IN BRIEF



# FINAL EVALUATION OF THE 'PREVENTION OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS DISPLACED INTO IDP AND REFUGEE CAMPS UNDER LEAP II IN UGANDA'.

Photo: UN Women Uganda

## Project description

The project was aimed at [strengthening the protection, leadership and empowerment of vulnerable women, men and youth](#) affected by COVID-19 and forcibly displaced into Internally Displaced People (IDP) and refugee camps in Uganda. The project was funded by the Government of Japan Supplementary Budget (2022 – 2023) and was implemented between April 2022 – March 2023.

## Evaluation overview

The evaluation aimed to assess the project's achievements against the set objectives, identify and document lessons learnt (including design issues, lessons and best practices that can be upscaled or replicated), and assess how the program contributed to gender equality and economic empowerment of refugee women.

## Key achievements

- The intervention to offer English for Adults (EFA) training and computer literacy was highly relevant in a context where refugees and members of host communities have low levels of literacy. ICT helped in addressing communication challenges – especially in a community where various people speak different languages.
- The project supported women and girls with business skills and equipped them with the business and financial literacy they needed to

embark on re-building their small businesses after the pandemic.

- The project was relevant to the needs of women since its leadership training included aspects of advocacy for women's rights.
- The legal aid services extended to the refugees through the project enabled them to receive legal representation in court and access justice.

## Conclusions

### RELEVANCE

- The project design was appropriate to address the identified needs of women, girls in refugee settlements and their host communities and complemented Local Government Development Plans in the targeted location.

### EFFECTIVENESS

- The project was effective and achieved the planned outputs within the project period even though it experienced a delayed start due to late disbursement of funds.
- All activities were fully implemented by end of March 2023 in accordance with the project end date.

## EFFICIENCY

- The program delivered value for money as all the targeted program activities were successfully implemented and targets achieved.
- The rigor in the reporting systems (using templates that were provided) contributed greatly to program's efficiency.
- Collaborations with other UN agencies such as UNHCR enhanced efficiency, for example, by putting in place a tollfree line where callers would report potential cases of COVID-19 and incidences of crime within the settlement and the host communities.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- Implementing partners worked together with the district departments which enhanced opportunities for integration and sustainability of project interventions, although this could have been well elaborated in a clearly spelt out exit strategy for the program.

## Lessons learned

The evaluation identified the following lessons with significance beyond the program:

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**1** **Training and skills** formation was able to achieve dual results of vaccine acceptance and women rights empowerment.

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**2** Implementation of interventions in humanitarian settings using **partners on the ground** with long-standing expertise makes it easy for to implement the project.

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**3** **Use of already existing capacity** helps in both needs articulation (which is important at design stage) more so in a context where there is no baseline study and later during implementation.

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**4** Implementing in a **consortium approach** (each partner has a specified role based on their areas of specialization, competences and comparative advantage) enhances critical elimination of overlaps or duplication of effort.

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## Recommendations

### RECOMMENDATION 1:

Ensure **timely disbursement of funds** to implementing partners to enhance efficiency in and time appropriateness in delivery of results especially in an emergency setting.

### RECOMMENDATION 2:

Continue to **leverage on implementing partners** with experience in implementing interventions in humanitarian settings.

### RECOMMENDATION 3:

A **consortium delivery model** is highly recommended and suited an emergency response scenario.

### RECOMMENDATION 4:

**Documentation and implementation of an exit strategy** should commence at the design and start of implementation. The strategy should spell out the roles of key stakeholders and synergies should be built from the onset.

### RECOMMENDATION 5:

For interventions such as skills training, it is highly recommended that there is **provision of start-up kits** which help beneficiaries start businesses and improve their livelihoods.