

HOPE RESILIENT FUTURES



Uganda Field Visit Report

Kiryandongo District, Uganda

May 2026

Introduction

In May 2026, representatives of Hope Resilient Futures (HRF) spent two and a half weeks in Uganda to monitor our ongoing projects, strengthen partnerships and engage with refugee communities in Kiryandongo District. The visit focused on overseeing the construction of a new training centre building and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing refugee families living in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

Working closely with Paul Transformative Foundation (PTF), local engineers and community organizations, the visit provided valuable insight into both the progress achieved and the continuing needs within the settlement.

Arrival and Community Engagement

Following arrival in Kampala, the team travelled to Bweyale, Kiryandongo District, where the project is based. Upon arrival, the team attended a local church service and shared a meal with members of the community. This provided an opportunity to reconnect with local partners and strengthen relationships with local stakeholders.

Construction Meetings and Project Planning

During the first days of the visit, Hope Resilient Futures met with representatives from Paul Transformative Foundation and the project engineer to assess the status of the school training centre building project.

At the time of arrival, the foundation had been completed. Technical discussions focused on:

- Structural quality and long-term sustainability
- Site conditions and ground levels
- Material quantities and measurements
- Building functionality and room allocation
- Budget considerations and accountability
- Cooperation between HRF, PTF and the engineering team

These meetings emphasized the importance of transparency and maintaining construction standards that will ensure the building serves the community for many years to come.

Visit to Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

A full day was spent in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, where the team visited schools, households and community organizations.

Education

The team visited a primary school and observed computer lessons. Students openly shared their aspirations and experiences.

Teachers explained that many families struggle to provide both school fees and daily meals. To address this challenge, the school has begun developing gardens and agricultural activities to improve food availability for students to help them concentrate better on their courses.

Household Visits

Three refugee families welcomed the team into their homes and shared stories of conflict, displacement and rebuilding their lives.

Discussions highlighted challenges related to:

- Food insecurity
- Shelter and livelihoods
- Raising children in difficult circumstances
- Recovery after conflict

These conversations demonstrated the resilience and determination present within the refugee community.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

The team met with representatives from the South Sudanese Women Building Association, an organization providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and empowerment programs for women and girls.

Several concerns were highlighted:

- Food shortages and poverty
- Trauma caused by war and forced displacement
- Family stress and domestic violence
- Depression and anxiety
- Increasing substance abuse among youth
- Anger and behavioral challenges affecting children and adolescents
- Tribal tensions and competition over limited resources
- Lack of access to specialized mental health care

With approximately 165,000 refugees living in Kiryandongo and only limited mental health professionals available, psychosocial support remains critically underfunded despite increasing needs.

Week Two: Monitoring Construction Progress

The second week focused primarily on monitoring the progress of the school building.

Regular visits were made to the construction site to ensure that work was progressing according to plan and that quality standards were being maintained.

During this period, Hope Resilient Futures:

- Monitored the progress of wall construction
- Reviewed the quality of ongoing work
- Consulted with the engineer and construction team
- Documented progress through photographs and video footage
- Gathered visual material for reporting and donor communication
- Continued coordination with Paul Transformative Foundation regarding the next stages of the project

By the end of the visit, the wall construction had progressed significantly compared to the initial foundation stage observed upon arrival.

Key Observations

Throughout the visit, several important themes emerged:

Education remains a priority. Access to quality education continues to provide hope and opportunities for refugee children and young people.

Mental health requires greater attention. Mental health, counseling and psychosocial support services remain severely underfunded despite growing needs within the refugee population.

Food insecurity impacts every aspect of life. Challenges related to food availability affect education, family wellbeing and community stability.

Local partnerships are essential. Strong cooperation with local organizations enables sustainable and community-led development.

Infrastructure and human wellbeing are interconnected. School construction alone is not sufficient. Education, psychosocial support and community resilience must develop together.

School Construction Progress

Achievements during the visit included:

Completed

- Foundation completed
- Technical review conducted with the engineer
- Material requirements confirmed
- Wall construction commenced
- Significant progress is made on the structure
- Ongoing collaboration with Paul Transformative Foundation maintained

Next Steps

- Completion of wall construction.
- Installation of windows and doors.
- Roofing and structural finishing.
- Internal plastering and flooring.
- Electrical installation.
- Painting and final finishing.
- Preparation of classrooms and learning spaces.
- Continued monitoring and documentation of project progress.

Conclusion

The field visit reinforced the importance of combining infrastructure development with community engagement and psychosocial support.

The resilience demonstrated by refugee families, local leaders and partner organizations provides hope for sustainable and long-term impact.

Hope Resilient Futures remains committed to supporting vulnerable communities through education, partnership and locally driven solutions.

Appreciation

Hope Resilient Futures extends its sincere gratitude to:

Paul Transformative Foundation (PTF)

The project engineer and construction workers

South Sudanese Women Building Association

School staff and community leaders

Refugee families who generously shared their stories

All donors, sponsors and supporters whose contributions make this work possible

Together, we continue building hope and resilient futures.





